

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, February 3, 2022/ 14 MAGHA, 1943

(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 -- 160

Nuclear power generation

161 Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:

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

- (a) the percentage increase in the share of Nuclear-Energy powered electricity in the country since 2017;
- (b) whether this share has largely remained stagnant during the last two decades, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) steps Government has undertaken towards ensuring long-term energy security through utilization of nuclear energy?

Development of Indigenous Rare Earth Minerals

162 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to privatise the rare earths mining sector either partially or fully;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof;
- (c) whether Government intends to address the gap in indigenous processing units for rare earth minerals in India and reduce the reliability on Chinese processors;
- (d) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has or intends to frame any policies to support the development of an indigenous lab-to-product ecosystem to support India's strategic and commercial interests in the rare earth minerals sector; and
- (f) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Atomic Energy Policy of India

163 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) the Atomic Energy policy of India;

- (b) the manner in which this policy is helping India in using Atomic Energy for its growth and development; and
- (c) the success of Atomic Energy policy in building India as a global power in this field?

Establishment of indigenous Reactor in Andhra Pradesh

164 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish indigenously built pressurized heavy water nuclear reactors in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish any such nuclear reactors in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Investment, resources in Nuclear power plants

165 Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) whether there are rich deposits of uranium reserves and other nuclear resources in the country;
- (b) if so, factors which are hindering the country in increasing the production of nuclear power energy resources;
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated to promote more nuclear power plants across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) details of investment made in the nuclear power plants during the last three years and the power generated from the nuclear power plants during the last three years with respect to electricity supply; and
- (e) details of the extent of nuclear power supply for each States during the last three years?

Nuclear energy powered electricity generation

166 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

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

- (a) whether energy demand and necessity to reduce CO₂ emissions are worldwide challenges, that necessitates moving towards "green" choices, to reduce the anthropogenic environmental impact created by various industries and Governments all over world;
- (b) whether among the clean energy options currently available in world market, only nuclear power can provide constant energy, regardless of weather or geological conditions, making nuclear power one of the most promising low-carbon energy options;
- (c) share of Nuclear-Powered electricity generation in comparison to other generating sources in the country; and
- (d) steps being undertaken by Government towards ensuring long term energy security through utilization of nuclear option?

Indo-US Nuclear Deal

167 Shri John Brittas:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indo – US Nuclear deal was signed with the purpose of

augmenting the production of nuclear energy, if so, the details thereof; and
 (b) the additional capacity added to the nuclear power production on account of the Indo – US deal, the details thereof?

Setting up of Atomic Power Station

168 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) the details of progress made in setting up of Atomic Power Station in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) details of the time by when the Atomic Power Station will be operational and synchronized?

Lepakshi as World Heritage Site

169 **Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

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

- (a) list of World Heritage Sites from India and sites that are on tentative list of World Heritage Sites;
- (b) reason for non inclusion of a single site from Andhra Pradesh in the tentative list;
- (c) whether Lepakshi group of monuments in Andhra Pradesh will be included this year in the tentative list;
- (d) the procedure adopted for inclusion in the tentative list;
- (e) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has ever requested for inclusion of Lepakshi in the tentative list; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, whether Government has ever suggested it?

Protection of heritage sites in Maharashtra

170 **Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:**

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

- (a) whether Government has made any attempt to identify ancient forts, heritage sites and archaeological sites in Maharashtra for declaration to be of national importance in last three years;
- (b) whether augmentation of technical posts in different categories through new creation and filling of vacant posts has accelerated the process of exploration and detailed examination of potential heritage properties during 2021-22 in Maharashtra and other States; and
- (c) if so, number of new forts, monuments and ancient sites that have been identified during 2020-21 for declaration to be of national importance in Maharashtra and other States to save them from further damage?

Ancient monuments in tentative list of World Heritage Sites

171 **Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:**

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

- (a) whether it is necessary that the potential heritage and cultural site appear in the tentative list first for their consideration for nomination in World Heritage List of UNESCO;
- (b) if so, the list of heritage properties from India which already figure in the tentative list and the fresh heritage sites that have been proposed in the tentative list for inclusion in the last two years; and

(c) whether any new heritage site including forts from Maharashtra has been included in the tentative list?

Development of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

172 Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

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

- (a) whether Government inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor that connects the temple to the banks of the river terming it a "symbol of Sanatan culture of India";
- (b) if so, the details and present status thereof;
- (c) steps being taken for constructing such corridors in other States where there are historic and ancient places/temples which are identified, State-wise; and
- (d) action plan worked out in this regard till date?

Funds for dilapidated monuments

173 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

- (a) whether Government propose to constitute a committee to identify historical monuments in the country, which are in dilapidated conditions and neglected, for their renovation in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether adequate funds are earmarked and available for renovation of such monuments to attract tourists, the details thereof?

Pension for artists

174 # Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

- (a) whether there is a provision of pension scheme, scholarship or any other financial assistance for professional and non-professional artists such as writers, folk dancers, poets, litterateurs and others in the field of art and culture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether Government is considering to bring such a scheme, the details thereof?

Declaration of Ram Setu as National Heritage Monument

175 Dr. Subramanian Swamy:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken necessary steps to declare the Ram Setu, earlier known as Adams Bridge, as a National Heritage Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken?

Delay in payment of pensions to artistes

176 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a delay in disbursing pension to artistes under the Scheme of Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay and details of the number of persons affected;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries identified and the pension provided in the last five years,

State-wise; and

(d) whether there has been a delay in verifying the beneficiaries and the details thereof?

Fund allocated under Museum Grant Scheme

177 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

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

(a) details of fund allocated by Government during the last three years under Museum Grant Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken initiatives to reconstruct or renovate existing museums which requires such action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the list of museums developed by Government during the last three years to promote cultural heritage, the details thereof?

Protection of ecologically sensitive areas of North-East

178 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the loss of forest cover and harm to biodiversity in the North-East due to anthropogenic activities as identified by the Forest Survey of India;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure reduced harm and continued protection to ecologically sensitive areas of the North-East;

(c) the details of financial allocation towards North-East States for environment friendly development programs such as eco-tourism, livelihoods, agriculture, solar power and small hydropower projects; and

(d) the details of community engagement and schemes instituted to ensure that developmental activities in the North-East include tribal and other marginalised groups?

