

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 25, 2022/ 4 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

**(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Commerce and Industry;
Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Electronics and
Information Technology; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Food
Processing Industries; Heavy Industries; Railways; Textiles)**

Total number of questions -- 160

Crop loss due to rain and hailstorm

2561 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is massive crop loss due to recent rain and hailstorm in various States including the State of Uttar Pradesh during the months of December, 2021 and January, 2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard to extend help to farmers whose crops have been damaged;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Market Intervention Scheme

2562 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), the losses, if any, incurred in implementation of MIS is released by Central Government to the State procuring agencies as per the specific proposals received from the State Government in view to provide remunerative price to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of proposals received by the Central Government from various State Governments during 2020-21 and 2021-22, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the details of amount of Central share of losses released by the Central Government during 2020-21 and 2021-22 till date, State-wise?

Utilisation of budget for doubling farmers' income

2563 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers' income has not doubled over the years;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that merely ₹ 5,787 crore of the cumulative budget allocation of ₹ 17,540 crore for 2020-21 was spent under all the schemes for doubling farmers' income;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of the unspent amount of the total budget allocated under the schemes for doubling farmers' income; and
- (d) the concrete measures taken by Government to utilise the unspent amount for the welfare of the farmers?

Scheme for Bamboo plantation in Madhya Pradesh

2564 # Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that any special scheme is being implemented by Government to promote Bamboo plantation; and
- (b) if so, the amount being provided to the State of Madhya Pradesh under this scheme during the last three years, year-wise details thereof?

Implementation of Zero Budget Natural Farming

2565 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

Shri Kumar Ketkar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and how it is useful in reducing the agricultural cost;
- (b) the budgetary provisions by Government towards ZBNF;
- (c) as Government has announced ZBNF in 2019 Budget, the initiatives that were implemented since then, in various parts of the country; and
- (d) State Governments that have taken the lead in implementation of ZBNF, the statistical details thereof, State-wise and year-wise?

Farmers covered under PMFBY

2566 Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of loanee farmers, State/UT-wise in the Financial Year 2021-22;
- (b) the number of farmers covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), State/UT-wise and crop-wise;
- (c) the amount of total premium collected from the farmers and Government share under PMFBY, State/UT-wise and crop-wise, in each of the last five Financial Years including the Financial Year 2021-22; and
- (d) the amount paid off to farmers as a result of crop damage under PMFBY till now, State/UT-wise, along with the reasons for crop damage in each of the last five Financial Years including the Financial Years 2021-22?

Development of agriculture sector in Maharashtra

2567 Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Agriculture Research Centres and Development Institutes are working for the development of agriculture sector in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) whether the said Agriculture Research Centres and Development Institutions have

undertaken agriculture developmental works during the last three years along with the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which growth in agricultural sector has been achieved by the said developmental works?

Setting up of cold storages under MIDH

2568 # **Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides loan for setting up cold storage under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any special subsidy is provided by Government to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for setting up the cold storage, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of agricultural colleges and universities

2569 # **Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open agricultural colleges as well as agricultural universities in almost all the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard so far?

Drone services in agricultural practices

2570 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the use of drones in agricultural practices, if so, which agency will issue licences for this and how it would be useful in agriculture sector and how will the misuse be monitored and controlled;

(b) the kind of standards and security measures that are in place, keeping in mind its unique advantages; and

(c) whether usage of drones in agricultural practice will lead to many undesirable issues such as molecular and biological indices of air, if so, how Government is planning to address these issues?

Decline in number of beneficiaries under PM-KISAN scheme

2571 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind the steady decline in the number of farmers getting benefit of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN); and

(b) the details of year-wise and State-wise figures from the inception of this scheme?

Vacant posts in ICAR

2572 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts of Agriculture Scientists are lying

vacant since long in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); and
(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is a time line to fill these vacancies?

Use of drones in agriculture sector

2573 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to provide agricultural drones cheaply through hiring centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken like subsidy for widespread use of drones in agriculture sector?

Agrarian distress in Sundarbans

2574 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ever since the Cyclone Aila, agricultural system has transformed from a self-sufficient agricultural economy to a market-based economy;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any studies to understand this issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any studies to understand how salinisation of soil and encroachment of Bay of Bengal has affected the agriculture in Sundarbans;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether Government has adopted measures to address this issue; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of climate change

2575 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that climate change is placing strain on the land and natural resources that farmers rely on;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that some 30 per cent of land is experiencing degradation and rising temperature means agriculture needs more water; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regard?

Shortage of pulses

2576 Shri Anil Desai:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of pulses mainly tur/arhar (pigeon pea) urad (black matpe) and moong and its domestic demand since the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the prices of pulses during the the same years and steps Government has taken to ensure their low prices; and
- (c) the main reason for low production of pulses in the country and the steps Government has taken to boost its domestic production?

Availability of high yield improvised seeds

2577 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a lot needs to be done by Government towards making available genuine high yield improvised seeds developed by Agricultural Research Institution, of grains, vegetables, oilseeds, fruits, flowers, etc. to the farmers through authorized centres;
- (b) if so, the concrete plans Government has for easy availability of seeds at least at district level, if not, taluka or block levels in view of the fact that the District Agriculture and Horticulture Departments make available outdated seeds to the farmers; and
- (c) the arrangements Government has made to apprise the farmers about the quality seeds and their hassle-free availability at reasonable cost?

Law regarding MSP

2578 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to bring in law to guarantee Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocations for PKVY

2579 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been underspending of amount allocated in the Budget 2021 to Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY);
- (b) the amount allocated for organic farming under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) through Budget 2022-23;
- (c) State/UT-wise area in hectares converted to organic farming since 2016, including details of amount allocated, disbursed and utilised;
- (d) whether Government has set any national target in hectares/year-wise for organic farming, and if so, the current progress thereof, and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has set targets for States under PKVY, and State/UT-wise amount allocated, disbursed and utilised thereof?

Promoting cultivation of Kala Namak paddy

2580 # Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of Kala Namak paddy produced in some of the districts of Uttar Pradesh and the way in which the same is beneficial for increasing the income of the farmers;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any action plan to promote cultivation of Kala Namak paddy in Uttar Pradesh and other States of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Micro Irrigation Schemes

2581 Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote micro irrigation and the details thereof;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated, disbursed and utilised for micro irrigation schemes till date and the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to support and fund the micro irrigation schemes and modern agricultural technologies in different States and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of new irrigation technology

2582 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce new irrigation technology for optimum utilisation of water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware that adequate irrigation facilities are still not available to the farmers in various parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government for irrigation and water conservation; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard during the last three years along with the achievements made as a result thereof?

Gramin Agricultural Markets in Andhra Pradesh

2583 Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rural haats that the Ministry has developed into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the efforts being made by the Ministry to develop more and more GrAMs in Andhra Pradesh with necessary physical and other infrastructure; and
- (c) how the Ministry would synchronize India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture and GrAMs for better help to farmers?

Aligning the NAEP to NEP 2020 to achieve the 2030 agenda

2584 Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to align the National Agricultural Education Policy (NAEP) with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which is based on five pillars, namely, Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability to achieve the 2030 agenda;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilisation of funds provided by NABARD

2585 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NABARD has funded many agricultural projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, if so details thereof;
- (b) whether all such projects are functional and clearance from appropriate authorities have been taken, the details thereof; and

(c) whether loan received for the said purpose has been utilised for the intended purpose or diverted to some other projects, the details thereof?

Measures to reduce truck transit time into Benapole port in Bangladesh

2586 **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant delay for Indian export trucks to cross into Benapole land port in Bangladesh, if so, the details of waiting period thereof;
- (b) the measures being taken by Government to reduce the waiting and transit time, the details thereof;
- (c) the value to trade and the number of trucks passing through the Petrapole-Benapole crossing, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is deliberating upon opening additional land ports for merchandise export into Bangladesh, if so, the details thereof?

Prarambh-Startup India International Summit

2587 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress report of 'Prarambh - Startup India International Summit' so far;
- (b) to which extent has this initiative benefited the State of West Bengal in particular; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Interest Equalisation Scheme

2588 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has plans to extend the Interest Equalisation Scheme on pre and post shipment export credit with retrospective effect;
- (b) whether the Ministry has plans on providing compensation to the exporters that suffered a lot due to demonetisation, advent of GST and reduction in the duty draw back making them less competitive resulting in loss of business from the years 2017-2021; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation and distribution of funds to Startups

2589 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

Shri Jose K. Mani:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding number of Startups established across the country over last five years;
- (b) if so, year-wise and State-wise details thereof including registered Startups;
- (c) whether Government has any data regarding allocation and distribution of funds under Startup India scheme to provide funding support to Startups in the country;
- (d) if so, year-wise and State-wise details thereof;
- (e) list of companies registered with Government and became successful;
- (f) whether Government has any plans to support those Startups who got shut down/are on verge of shutting down in last five years and during COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (g) if so, details thereof?

Impact on bilateral trade with Ukraine and Russia

2590 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bilateral trade with Ukraine and Russia will be impacted by Ukraine-Russia conflict;
- (b) whether the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict would impact negatively on the trade of automobile components, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, agricultural products and telecom equipments;
- (c) the details of import and export of automobile components, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, agricultural products and telecom equipments from Russia and Ukraine; and
- (d) whether Government has prepared any roadmap and strategy to control the expected loss in the trade industry due to Ukraine-Russia conflict, if so, the details thereof?

Appeal against WTO ruling on subsidy on sugar

2591 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) how Ministry looks at the ruling of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO against country's sugar subsidy;
- (b) how our subsidies are prohibitive and the reasons behind asking India to withdraw the same;
- (c) the details of countries that have complained against our subsidies and reasons and justification thereof;
- (d) how can DSB say that Government is giving support price and reject India's contention as it is not Government but sugar mills which are giving subsidy; and
- (e) whether Ministry is thinking of going in for appeal and if so, the details thereof?

Anti dumping duty on Chinese products

2592 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has imposed anti dumping duty on five Chinese products recently for five years on aluminium, chemicals, etc.;
- (b) whether Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended imposition of duty on more products apart from above products; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Fiscal incentives to infrastructure projects

2593 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved and operational in the country, including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government is considering to extend fiscal incentives on the lines of SEZs to infrastructure projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) whether Government is also considering to give interest subsidy, reimbursement of part of capital investment, stamp duty exemption and exemption of tax on electricity to the infrastructure projects, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by Government?