North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

179 **Ms. Sushmita Dev:**

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

(a) details of the amount of money sanctioned and utilized under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), State-wise;

(b) details of the projects undertaken under NESIDS;

(c) whether Government has ensured timely completion of all the projects under the purview of NESIDS;

(d) if so, the details of start and completion date of the projects; and

(e) details of projects undertaken and the amount of money sanctioned and utilized under NLCPR Scheme, State-wise?

Status of projects under NEC

180 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

(a) details of the power projects funded by North Eastern Council (NEC) during the last five years;

(b) details of the total fund allocation; and

(c) details of the status of these projects?

Blue economy initiative

181 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) the details of the Blue economy initiative of Government;
- (b) the funds provisioned last year under Deep Ocean Mission; and
- (c) the total number of Doppler Weather Radars which are being operated at present in the country, the details thereof?

Automated Weather Stations in Uttar Pradesh

182 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

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

- (a) the salient features of the Automated Weather Stations (AWSs) being installed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in the country;
- (b) the details of functional AWSs in the State of Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has recently received proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh seeking the installation of AWSs to predict weather conditions in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the response of Government thereto?

Data on deaths caused due to lightning strikes

183 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government maintains any data concerning deaths caused due to lightning strikes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any measures to increase awareness and precautionary measures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Deviation in weather forecasting

184 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the weather forecast and its predictions have gone wrong sometimes during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the instances along with details;
- (c) whether the regional meteorological centers have observed these deviations; and
- (d) if so, the kind of advanced instruments that are planned to be used and research studies to be conducted to improve its accuracy?

Preparedness for extreme weather condition

185 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

- (a) whether Government has maintained a comprehensive report of the extreme weather conditions observed within the country over the past three years, including extreme temperatures and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in these extreme weather conditions over the past

three years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has used this information to enhance preparedness for the same in future; and

(d) if so, to what extent will it be helpful?

Increase in deaths of tigers

186 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of deaths of tigers in the year 2021, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for deaths of tigers in the year 2021; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for the conservation of tigers?

Expansion of Son Gharial Sanctuary

187 # Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:

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

(a) the reasons behind expanding the periphery of Son Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary situated in Sidhi district, Madhya Pradesh from 100 km to 200 km;

(b) whether this expansion of periphery has benefited the environment and people of Sidhi district; and

(c) whether Government is considering or would consider to reduce this periphery of Son Gharial Sanctuary?

Issues due to hazardous e-waste dumping

188 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the issues arising out of hazardous e-waste dumping and its recycling in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to resolve the issue?

Illegal sand mining in Jharkhand

189 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

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

(a) number of cases of illegal sand mining that have been reported in the State of Jharkhand during the last three years, the details thereof;

(b) amount of fine that has been collected from this during the last three years from around the country, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been done that links sand mining to the health of river bridges, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government will offer satellite facilities to States for supervision of sand mining cases, if so, the details thereof?

Underutilization of funds under Central Zoo Authority

190 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been underutilization of funds under Central Zoo

Authority in the year 2020-2021 as compared to the budget estimates for the said year, if so, the reason therefor; and
(b) the step taken by Government for wildlife conservation?

Development of wildlife habitats

191 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government for the development of wildlife habitats during the year 2020-2021;
- (b) the allocation of funds for the development of wildlife habitats, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of wildlife habitats development since 2019, State-wise details thereof?

Conservation of wetlands

192 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

- (a) whether Government has maintained any data on the decline of wetlands across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof year-wise from 2017 till date and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) details of identified wetlands and total funds released and utilised for its conservation year-wise from 2017 till date; and
- (d) details of funds utilised for conservation of 160 wetlands under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)?

Centrally sponsored environment projects in Maharashtra

193 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) the number of Centrally sponsored environment projects launched in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of achievements made as on date along with the amount of assistance extended under each of the projects; and
- (c) the details of the such proposed projects to be launched in near future in the State?

Rampant destruction of forest in Tamil Nadu

194 **Shri A. Vijayakumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that rampant destruction of forest area by cutting of large amount of tree and engagement of quarries is prevalent in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether action has been taken to safeguard "Queen of Hills" Nilgiri Hills; and
- (c) the steps taken to protect forest in the country?

Bio-diversity register

195 # **Shri Ram Shakal:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to create a bio-diversity register in every State including NCT of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Illegal mining of forest land in Digboi Forest Division

196 **Shri A. D. Singh:**

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

- (a) details of forest land in the Digboi Forest Division that has been illegally mined by North Eastern Coalfields without requisite approval;
- (b) measures Government is taking to restore the said forest cover; and
- (c) measures Government is taking to safeguard wildlife particularly elephants in the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve which is the largest rain-forest spread over 937 Sq. Kms.?

India's Stand at COP-26

197 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

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

- (a) the details of India's stand at COP-26 held in the year 2021;
- (b) in what manner it is going to help India; and
- (c) the manner in which India's COP-26 stand is being viewed by Western Countries?

Definition under State of Forest Report

198 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the current definition of 'forest cover' in the State of Forest Report (SFR) does not differentiate between natural forests and plantations, thereby providing an incomplete picture of the status of forests;
- (b) whether the SFR used ancillary field datasets to define 'very dense' forests and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to change the definition of forest cover and very dense forests to better reflect country's actual forest cover;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) reasons why forest cover data is not in the public domain?

Status of forest cover in the Country

199 **Shri Prakash Javadekar:**

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

- (a) the increase in forest cover of the country that has taken place in the last seven years; and
- (b) the details thereof?

National afforestation programmes to improve the forest cover

200 **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

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

- (a) details of budgetary allocations and expenditure on national afforestation programmes to improve the forest cover from 2017-18 to 2021-22, year-wise;
- (b) whether national afforestation programmes has improved the forest cover in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the targeted objectives of national afforestation programmes?

Externally aided projects under the Ministry

201 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has been implementing various externally aided projects in several States of the country;
- (b) if so, the ongoing projects including funding agency, costs, outcome etc., State- wise;
- (c) the projects under consideration and pending so far;
- (d) whether any proposals/projects of State Governments are pending with the Ministry and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to evaluate outcome of these projects to avoid time and cost overruns; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and the steps being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Forest cover in North Eastern States

202 Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) the actual condition of forest cover in the country and whether the forest cover has increased or decreased in the last one decade;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the forest cover has decreased in the North Eastern States;
- (c) if so, the reasons for such decrease;
- (d) the impact on forest dwellers as well as on climate due to such decreasing trend; and
- (e) the comparative status of increase or decrease of forest cover in eight States of North East?