Surge in imports

2594 Shri Sanjay Raut:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many industries and their associations have expressed concerns at surge in imports, especially of metals and capital goods, from countries including Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan with whom India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that domestic manufactures have been adversely affected and derailing 'Make in India' programme due to mis-using of bilateral FTAs; and
- (d) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken by Government to check unlawful imports for survival of domestic industry?

Proposed changes in FDI policy

2595 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is mulling changes in FDI policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed changes are being done for allowing foreign players to bid for LIC since LIC Act does not permit foreign investment; and
- (d) whether it would contradict the stand of Government that LIC would be opened only for domestic investors or general public of the country?

Expansion of Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor to Kochi

2596 Shri John Brittas:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Industrial Corridors Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) has already accorded approval for expanding the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) to Kochi;
- (b) if so, the progress thereon;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that State Government of Kerala has informed the Central Government regarding acquisition of land for Corridor; and
- (d) the response of the Central Government thereto and the steps taken so far in the State to make the Industrial Corridor a reality?

Trade deficit of India

2597 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that trade deficit of India is constantly growing;
- (b) the percentage of increase of India's trade deficit during the last three years;
- (c) the percentage of trade deficit with China during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken to balance the trade deficit in the last three years?

Rise in imports from China

2598 **Shri Ripun Bora:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ongoing standoff with China is affecting bilateral trade and India's reliance on Chinese imports, including various raw materials;
- (b) if so, how does Government intend to address India's rising trade deficit with China therefor;
- (c) the reasons for 46.1 per cent rise in Indian imports from China in 2021 despite 'Make in India' initiatives thereof; and
- (d) the reasons for decline in the domestic manufacturing sector in the last three years, despite Government's highly publicised 'Make in India' scheme thereto?

Funding of Tocklai Tea Research Institute

2599 **Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the fund allocation after 2012 by Government to the Tocklai Tea Research Institute (TTRI) to boost the production and standardization of facilities;
- (b) the products made/invented so far by TTTRI in the field of health, hygiene, environment and local agriculture; and
- (c) the blueprints prepared by Government to support the ongoing research in TTTRI?

Single identification number

2600 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to create a single identification number for businesses and individuals by merging several identification numbers such as Aadhaar, PAN and TAN for smoother and faster delivery of services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how it would be helpful in further ease of living and ease of doing business?

Boost to export of agricultural products

2601 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) details of sanitary and phytosanitary measures that agricultural products are being subjected to while being exported from India in the last two years, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022;
- (b) details of agricultural products being exported with the details of countries to whom such exports are being made to;
- (c) whether Government has made any progress for concretising regional agreements with countries that can be considered as major importers of India's agricultural products, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there are any changes being anticipated in agricultural foreign trade policy to boost export of agricultural products?

Job creation under Make in India

2602 **Shri Ram Chander Jangra:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new additional jobs created under the 'Make in India' initiative started in year 2014 during the last five years, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (b) whether new Startups were also facilitated financially by Government under this initiative, if so, the details thereof?

Boost to exports from North East region

2603 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding commodity exports from North East region during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government plans to boost the exports of various items from North East region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the financial outlay of schemes/programmes being undertaken; and
- (d) the major impediments in boosting exports from the North East and the details of Government's plan to tackle it?

National Institute of Design in Andhra Pradesh

2604 **Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli:**

Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:

Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has approved detailed project report for construction of National Institute of Design (NID) at Andhra Pradesh and budget has been allocated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has sanctioned the entire approved budget for the establishment of NID, Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy on Tea (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022

2605 **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy was formulated by Central Government in year 2014, if so, details thereof;
- (b) how many Bills were introduced by Government from May 2014 onwards in Parliament and in how many cases, this policy was adopted;
- (c) whether the draft of any Bill under the said policy is required to be kept in the public domain for at least 30 days, if so, whether Tea (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022 has been kept in public domain for the said period, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government has held discussions with all stakeholders/trade unions of tea industry?

Installation of telecom towers in Jharkhand

2606 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

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

- (a) the total number of telecom towers installed in rural areas of Jharkhand, the telecom company-wise installation thereof during the last two years and the current year; and
- (b) the total number of telecom towers targeted to be set up in rural areas of States/Union Territories, including Jharkhand, in the upcoming financial year?

Connectivity of Gram Panchayats in Jharkhand with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots

2607 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

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

- (a) the details of optical fibre cables laid under the National Optical Fibre Network project till date and the timeline fixed for achieving the remaining target;
- (b) the number and details of Gram Panchayats connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots under the above project in Jharkhand till date; and
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats in Jharkhand which are yet to be connected under the above project?

Services and profit of India Post

2608 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

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

- (a) the profit of India Post since 2016, year-wise;
- (b) the details of the services which are being provided by the India Post;
- (c) whether the services which are provided by the India Post are running at a profit;
- (d) if so, the details of the profit since 2016, service-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) the reasons for not taking appropriate steps when the recovery is less than the service cost in the postal business of India Post?