Environmental impact of highway on Dabaka reserve forest

203 Shri Ripun Bora:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted an environmental assessment of the proposed two lane highway in Assam (linking Hojai to Karbi Anglong) on the Dabaka reserve forest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the impact of depleting forest area of Dabaka reserve forest and elephant-human conflict thereof;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has evaluated moving the proposed two lane highway at least by a kilometer to avoid destruction of the forest reserve; and
- (f) if so, details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Forest cover in tiger and lion reserves in the country

204 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in different lion and tiger reserves in the country has been reducing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for different States;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any research to study the impact of reducing forest

cover on these animals during the last two years;
 (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) details of different programmes implemented by Government to address this issue, budget allocated and spent?

Ecological impact of tourism in Ladakh

205 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether any studies have been conducted recently to understand the impact of tourism on ecology of Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that emphasis on tourism and hospitality sector in the region has resulted in water scarcity for locals in Ladakh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including measures adopted to tackle this issue;
- (e) whether it is a fact that many Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted prior to infrastructure development in Ladakh have been botched attempts; and
- (f) if so, the reasons thereof and measures adopted to address this issue?

Uprooted trees lying in national parks/sanctuaries

206 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) the estimated quantum of woods and biomass of fallen/uprooted trees lying in country's national parks/wildlife sanctuaries due to Supreme Court's mandate not to dispose them;
- (b) the estimated loss of revenue due to mandatory ban on removing/disposing fallen/uprooted trees in country's wildlife sanctuaries/national parks along with the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to persuade the Supreme Court to release the restrictions by submitting the cost-benefit analysis of disposal of fallen/uprooted trees from forests and obtaining revenue to be used for development of the same national park/sanctuary per se?

Tadoba incident in Maharashtra

207 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) details of Tadoba incident in Maharashtra where a lady forest guard was dragged and killed by a tiger;
- (b) whether any compensation has been paid to the bereaved family, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central and State Governments have any set policy of compensation in such incidents or is it ad hoc and decided on case to case basis;
- (d) the details of other Tadoba type incidents, if any, occurred during the last three years in country's wildlife sanctuaries/national parks/reserves; and
- (e) steps taken by Government to help victim's family and ensuring that such incidents do not recur?

Areas with no or less forest cover

208 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) areas in the country where there is no forest area or where the forest area is very less, the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether such areas have to face environmental issues like air pollution and water scarcity;
- (c) whether Government proposes to formulate a scheme for intensive afforestation/ plantation in such areas; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to develop such areas under private-public incentive scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Review of Compensatory Afforestation Programme

209 Shri Rajmani Patel:

Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

- (a) whether the Forest Survey of India has submitted a review of the Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAP) to Government in January 2020 and whether this report is publicly available;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government maintains data on missing or ghost plantations, i.e., where there has been no actual plantation under the CAP despite reports on paper;
- (d) if so, the details thereof from the year 2017 till date and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) details of measures being taken to monitor ghost plantations?

Revision of Air Quality Standards

210 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

- (a) reasons for not revising Air Quality Standards by Government which were last revised in the year 2009;
- (b) whether Government will consider making Air Quality Standards binding on States;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the WHO has recently released new air quality guidelines and, if so, whether Government will consider adopting WHO's new guidelines?

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)

211 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:

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

- (a) whether the overall aim of NAFCC is to support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and whether the activities under this scheme are implemented in a project mode;
- (b) whether Government plans to undertake a national in-depth coastal risk assessment in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to expand the scope of NAFCC to support adaptation measures in all coastal areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of

climate change, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the funds released to Andhra Pradesh under NAFCC till date?

NGT ban on RO

212 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

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

- (a) whether National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry to ban R.O. purifiers at places where TDS is found to be less than 500 milligrams per litre in water;
- (b) if so, the steps taken thereon by Government;
- (c) number of places in the country including the State of Uttarakhand where TDS is less than 500 milligrams per litre in water and R.O. is not required and the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of places in the State of Uttarakhand where TDS is more than 500 milligram per litre and the water is not safe for drinking?

Forest fire cases in Uttarakhand

213 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest resources are damaged on large scale due to wild fires in the country;
- (b) whether the number of wild fires are increasing; and
- (c) the steps that are being taken by Government to prevent or reduce the cases of wildfires in the State of Uttarakhand?

Encroachment on reserve forest land

214 # Shri Rajendra Gehlot:

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

- (a) details of the total area of reserved land for forests in each State of the country including the State of Rajasthan, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has carried out any assessment/survey regarding encroachment being done on the said land for years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to remove these encroachment especially in the State of Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

Death of tigers during the year 2021

215 # Shri Rajendra Gehlot:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 123 tigers have died in the country during the year 2021;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of these deaths including that in the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) whether Government has constituted any committee in order to assess or investigate the reasons behind these deaths, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any action against the people responsible for these deaths, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Protection of Powai lake

216 Dr. Subramanian Swamy:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Powai Lake in Mumbai is a wetland as per Environment Protection Act, 1986;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many attempts have been made by the polluters including the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai to carry out constructions on the banks of this lake;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a PIL is pending in the Bombay High Court; and
- (d) steps that have been taken to ensure that no construction takes place around this lake and pollution causing nuisance are eradicated?

Number of clearances sought by NHAI

217 Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:

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

- (a) the number of environmental clearances sought by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) from the Ministry for diversion of forest lands in 2021; and
- (b) the project-wise breakdown of the total number of clearances granted, rejected and pending before the Ministry?

Committee to study climate change

218 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that incidence of natural calamities has increased due to day-to-day climate change;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider to constitute a committee comprising of meteorologists and scientists to study the climate change; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promoting afforestation

219 Dr. Amee Yajnik:

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

- (a) details of afforestation drive organised by Government during the last three years to restore forest, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has any policy to promote afforestation programmes in such areas having frequent landslides; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Data on State of Forest Report 2021

220 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

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

- (a) whether as per the India State of Forest Reports 2021 released recently, forest cover in the country has increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of States where forest cover has depleted in comparison to previous year/years; and
- (d) the details of reasons for decline in forest cover in some States?

Credibility of State of Forest Report 2021

221 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the data used by Forest Survey of India (FSI) in the State of Forest report is not in public domain;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the data used is not verifiable;
- (d) whether Government will provide data that is in public domain and verifiable; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Reduced forest cover in North East Region

222 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite climate change pledges forest cover has reduced by 1020 square kilometers in the North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to recover the loss; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Passport seva kendras in Uttar Pradesh

223 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

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

- (a) the details of number of passport seva kendras operational across the country including in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government is planning to introduce chip-based e-passports in place of paper passports within the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Frame work for safety and security of e-passports

224 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) whether Government has devised any framework to ensure safety and security, in light of the Government's recent proposal of issuing e-passports, considering that e-passports are known to bring highest risk of duplication and forgery; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Delay in visa processing

225 Shri Elamaram Kareem:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that visa processing in many countries including UK and Canada are getting unduly delayed these days; and
- (b) the actions taken by Government to help Indian citizens having difficulty due to the delayed processing of visa?

Indians in Kazakhstan

226 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Shri Neeraj Dangi:

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

- (a) the number of Indians who are presently in Kazakhstan;
- (b) whether Government is taking any measures to ensure the safety of Indian nationals in Kazakhstan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the government plans to evacuate stranded Indians from Kazakhstan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including estimated timeline for the same, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of ICCR centres

227 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

the steps being taken by Government to set up more cultural centers abroad to promote Indian Culture as according to International Media, there were 548 Confucius Institutes that are promoting Chinese language and culture at schools and universities throughout the world projecting China's soft power whereas in comparison, as per Indian Council for Cultural Relations data, there are only 38 Indian Cultural Centers abroad that are promoting Indian culture?

Khalistani activities in Canada

228 **Shri Anil Desai:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware about increasing Khalistani activities being aggressively carried out by some Sikh elements;
- (b) if so, whether Government has identified these persons, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) action Government has taken against them; and
- (d) whether Canadian Government extended any cooperation in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Attacks on Tamil fishermen

229 **Shri Vaiko:**

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

- (a) whether there are increasing incidents of attacks on Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases reported of throwing stones on the Tamil fishermen at Katchatheevu by Sri Lankan Navy;
- (d) action taken by Government to deal with the situation;
- (e) whether meeting of Joint Working Group on Fisheries was called to discuss the issues threadbare and to find a permanent solution to the problem in view of the increasing incidents of attack on Tamil fishermen;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

Cooperative approach for tackling terrorism and radicalisation

230 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to forge a cooperative approach for tackling threats such as terrorism and radicalisation in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps diplomatically in this regard with neighbouring and friendly countries, the details thereof?

Lateral entry to foreign service

231 Shri Abdul Wahab:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is functioning with less number of foreign service officers;
- (b) the details of current number of foreign service officers who are presently working with the Ministry; and
- (c) whether Government is considering for lateral entry of foreign service officers to various positions?

Videsh bhavans in Rajasthan

232 Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to establish Videsh Bhavans in the State of Rajasthan as a One stop organization to bring all the subordinate offices of MEA and allied matters under one roof, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, the reason therefor?

Status of Asia Africa Growth Corridor

233 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) the projects identified under Asia Africa Growth Corridor since its inception;
- (b) whether Government has been able to spend the pledged USD 10 billion for the Corridor, the details of the spending, sector and project-wise; and
- (c) the funding patterns for the Asia Africa Growth Corridor under the Public Private Partnership?

Cautions to be exercised by OTT platforms

234 Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government to ensure that OTT (over the top) platforms take into account India's multi-racial and multi-religious context and exercise due caution and discretion; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Dedicated channel for education

235 Shri N.R. Elango:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning dedicated television and radio channels for education, especially to cater to the needs of differently-abled students who do not have access to education due to technological and mobile connectivity issues, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons for not having devoted channels for education, not only for differently abled students but also for those who have suffered for not having mobile connectivity; and
- (c) whether Government is planning for telecasting channel which is dedicated to education, and whether it will be telecasted in regional languages?

e-Shram Cards

236 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

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

- (a) the unorganised workers who have been registered under e-Shram card Scheme;
- (b) the number of unorganised workers who have received accidental or death/total disability benefits so far;
- (c) the reason of physical registration not being permitted despite the fact that the bulk of unorganised workforce have no access to digital facilities; and
- (d) the manner in which workers who have no Aadhar Cards are expected to register themselves?

Winding up of film related bodies

237 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

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

- (a) whether Government is winding up the Films Division (FD), National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and others by the end of January 2022;
- (b) whether these are being merged into the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) to continue their present activities as verticals under the NFDC or to shut them down;
- (c) what will be the fate of employees, premises or budgets of these organisations; and
- (d) the role Government will play for encouraging good cinemas after this merger?

Agents and Printers empanelled in the Publications Division

238 Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudde:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of agents empanelled in the Publications Division since 2019, the criteria applied while empanelling them;
- (b) the State-wise details of printers empanelled by the Publications Division since 2019 for printing works, the basis on which they have been empanelled; and
- (c) the current mechanism of performance monitoring of these empanelled agents and printers, if not in place, the reasons therefor?

Biographies published by Publications Division

239 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

- (a) the number of biographies published by the Publications Division under Builders of Modern India;
- (b) the number of them published between 2001 to 2021 along with their titles;
- (c) the three titles along with author's name which are highest sold among the published biographies under BMI series (between 2001-21);
- (d) the number of those which have been translated in more than 7 Indian languages among such titles (2001-2021) and how much market they (titles and authors names) captured in languages besides Hindi and English; and
- (e) the policy of reprinting of such titles if all printed books are sold?

Subletting of regional channels

240 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

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

- (a) whether T.V. channels in various States of the country are broadcasting in the name of regional channels and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether regional T.V. channels have been sublet, if so, the amount of loss in revenue incurred to Government by this subletting of channels and the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that regional T.V. channels are being broadcasted and operated in the States without even having any established broadcasting office, if so, the details of actions taken against them?