Allocation of mobile towers in Odisha

2609 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

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

- (a) the manner in which the 4,000 mobile towers sanctioned by the Ministry for Odisha would be allocated;
- (b) who would take the decision for allocating these towers in specific locations; and
- (c) whether the State Government has any role in assigning regions for setting up these towers, if so, the details thereof?

Broadband for Danta in Banaskantha district

2610 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

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

- (a) whether BharatNet project is envisaged in Gram Panchayats and villages of Danta of Banaskantha district to provide high speed internet/ broadband;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) as per Census 2011 of the Ministry, the coverage and level of bandwidth of antennas installed in Danta; and
- (d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to improve the mobile/ internet

connectivity in the villages?

Parallel telephone exchange in Kerala

2611 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government was aware of a parallel telephone exchange that was working at Kozhikode in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the background of operators of the exchange and their modus operandi;
- (c) whether Government had taken any action against the illegal exchange;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the names of people who have been booked for illegal and anti-national activities; and
- (e) whether these parallel exchanges had any contact with India's neighboring countries like China and Pakistan?

Poor network of BSNL in Assam

2612 **Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the largest Government-owned wireless telecommunications service provider and provides reliable telecom services that are valued for money;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that in Assam, BSNL always has poor and outage network; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Ministry for better network across Assam?

Penetration of IPPB into rural areas

2613 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

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

- (a) whether India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been able to penetrate into rural areas successfully and start its services in over one lakh Post Offices;
- (b) whether rural banking infrastructure has been doubled since start of IPPB;
- (c) if so, how Ministry is pushing further to take IPPB to doorsteps of rural people through Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks; and
- (d) how recent announcement in Budget that all 1.5 lakh Post Offices would be linked to core banking system help to penetrate into rural areas and provide savings and other account holders to access internet and other facilities?

Discussions for giving final shape to 5G spectrum auction

2614 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that detailed discussions have been held with Ministries of Home Affairs, Civil Aviation, Defence, ISRO to sort out differences and give final shape to 5G spectrum airwaves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereon;
- (c) by when Ministry is likely to auction 5G spectrum as we are already lagging a few years behind other countries;

- (d) by when TRAI is expected to give its final go ahead and pricing; and
- (e) the details of cities identified for 5G services in 2022?

Salient features of India Post Payments Bank

2615 Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) the salient features of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB);
- (b) the number of districts included under the said scheme during each of the last three years, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the number of persons covered under IPPB during the same period, district-wise;
- (d) the details of the facilities provided by Government to the IPPB account holders at present; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to further facilitate the services for the account holders in future?

Revenue earned by Post Offices

2616 Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) whether there has been a decrease in the revenue earned by India Post due to COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the revenue;
- (b) whether there is any proposal of diversifying the business of India Post into more e-Commerce and other value-added services by leveraging its workforce and vast postal network to increase the revenue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken by Government to strengthen and boost the income of India Post?

Compassionate appointments

2617 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding its staff who died in harness and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the State/Union Territory-wise number of jobs provided to near relatives/dependents on compassionate grounds every year during the last five years; and
- (c) the number of cases pending with Government regarding appointments on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the deceased staff who died in harness and the action being taken by Government to dispose of these pending cases?

Low internet connectivity in rural areas

2618 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) the total coverage of internet connectivity in rural areas of the country at present, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that even today, people in most of the rural areas are deprived of internet services; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the internet connectivity coverage?

Permission by foreign companies for broadband services through satellite

2619 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many foreign companies have approached Government to seek permission to start broadband services through space satellite in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Conversion of dues from telecom operators as equity stakes

2620 **Shri John Brittas:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to convert pending dues from telecom operators as equity stakes in respective companies;
- (b) if so, the amount to be converted and the equity to be obtained;
- (c) the procedure applied for deciding on the share price; and
- (d) whether Government would hold on to the shares so acquired or disinvest the same?

Phone tracing under CEIR

2621 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

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

- (a) the number of mobile phones lost and stolen, including reprogrammed mobile handsets, that have been traced till now under the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government is sharing data with private entities under CEIR, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent of the data that is being shared with private entities under CEIR, the details thereof?

5G fibre optimisation

2622 **Shri Derek O' Brien:**

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

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to change the current scenario, considering that just 33 per cent of the telecom towers are connected with optical fibre in the country while 70 per cent is the optimal capacity for utilization of 5G services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the timeline by when Government is looking to connect to optical fibre at maximum capacity?

Unsolicited and obscene messages

2623 **Smt. Roopa Ganguly:**

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

- (a) whether there are unsolicited and obscene messages sent from MG650500; and
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to stop such messages into circulation?

Huge pendency of refund of deposits to consumers

2624 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for refund of deposits by consumers who have surrendered landline connections, are pending with MTNL/BSNL for clearance;
- (b) if so, their number upto 31 January, 2022 and the average duration for which they are pending and the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether any rules or departmental order have been laid down in the matter and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps that are going to be taken to expedite refund of pending deposits?

Loss of foodgrains due to rodents

2625 **Shri Prasanna Acharya:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of foodgrains loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) every year on account of rodents; and
- (b) the steps taken to minimize such losses?