Manipulation in Broadcast Audience Research Council Ratings

241 **Shri John Brittas:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) ratings were marred in serious charges of manipulation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response thereto and the actions proposed to ensure robust data?

New Tarrif order 2.0

242 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some broadcasters are tweaking the TRAI's New Tarrif Order (NTO) 2.0 by keeping popular channels out of bouquet and charging more;
- (b) whether they are charging ₹15-25 for some channels keeping them outside the bouquet;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that due to above, viewers have to shell out 50 per cent more money;
- (d) if so, whether Government has fixed maximum price even for those channels which are kept outside the bouquet; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Standards for Provisions of Safety, Health and Welfare at workplaces

243 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) the committees which are working to set standards for provisions related to safety, health and welfare at workplaces belonging to factories in India; and
- (b) the persons who are presiding over these committees, the details thereof?

Jobs lost and created during COVID-19 1st and 2nd wave

244 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 10 million people lost jobs due to COVID-19 2nd wave, if so, the details thereof sector, year and State-wise;
- (b) if not, the actual details of the job lost in various sectoral fields both in private and Government sectors up to date from COVID-19 1st and 2nd wave, year and State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the total jobs created, sector, year and State-wise?

Programmes to uplift the unemployed

245 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:

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

- (a) the details of Government's assessment of the number of individuals and families pushed below the poverty line till date due to COVID-19 induced unemployment, State wise; and
- (b) programmes initiated in order to uplift the unemployed youths, Sector-wise?

Pension for Unorganised workers

246 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) number of unorganised workers enrolled in Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana/pension scheme since its launch in 2019, State and year-wise;
- (b) number of unorganised workers enrolled in the Scheme in Andhra Pradesh since 2019, district and Year-wise;
- (c) reasons for low enrollment under the Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) actions taken to increase enrollment under the Scheme in States with low enrollment;
- (e) the benefit to workers enrolled under the Scheme; and
- (f) premium chart giving amount of contribution payable by workers entering the scheme at different ages to receive a pension of ₹ 3,000 at 60 years?

Female employment in rural and urban areas

247 Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that female employment outside the home in rural areas was flat between 2004 and 2017, the period when the total rural female labour force participation rate (LFPR) registered a decline, and in urban areas, there was a slight upward trend; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address these issues?

State of gig workers

248 **Shri Derek O' Brien:**

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

- (a) Government's plans to extend social protection to nearly 7 Lakh gig and platform workers considering a recent study that found that 95.3 per cent of them do not have access to any health insurance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) Government plan to formulate labour welfare and protection schemes for gig workers in the light of research that suggests that 'take home' earnings of gig workers declined in 2021 despite spending 16-20 hours on the job; and
- (d) if so, details of the schemes thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Minimum wages in the country

249 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) whether there is any definition of minimum wages in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the mechanisms available to ensure that an employee or worker is paid minimum wages by the establishment where they are working; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to set any floor level wage for a worker in the country and the components that are being considered while formulating it?

Data on Inter-State migrant workers

250 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

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

- (a) whether Government has created any database, collecting data on Inter-State migrant workers in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has complete data as to the number of Inter-State migrant workers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes for welfare of construction workers

251 # **Shri Ram Chander Jangra:**

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

- (a) the schemes of Government for Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare;
- (b) State-wise list of the number of registered labourers;
- (c) the details of financial status of Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards constituted in various States and the number of members whose claims for welfare schemes are pending; and
- (d) State-wise details of the number of beneficiaries who have been disbursed money under various schemes during the last five years and the amount given to beneficiaries?

Registration of labourers on e-Shram portal

252 # **Shri Brijlal:**

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

- (a) the number of labourers having registered themselves on the e-Shram portal in the

country so far and out of them, the percentage of women labourers; and
(b) the percentage of registered labourers getting benefited, the details thereof?

Welfare of gig workers

253 Shri Iranna Kadadi:

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

- (a) the number of gig workers as on date and details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the protests by gig workers against exploitative working conditions and poor pay scales at national and multinational corporations;
- (c) if so, the plans, if any, to increase liability of gig platforms and corporations to ensure accountability and safety of gig workers; and
- (d) the plans, if any, to set a minimum wage for the gig workers so that they do not suffer due to price fluctuations by platforms?

Registration on e-Shram portal through offline mode

254 # Shri Hardwar Dubey:

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

- (a) the figures of urban and rural workers, engaged in the unorganised sector who are registered under the recently launched e-Shram portal; and
- (b) whether for all the workers who are not able to access the online portal Government proposes to register them through offline mode as well?

CGIT-cum-labour courts

255 Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe:

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

- (a) the total number of Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT)-Cum-Labor Courts established across the country, the details thereof;
- (b) number of verdicts given since 2018, court-wise details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study about the adequacy in terms of number of CGIT-Cum-Labor Courts available in the country?

Setting up of ESIC Hospitals

256 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans of setting up ESI dispensaries and hospitals in every industrially developed districts of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any such requests have been received by Government so far, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of such hospitals and dispensaries being proposed to be established in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Health services under ESIC

257 # Shri Narhari Amin:

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

- (a) number of ESIC hospitals/dispensaries established in the country, State/UT-wise;

- (b) whether enrolment of labourers under ESIC is continuously increasing and if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government to cover the increasing number of beneficiaries; and
 (c) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the medical services under ESIC in the country?

ESIC hospitals in Gujarat

258 # Shri Narhari Amin:

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

- (a) the State-wise number of Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals established in the country;
 (b) the number of ESIC hospitals established in the State of Gujarat;
 (c) whether Government has received any proposal to establish ESIC hospitals in the State of Gujarat; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

Cess Fund under Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996

259 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) total amount of Cess Fund collected under Section 24 of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996 (BoCW) as of October 2021, State-wise;
 (b) total amount of CESS Fund utilised under Section 24 of BoCW as of October 2021, State-wise, details thereof;
 (c) total number of welfare claims filed across State Construction Welfare Boards (CWBs) and total number of welfare claims that have been cleared across State Construction Welfare Boards under the BoCW Act; and
 (d) whether Government is aware of the Rs.39997 crore un-utilised funds, if so, steps being taken to ensure proper utilisation of this fund?

ESIC partnership with PMJAY for medical care

260 Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) whether the ESIC has initiated partnership with PMJAY to provide medical care to its beneficiaries in certain designated districts;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and specially in the State of Rajasthan; and
 (c) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available to beneficiaries all over the country?

Unemployment rate in the country

261 Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) whether unemployment rate in the country has risen to 7.9 per cent in December, 2021 as per the latest report of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State and sector-wise;

- (c) the details of urban and rural unemployment rate during December, 2021; and
- (d) the reasons for increase in unemployment rate in the country?

Loss of employment

262 Shri K.J. Alphons:

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

- (a) the direct and indirect loss of employment due to COVID-19; and
- (b) steps that have been taken by Government to help those who have lost their jobs?

Urban MGNREGA Programme to provide employment

263 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is high unemployment rate in urban areas due to job loss during the Covid-19 Pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received representations from trade unions to start an urban MGNREGA programme to provide employment; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Mandatory enrollment of graudates at employment exchange

264 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to make it mandatory for graduates to register at employment exchange at districts across the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reason therefor?

Construction of new ESIC hospital building in Odisha

265 Shri Muzibulla Khan:

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

- (a) the time by when Government's land will be provided for construction of a new hospital building of ESIC Hospital at Choudwar, Odisha;
- (b) the present status of the existing ESIC Hospital building at Choudwar, Odisha; and
- (c) the date by which ESI Corporation is to take over the closed ESIC Hospital at Brajarajnagar, Odisha?

Computerization of Courts in Jharkhand

266 # Shri Deepak Prakash:

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

- (a) whether Government has plans for computerization of District and subordinate courts, if so, the details thereof in respect of the State of Jharkhand;
- (b) whether Government is planning to take initiatives to train judicial officers in the matter of computerization of judiciary, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of allocated budget for computerization of judiciary in the State of Jharkhand?

e-Court mission

267 Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had launched e-Court mission mode projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of services provided under e-Court Mission; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the true potential of e-Courts project?

Strength of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts

268 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:

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

- (a) the details and number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts against the sanctioned strength, State-wise details of High Courts thereof;
- (b) the total number of SC/ST/OBC Judges in the Supreme Court and the percentage of representation of SCs/STs and OBCs; and
- (c) the details and number of SC/ST/OBC Judges in High Courts across the country, State-wise details thereof with percentage of SCs/STs and OBCs representation?

Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Puducherry

269 Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

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

- (a) whether Government of Puducherry had availed the Central Government funded Swadesh Darshan Scheme, considering the importance of tourist circuit of Puducherry;
- (b) if so, the initiatives carried out under the Scheme; and
- (c) the details of fund received and spent during the last five years under the Scheme?

Status of functional courtrooms in the country

270 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

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

- (a) the total number of functional courtrooms in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of newly constructed courtrooms which have become functional during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to speed up virtual courts in the country and details of cases disposed off by virtual courts during the last two years, if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of tourism in Rajasthan and Maharashtra

271 Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:

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

- (a) whether any proposal or scheme for promoting tourism especially in rural areas of the State of Rajasthan and Maharashtra is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the funds given to the State Governments of Rajasthan and Maharashtra under such tourism promotion scheme during each year in the last five years and in the current year?

Bogus Voters

272 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any research to show the manner in which linkage of Voter ID with Aadhaar will be able to reduce the number of bogus voters;
- (b) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government maintains data on number or percentage of bogus voters within the system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof annually, from 2017 till date and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has considered the possibility of Aadhaar databases diluting the smaller Voter ID database and exacerbating the bogus voter issue; and
- (f) if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Transparency in collegium system for appointment of Judges

273 Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

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

- (a) whether there was a demand from within the judiciary and parliamentarians and from other legal experts to change the collegium system for appointment of judges, to bring transparency and accountability in the system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) steps being taken by Government to bring transparency in the appointment of judges in consultation with the top court;
- (d) whether Government had written to the Judiciary, Chief Justices of all High Courts to include names of members from the reserved categories while recommending names; and
- (e) if so, the details /present status thereof?

Relaxation in allotment of chamber to women Advocates

274 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to provide special relaxation to practicing women Advocates in the country for chamber allotments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the number of steps taken to encourage women Advocates to undertake practice in the Indian courts?

Scheme for development of infrastructure in courts

275 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of infrastructure in district and subordinate courts;
- (b) the details of the prescribed sharing pattern of funds under the above schemes, State-wise; and
- (c) details of financial and other assistance given under the above schemes to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years and the current year, year-wise?

Comments of the Ministry on Old Pension Scheme

276 **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) whether views of the Ministry had been sought by DoP&PW for excluding those employees whose advertisements for recruitment were issued on or before 31/12/2003 from purview of NPS and to cover them under Old Pension Scheme in view of various judgements of Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (b) if so, details of suggestions/comments offered by the Ministry;
- (c) reasons for delaying comments; and
- (d) reasons for advising lame litigation in each case even after dismissal of SLPs and RPs at admission stage without hearing by Supreme Court, to tarnish pro-public image of Government?

Raising of ceiling on election expenditure

277 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved raising of ceiling on the election expenditure by a candidate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Government will ensure that the expenditure limit allowed is adhered to in letter and spirit; and
- (d) steps being taken to ensure that candidates get level playing field for election campaign?

Pendency of notary license renewal applications in Gujarat

278 # **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

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

- (a) the number of applications of notary license pending for renewal in Gujarat as on 01/12/2021, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and
- (b) by when the pending notary licenses of Gujarat would be renewed?

Reserved vacancies

279 **Shri Rajmani Patel:**

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

- (a) the number of Judges from SC/ST and OBC, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the number of vacant posts, State-wise;
- (c) whether any action is being taken to fill up these vacancies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Para legal Volunteers under DISHA

280 **Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:**

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

- (a) number of Para Legal Volunteers engaged under Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA) till date, State-wise;

- (b) number of People benefitted with legal advice under DISHA till date, State-wise; and
- (c) percentage increase in number of beneficiaries receiving legal advice because of DISHA till date, State-wise?

Transparency in virtual court system

281 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to ensure implementation of the DoPT Standing Committee Report to improve and bring transparency in virtual court systems in Supreme Court, High Court and Subordinate Courts;
- (b) whether Subordinate Courts across India including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and other States stopped listing fresh matters barring some extreme exceptions during the COVID-19 times;
- (c) if so, the details of its impact on justice delivery system; and
- (d) whether it is due to the failure to modernise working system of the courts?