Procurement of surplus rice from Odisha

2626 **Shri Prasanna Acharya:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of surplus rice received from Odisha in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether there is any restriction on receiving surplus rice from the State during the current year, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has refused to receive surplus par-boiled rice from Odisha, if so, the reasons therefor?

Production of ethanol in the country

2627 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu :**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of production of ethanol in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise including the percentage of ethanol blended with petrol;
- (b) whether Government targets for production of ethanol blended fuel, are being met;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures undertaken/being taken by Government to meet the said target?

Food inflation

2628 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that food inflation in the country has increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of consumer price index inflation from June 2016 to June 2021;
- (c) the reasons as to why food inflation has increased;
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to keep food inflation in check; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Dues owed to sugar cane growing farmers

2629 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total dues owed to farmers by sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise;
- (b) whether payments to sugarcane growing farmers by sugar mills have been delayed by more than a year;
- (c) the total dues owed to sugar mills by Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. under power purchase agreements during the last five years, year-wise, details thereof;
- (d) whether any directions have been issued to the Uttar Pradesh State Government to ensure timely payments to sugarcane farmers, especially in the district of Lakhimpur Kheri; and
- (e) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

Deaths due to starvation

2630 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of deaths caused due to starvation in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the total number of malnourished children in the country currently;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocation for food subsidy and the National Food Security Act has reduced by 28 per cent in Budgetary Estimates 2022-23 from Revised Estimates 2021-22; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Export and buffer subsidy to boost export of surplus sugar

2631 Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount paid to sugar mills in the last three financial years including the current year against export and buffer subsidy to boost export of surplus sugar, transportation and handling;
- (b) whether the export of sugar from the country has witnessed an increasing or decreasing trend in the last five years;
- (c) if so, the annual export figures for the last five years; and
- (d) if not, the probable reasons for decline in sugar exports, the details thereof?

Subsidy on PDS items

2632 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of shops under the Public Distribution System (PDS), State-wise;
- (b) the items and the quantity made available by the Central Government to the PDS shops, year-wise and State-wise data, since the last five years;
- (c) the subsidy given by the Central Government for each item, year-wise and State-wise data since the last five years; and
- (d) percentage of the total Government expenditure (Centre+States) on PDS contributed by the Central Government, financial year-wise, since the last five years?

Outstanding payment to OSCSC

2633 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the outstanding payments that is due to the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) with regards to paddy/rice procurement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all outstanding payments to OSCSC would be cleared within the next three months; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Manufacturing of fake food and consumer goods

2634 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps in the prevention of widespread distribution and manufacture of fake food and other counterfeit consumer goods/products including cosmetics, apparel, electronics of reputed brands;
- (b) if so, whether any action plan is in place to counter and address the rising issue of fake food and counterfeit Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) products that is causing significant health damage and financial losses to the public;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of PMGKAY

2635 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would propose to continue the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beyond March, 2022 in view of current inflation;
- (b) the number of districts covered under this scheme till date, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government would propose to implement this scheme in all the States in view of inflation?

Hallmarking of gold jewellery

2636 # **Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any step to make hallmarking of gold jewellery mandatory in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of hallmarking centres functioning in the country at present;
- (d) whether any step has been taken by Government to check the sale of inferior quality jewellery; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of technology to remove contamination in wheat and paddy

2637 **Dr. Anil Agrawal:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal to reduce ideal moisture content in wheat and paddy for procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal is based on some scientific study undertaken by the Ministry;
- (d) whether reduction on foreign matter in wheat and paddy for procurement at MSP is also under consideration; and
- (e) if so, the technology being used by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to measure any foreign matter in paddy and wheat at the time of procurement?

Filling up of vacancies in consumer courts

2638 **Shri Vaiko:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of consumer courts at the district level, State level and at the Centre, district-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number of vacancies in each court in respect of President, members, nodal officers in each court and since when they are vacant;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court recently fined the States for not filling up the vacant posts; and
- (d) if so, action taken to fill up all the vacant posts in the consumer courts all over the country, the details thereof?

Rise in prices of essential commodities

2639 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

Shri P. Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is rise in prices of essential commodities in the last two years and in the current year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, year-wise;
- (c) measures taken to control higher inflation to give relief to the common people;
- (d) the reasons for higher food prices, especially in oil and fats categories, despite bumper harvest in the country; and
- (e) the efforts made to stabilize the economy, the details thereof?

Production of edible oils

2640 Shri Narayana Koragappa:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that annual national production of edible oils in the country is about 10 million tonnes compared with local consumption of as much as 23 million tonnes;
- (b) if so, the roadmap for AtmaNirbhar Bharat in edible oils production; and
- (c) Government's support for entrepreneurs in this segment?

BIS standards for masks

2641 Smt. Ambika Soni:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued any standards for masks being used to prevent both COVID-19 and air pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect lives and prevent use of inferior quality material in the manufacturing of different types of masks to prevent air pollution and to ward off virus?