Vacancies of Judges in High Court

282 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 per cent posts of judges against the sanctioned strength of 37 are lying vacant in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant; and
- (c) efforts made by Government to fill up the vacancies and also create additional judges for High Court of Andhra Pradesh?

Survey by the CJI

283 Shri Muzibulla Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that according to an ongoing survey by the Chief Justice of India, only 27 per cent Courts have computers placed on the Judge's dais with video-conferencing facility, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (b) the details of budgetary allocation made by Government for e-Courts and the details of the funds actually released and utilized hereunder till the year 2021, State-wise; and
- (c) the plan of action to deal with the digital divide in order to establish and ensure proper and smooth functioning of e-Courts?

Vacancies in UPSC

284 Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that there is a large number of vacancies in Union Public Service Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to fill these vacancies?

General order for old pension scheme

285 **Smt. Chhaya Verma:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to answer to UQ 605, 610 and 611 given in Rajya Sabha on December 2nd, 2021 and state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court has dismissed the SLPs(C) 15312-15321/2021 and 16570/2021 on 03/01/2022 and has allowed more than thousand Central Government officials under NPS, the benefits of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) whose advertisements were issued before 01/01/2004 and results declared and joining occurred after 31/12/2003 and observing that this court is not going to take different views from earlier cases;
- (b) if so, whether Government would now issue general orders covering all similar officials in view of above mentioned SC's orders;
- (c) if not, the number of orders from Courts which are required to issue general orders for similar cases?

Vacant posts in various Departments

286 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 10 lakh vacant posts in various Central Government Departments during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) the details of recruitment done by major recruiting agencies for various Government posts during the last three years;
- (d) the number of people engaged through outsourcing by various departments; and
- (e) by when the vacant posts will be filled?

Shortage of IAS officers

287 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing shortage of IAS officers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has set up any committee to suggest measures for the immediate, medium as well as long term needs of IAS officers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Number of unfilled posts

288 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

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

- (a) the current number of unfilled Group A, C and D posts under Government of India; and
- (b) the measures taken by Government to expedite the recruitment process so that all the vacancies could be filled in time?

Initiatives and achievements of NSTEDB

289 Shri Iranna Kadadi:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of programmes started by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) and the achievements made during each of the last three years and the current year, State and programme-wise;
- (b) the details of the agencies working under the NSTEDB;
- (c) the details of efforts made in entrepreneurship/startups and the financial assistance given to various entities during the last three years;
- (d) the details of people registered and successfully trained by the NSTEDB during the above period; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for efficient functioning of NSTEDB?

Benefits of two time zones

290 Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the difference in mean solar time between the Eastern most and the Western most part of the country, taking into account the vast geographical expanse of the country;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to estimate the gain in man-hours per day by having two time zones;
- (c) if so, the broad findings of the study in terms of gain in man-hours per day and the increase in the GDP it will result in; and
- (d) the complete details thereof?

Development of science and technology projects in Tamil Nadu

291 Shri P. Wilson:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) details of schemes launched/formulated by Government especially in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and funds released for the same;
- (b) whether NGOs/voluntary organizations are engaged in implementation of schemes/projects undertaken in various States/UTs in the country for development of science and technology, especially in Tamil Nadu and funds allocated to them during the last three years;
- (c) steps taken by Government to strengthen the research field in science and technology and persons who gained employment through these schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Details of staff and assets of CEL

292 # Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the present value of total movable and immovable assets of Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and the total number of staff including the engineers working in it;
- (b) the total number of orders received by CEL in 2019-20, 2020-21 and the current financial year 2021-22 till date and the production, turn-over and net income of the company during these years;
- (c) the name of the company buying the CEL and the amount of funds that Government would receive through its disinvestment; and

(d) the field in which the buyer company is engaged and the total number of its employees?

Workers with graduation degree on e-Shram portal

293 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) the number of workers registered on e-Shram portal in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the number of workers holding the degree of graduation or higher education amongst them; and
- (c) the details of employment provided to the said registered workers during the last three years?

Central Financial Assistance to Puducherry

294 **Shri S. Selvaganabathy:**

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

- (a) whether Government of Puducherry had availed the Scheme of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in the field of Information Technology to benefit the tourists;
- (b) whether Government is offering CFA every year and whether any grant is released to the UT of Puducherry till date; and
- (c) if so, the IT initiative projects executed for the benefit of tourists and the amount spent so far during the last five years?

Tourism circuit on historic personalities

295 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

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

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal for developing the Shivaji Tourism Circuit and Ahilyadevi Holkar Tourism Circuit showcasing the life and achievements of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Ahilyadevi Holkar, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, whether Government proposes to develop a tourism circuit based on Shivaji's life and Ahilyadevi's life?

Establishment of National Institute of Water Sports in Andhra Pradesh

296 **Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:**

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

- (a) the details of prerequisites for establishment of National Institute of Water Sports in States or UTs of the country;
- (b) whether Government will set up National Institute of Water Sports in Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam) as a center under Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Andhra Pradesh for encouraging aqua tourism and adventure in South India; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of Rural Circuit and Spiritual Circuit in Odisha

297 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

whether Government will consider sanctioning more funds for the development of Rural Circuit and Spiritual Circuit in the State of Odisha under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme?

Development of Rameshwaram

298 **Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government will contemplate the development of Rameshwaram in the State of Tamil Nadu for which proposal has been sent by Department of Tourism, Tamil Nadu, as it is considered to be a holy and famous pilgrimage place for one of the 12 Jyotirlinga Temples;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;
- (d) likely date for release of funds for development of Rameshwaram; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Assistance to Tourism Industry

299 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry in India is currently facing one of its worst crises in history with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken or have been taken to assist the tourism industry to come out of this crisis; and
- (c) whether Government has given any financial assistance to those who are not working in the organised tourism sector, if so, details thereof?

PRASAD Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

300 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has selected the programmes to be taken up under PRASAD Scheme; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of cruise tourism

301 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) the details of tax relief provided to the domestic cruise tourism to tide over the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether the tax relief provided for the cruise tourism has increased business and helped boost tourism;
- (c) whether Government is providing any financial assistance to the State of Odisha for the promotion of cruise tourism; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Representation from IATO

302 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

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

- (a) whether Government has received any representation from the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) for one-time financial assistance and relaxation of seven-day quarantine rule for travellers from non-high risk countries, to help prevent closure of business and job losses;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to revive current tourism industry by bringing more foreign tourists to the country?

Loan scheme to boost tourism industry

303 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

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

- (a) the details of loan scheme to boost tourism industry in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) special steps and measures taken so far to help tourism industry in the country and West Bengal in particular in COVID-19 times; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Inclusion of Punaura Dham under PRASAD scheme

304 # Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has requested to include ₹ 3686.96 lakh scheme for the development of Punaura Dham, the birthplace of Mother Janki in Sitamarhi district in the State of Bihar under the PRASAD scheme;
- (b) the status of approval of the scheme and by when the funds would be released; and
- (c) the details of other schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' in the State of Bihar?

Development of Vindhyanchal-Kalikhoh-Ashtabhuj triangle

305 # Smt. Seema Dwivedi:

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

- (a) the details of works undertaken by Government to promote tourism in the famous triangle of Vindhyanchal-Kalikhoh-Ashtabhuj situated between the Vindhya mountains and Ganges located in the district, Mirzapur;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are six major beautiful natural waterfalls situated in Mirzapur district;
- (c) if so, the planning of Government to develop them from the tourism point of view; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to formulate some plan to connect Chunargarh fort and Shivgarh fort situated in Mirzapur to promote tourism?

Employment generated through Schemes under the Ministry

306 Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:

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

- (a) details of total number of people directly employed in the projects being developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme from 2019 till date, State-wise;
- (b) details on number of people directly employed in religious destinations under PRASAD Scheme from 2019 till date, State-wise; and
- (c) details on percentage increase in placement or self-employment of successfully certified trainees under Capacity Building for Service Providers from 2019 till date, State-wise?

International youth programmes

307 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) International Youth Programmes that have been organised in the country since the year 2017 till date along with the places where it was held;
- (b) whether Government proposes to organise youth programme at international and national level in future; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Low demand for free tourist visa

308 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of the 5 lakh free tourist visas announced in March 2021, only few thousand such visas could be issued;
- (b) if so, the reason for such a low demand for tourist visas to the country, in spite of them being free;
- (c) whether the low rate of vaccination in the country as a percentage of total population is a reason for tourists getting discouraged from visiting the country; and
- (d) if not, the major reasons for tourists staying away from visiting the country and the steps being planned to boost the tourism sector?

Archery academy in Chhattisgarh

309 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government propose to establish archery academy in tribal majority districts of the country including Surguja of Balrampur-Ramanujanj of Chhattisgarh as the youth of said area are known especially for their archery skill;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise details of the amount allocated by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, whether Government propose to take decision in this regard in the future?

Guidelines for Public-Private Partnership in sports

310 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

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

- (a) whether Government has considered releasing standard guidelines for development of sports infrastructure in the country under public-private partnership, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the number of States implementing public-private partnership models in sports, the details thereof?

Appointment of Paralympic winners as coaches

311 # Shri Ram Chander Jangra:

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

- (a) whether former Paralympic winners are being considered for appointment as coaches to provide training to the specially-abled players;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether former Paralympic winners could be considered for appointment as coaches to provide training to specially-abled players?

Promotion of sports in J&K and Ladakh

312 # **Shri Brijlal:**

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

- (a) important decisions taken by Government in the area of sports after abrogation of Article 370 in the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh;
- (b) the Government policy to bring forward talented sportspersons from that region; and
- (c) the details thereof?

Tapping of State level Champions from rural areas

313 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any plan to tap the talents of State level champions from the rural areas of the country to improve their talents for entering in National or International championships;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Khelo India centres in North East Region

314 **Shri Ripun Bora:**

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

- (a) whether Government intends to boost sports participation in the North East Region, considering the success of northeastern sportspersons at the 2021 olympics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of “khelo India” in the North East Region, including funds allocated and disbursed, and the number of beneficiaries from inception till date, State and year-wise thereof; and
- (d) the status of setting up of 1000 new khelo India centres announced in June 2020, including the details of centres sanctioned, constructed, and operational therein?

Participation in e-Sports in Asian games 2022

315 **Ms. Sushmita Dev:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that e-Sports is going to be a medal event with a chance of winning 24 medals in 2022 Asian games;
- (b) whether India is going to participate in the Asian games e-Sports division given that India currently has a booming e-Sports scenario;
- (c) if so, whether Government would provide training facilities for the e-Sports contingent of India;
- (d) if so, whether there is an official Government organisation for e-Sports in India that would oversee this process; and
- (e) if not, the approach Government would take in this regard?

Selection of talented players for international sports events

316 # **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

- (a) different sports at the international level for which talented players are selected in the

country;

(b) whether Government has selected some talented players of weaker section/families in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof State and sports-wise; and

(d) the aspects considered by Government to encourage players in sports events and to raise the level of excellence at the international level?

Preparation for Paris olympics

317 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

(a) the manner in which Government is preparing sports persons for Paris olympics in 2024, considering the unprecedented medal tally of India in Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics;

(b) the details of preparation and strategy adopted by Government for this year's Asian Games, Youth Olympics and the Commonwealth Games;

(c) whether Ministry has sought any additional funds at Revised Estimates (RE) stage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance to sports persons during Covid-19 pandemic

318 # Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

(a) whether Government provided financial assistance to professional sportspersons during the Corona period;

(b) if so, sports-wise assistance received by the players;

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to make such a scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Guidelines for talent search programmes in sports

319 # Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar:

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

(a) whether any guidelines or any talent search programme has been prepared for participation of sports talent from rural areas in National and International sports tournaments;

(b) whether any procedure or guidelines is to be followed by talented sports persons in order to receive facilities and guidance pertaining to rules of National/International games and communication channels for its training purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of funds to Bihar

320 # Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

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

- (a) the amount of funds not being provided to Bihar due to stoppage of various sports events because of lockdown in last two years;
- (b) whether Government would consider releasing funds under the sports head to Bihar;
- (c) if so, by when and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether any study has been conducted to find out the impact of Covid times on the development of players from various districts and towns?

New Delhi
The 27th January, 2022
07 Magha, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
Secretary-General.

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