Procurement of rice from Chhattisgarh

2642 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rice is procured by the Central Government from State Governments, if so, items/pools/scheme respectively whereunder it has been made from Chhattisgarh;
- (b) the occasion-wise and quantity-wise approval granted by Government for procurement of rice, along with item/pool/scheme connected thereto, from financial year 2019 till date, and out of said procurement, quantity of rice given by the State Governments to Central Government and by when the remaining rice would be provided; and
- (c) whether any letter has been written by the State Government of Chhattisgarh to Central Government to increase the quantity of rice procurement during the said period, if so, details thereof?

Annual demand of semiconductors

2643 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

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

- (a) the annual demand of semiconductors in the country and how much of this is met from imports in the last three years, the details thereof;
- (b) the sectors which are primary consumers of semiconductors and whether any losses were incurred from chip shortage that was faced globally, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives being given to foreign firms to set up a base in India for electronic productions, the details thereof?

Construction of NIELIT in Buxar and Muzaffarpur

2644 # **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) the area of land provided for the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Buxar and Muzaffarpur by Government of Bihar;
- (b) the cost of construction of NIELIT in Buxar and Muzaffarpur, separately;
- (c) the amount of funds spent so far and by when the work is likely to be completed; and
- (d) the number of students along with their subjects targeted to be trained through the said institutes every year and by when the training is likely to be commenced?

Manufacture of microprocessors

2645 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

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

- (a) the status of applications received under Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing microprocessors in the country;
- (b) by which time period would manufacturing start; and
- (c) the expected quantum of production by 2025?

Prevention of cyber attacks

2646 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether more than 11.5 lakh incidents of cyber attacks were tracked and reported to India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in 2021;
- (b) whether power companies, oil and gas majors, telecom vendors, restaurant chains and even diagnostic labs have been the victims of cyber attacks;
- (c) the steps that have been taken by the Ministry to prevent cyber security incidents and keep cyber space free from such nuisance; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to update its current cyber security framework amidst growing reports of cyber attacks in the country?

Adverse impact of digital app based games

2647 # **Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that digital app based games are being advertised on the national channels and it is being claimed that money can be used through wallets in the said games;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that students and young generation, instead of playing natural games, waste their time and family's money in these digital games by skipping online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) the category of gambling under which the money being used in digital games falls;
- (d) whether Government is considering to ban these games; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Role of Data Protection Authority

2648 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that the role of Data Protection Authority (DPA) should extend beyond regulation and that it should also govern national programmes to sensitise the masses on privacy rights, promote data literacy and inculcate cyber hygiene at the grassroots level;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Key initiatives on Artificial Intelligence

2649 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) the details of the key initiatives of Government where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used;
- (b) the reasons for delay of Cabinet approval towards the National Programme on AI (NAPI);
- (c) whether Government has any proposals to introduce new regulatory laws and mechanisms for AI; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Digital Forensic Kiosk

2650 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

- (a) whether the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has developed a Digital Forensic Kiosk recently; and
- (b) if so, the details of benefits thereof and the sectors where this can be used?

Ban on Chinese Apps

2651 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued fresh orders to ban over 54 Chinese apps, terming them as a threat to privacy and security of Indians; and
- (b) if so, the other measures that are being taken to protect the privacy and security of Indians as far as IT is concerned?

Promotion of digital payments

2652 # **Shri Brijlal:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government so far in the direction of promoting complete digital payments in the country; and
- (b) the amount paid through UPI in the country during the last three years, the details thereof?

Banning of multiple social media handles

2653 **Shri Y. S. Chowdary:**

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

- (a) whether Government has banned multiple social media handles which are spreading fake and inciting content on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and other platforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon in the last five years, including the current year; and
- (c) whether penalties have been imposed and collected for the violations, the details thereof?

Grievances received under IT Rules, 2021

2654 **Shri Jawhar Sircar:**

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

- (a) the number of intermediaries and significant intermediaries identified or registered in terms of Part II of the IT Rules, 2021, their names, details and brand names thereof;
- (b) the number of court cases filed against certain provisions in these Rules;
- (c) the number of grievances received under Part II of the Rules and acted upon so far; and
- (d) whether persons designated as Level I, II and III of Part III of the new Rules are in position?

Hardware Technology Park in Puducherry

2655 **Shri S. Selvaganabathy:**

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

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal for setting up of Hardware Technology Park in Puducherry;
- (b) if so, whether Government has considered the proposal for setting up of the park; and
- (c) whether Government would extend all its help to regain the lost status of Puducherry by approving the proposal?

Making India a blue economy

2656 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of execution of the plans for making India a leading blue economy; and
- (b) the impact of the implementation of various schemes in the sector?

Providing technology enabled boats and fishing gadgets to fishermen

2657 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu :**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to provide technology enabled boats and fishing gadgets, satellite phones to fishermen going to high seas, to protect them from natural calamities like high tides, heavy storm, gale winds and cyclonic storms, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total value of assistance provided in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to initiate insurance scheme for fishermen, if so, the details thereof and the total beneficiaries under such scheme in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the share of State Governments and Central Government under this scheme?

Introducing PETA in dairy industry

2658 # **Shri Ram Shakal:**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to introduce Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) including many Multi National Companies (MNCs) into the dairy industry; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Fall in Budget allocation to the Ministry

2659 **Shri Ripun Bora:**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Budget allocation for allied Departments of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy has fallen from 3.87 per cent to 3.51 per cent in 2022-23;
- (b) if so, whether the Budget Estimates for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is ₹ 564 crore against ₹ 1000 crore in 2021-22 and the National Livestock Mission is ₹ 123 crore in 2022-23 against the estimates of ₹ 350 crore in 2021-22 therefor; and
- (c) if so, the present status of Blue Revolution (Neeli Kranti) and its outcome since last three years thereof, State-wise?

Fishing communities

2660 **Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people engaged in fishing activities in India, State-wise whose primary source of income is fishing;
- (b) the major schemes of Government to help the fishermen to engage in economic activities during the lean period of fishing related work;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to help the fishing communities to engage in modern fish farming by training them in this area; and
- (d) the measures to improve education, skill development, employment in other fields of the traditional fishing communities?

Release of state funds for Uttarakhand

2661 # **Shri Naresh Bansal:**

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has released state funds for Uttarakhand under the fisheries enterprise capital funds;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount approved, released and spent;
- (c) the State-wise details of the total number of beneficiary entrepreneurs so far; and
- (d) whether Government has taken additional steps to increase the entrepreneurial skills of the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof?

Government shelter homes

2662 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of Government shelter homes taking care of stray animals in the country;
- (b) whether many of these shelter homes are facing problems of space and inconvenience;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the efforts made by Government to improve these shelter homes?

PMFME scheme

2663 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PMFME) provides financial, technical and business support for setting up/upgradation of 2 lakh micro food processing enterprises across the country during five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 based on One District One Product (ODOP) approach, with an outlay of ₹ 10,000 crore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the progress State-wise and year-wise especially for the State of West Bengal?

Herbal food products

2664 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set-up new Food Processing Industries (FPIs) to promote various herbal food products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the places where such industries are considered, including in Kerala?

Funds allocated to PMKSY

2665 # **Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated for 2018-20 period under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY);
- (b) the details of the component schemes being run under the PMKSY; and
- (c) the details of the type of model prepared under this scheme by Government, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh?

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

2666 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers directly and indirectly benefitted from the umbrella Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY);
- (b) the number of food parks, cold chain infrastructure and the clusters created under the several schemes being implemented under the umbrella yojana, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any study/survey to determine the impact of the scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Food Processing Industries in Karnataka

2667 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the kind of financial assistance provided by the Ministry for the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in Karnataka during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (b) the details of FPIs set up both in the organized and unorganized sectors in Karnataka?

Meat Export Policy

2668 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of existing Meat Export Policy of Government;
- (b) the details of total quantity and value of various types of meat and meat products exported from the country from 2017 till date, item-wise, country-wise and company-wise;
- (c) if such data is unavailable, the reason why such information is not captured; and
- (d) the various types of meat produced for domestic use and for the export purposes State-wise, year-wise, item-wise during 2017 to till date?

Food processing units at farm level

2669 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified the fruits and vegetables which get spoilt early to set up small food processing units at agricultural land level or village level;
- (b) if so, the State-wise and district-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the State-wise details of funds allocated, disbursed and utilised for this purpose during the year 2021-22 till date?

Growth of FPIs

2670 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the growth of Food Processing Industries (FPI) in the country is satisfactory, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the role of Government in the growth of FPIs;
- (c) the details of the items that make major contribution to the FPIs; and
- (d) the status of the FPI growth in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Scheme to process farmer's produce

2671 # **Ms. Saroj Pandey:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to process and sell the products of farmers in their own village or area of residence; and
- (b) if so, the outline of the said scheme, if not, whether Government would propose to formulate any such scheme?

Manufacture of Lithium batteries

2672 # **Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allowed the States to formulate their own policy for promotion of electric vehicles;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is formulating any scheme for manufacturing of Lithium batteries in the country which is essential for electric vehicles; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of charging stations for electric vehicles

2673 **Shri Syed Zafar Islam:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives sought to be achieved under phase-II of FAME India scheme and National Auto Policy;
- (b) whether any charging station for electric vehicles has been set up in the country, including Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that currently, private companies cannot set up 'charging stations' in India, as sale of electricity is a licensed activity and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the efforts made by Government to promote setting up of charging stations for electric vehicles in the country?

Hydrogen fuel cell automobile and motorcycle manufacturers

2674 # **Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the hydrogen fuel cell automobile or motorcycle manufacturers have expressed their interest to set up manufacturing units and invest in India;
- (b) whether Government is giving any incentive to national and multinational automobile or motorcycle manufacturers to set up their manufacturing units in India; and
- (c) the establishments which have applied under any Startup project in the country for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Transfer of Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad

2675 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of transfer of Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad to Kerala Government;
- (b) the reasons for delay in completing the transfer process even after providing in-principle approval years ago;
- (c) how much is the present value of the assets in possession of this plant; and
- (d) whether the Central Government is backfooting from its commitment of transferring this plant to Kerala Government, if so, the reasons therefor, if not, by when this process would be completed?

PLI scheme for ACC battery storage

2676 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector of electric vehicles so far, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the progress on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for ACC battery storage manufacturing;
- (c) in view of significant development in the expansion of charging infrastructure in States like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, the steps taken to encourage other States to expand the infrastructure facilities for this sector; and
- (d) the steps taken to resolve the problems like lack of sufficient charging infrastructure, deterring the sales?

New coach technology

2677 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

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

- (a) whether Government has developed or purchased any new coach technology after the Linke Hofmann Busch (LBH);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of trains that are still running with the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of coaches that are still to be fitted with a bio-toilet with vacuum flushing system out of total operational coaches in Railways?

Adarsh Station Scheme in Rajasthan

2678 # **Shri Rajendra Gehlot:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of railway stations upgraded under the Adarsh Station Scheme in Rajasthan and the facilities being provided at the Adarsh Stations;
- (b) the Station-wise details of the target fixed and achievements made with regard to the said scheme and the year-wise details of the amount of funds allocated, released, sanctioned and utilized under the said scheme during the last three years; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to include other stations of the State of Rajasthan under the said scheme and if so, the details of the stations to be included?

Train from Jodhpur to Rameswaram

2679 # **Shri Rajendra Gehlot:**

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

- (a) whether there is any plan to run passenger train from Jodhpur to Rameswaram via Manmad, Aurangabad, Hyderabad, if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether it is proposed to run passenger train No. 12308/12307 Jodhpur Howrah Superfast from Bharatpur via Mathura and a new train from Jodhpur to Haridwar;
- (c) if so, by when it will be implemented and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to run a special passenger train for people of Western Rajasthan for Ram pad Yatra via Ayodhya to Rameswaram and if so, by when it will be operationalised?

Job creation in Indian Railways

2680 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts in Indian Railways, over last five years, zone-wise, year-wise and category-wise;
- (b) whether the number of new jobs created in each zone of Railways decreased in the last five years;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) if not, the details of new jobs added in each zone;
- (e) whether Government is aware of the recent protests by young job aspirants for Railway jobs; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by Government to address their concerns?

Sanctioned posts and vacancies across each category in Railways

2681 **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) the total number of sanctioned posts across each category existing in the Railways;
- (b) the details of the vacancies of posts in Railways as on date, zone and category-wise;
- (c) the year-wise details of new recruitments made by Railways in the last three years;
- (d) the number of railway employees who have retired in the last three years and retirements to happen in 2022 and 2023; and
- (e) whether Government has a roadmap to fill the accumulated vacancies through new recruitments, if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of railway stations in Odisha

2682 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

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

- (a) the details of the steps being undertaken to upgrade railway stations in Odisha; and
- (b) the total expenditure expected in undertaking these upgradations?

Secret ballot for recognizing trade unions at zonal level

2683 **Shri P. Wilson:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any action with regard to the conduct of secret ballot among railway staff for recognising trade unions at zonal level;
- (b) whether any action has been taken by the Railway Board in pursuance of Order No. 2019/E(Lr)/III/SBE/I, dated 16.08.2019 issued by Executive Director/ESTT., (IR) and Convenor, for secret ballot election committee; and
- (c) whether the secret ballot election was not conducted, the reasons for not conducting the same and also when the same are likely to be conducted?

Zone-wise vacancies in Indian Railways

2684 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

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

- (a) the details of number of vacancies in Indian Railways, Zone-wise and the number of

- recruitments actually done along with the vacancies yet to be filled, in last five years;
- (b) the actual vacancies filled in the railway zones falling in the State of Maharashtra and Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Railways is contemplating to allow recruitment to a zone for candidates who are domiciled within that zone only; and
- (d) if not, the steps initiated to ensure regional disparities in the selection of candidates?

Operationalisation of SCoR zone at Visakhapatnam

2685 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) whether Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishment of new South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone with headquarters in Visakhapatnam has been accepted;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay thereof;
- (c) the status of operationalisation of new SCoR zone;
- (d) whether Waltair Railway Division is likely to be retained as a separate division in the new East Coast Railway (ECR) zone;
- (e) whether Ministry is aware that splitting Vizag Division involves operational and manpower problems, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the additional costs involved in retaining Waltair Division as a separate division in the new SCoR zone?

Scam in providing compensation

2686 # Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:

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

- (a) the number of cases in which scam related inaccuracies were found in Sidhi and Singrauli-districts regarding compensation of Lalitpur Singrauli new railway line;
- (b) the details of lands in the villages of Sidhi and Singrauli districts involved in these scams, the losses incurred by Indian Railways owing to these scams, district-wise and village-wise; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by Government in these cases?

Shifting of candidates to unreserved category

2687 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) Secunderabad has, while releasing the Replacement Panel of CEN01/2018 ALP Recruitment, shifted the candidates already included in Panel-2 to Unreserved Category of Replacement Panel, after two years and has thereby caused injustice of inequality with the candidates belonging to Unreserved Category, whether this rule of community shifting has been complied by any other RRB;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a uniform reservation policy for Replacement Panel in all RRBs; and
- (d) if not, the measures taken by Government to formulate a uniform policy?

New broad gauge railway lines in Rajasthan

2688 Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) the list of new broad gauge railway lines under construction or constructed in the

country during the last five years with their rate of return;

(b) whether new broad gauge railway lines have been constructed in Rajasthan during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways received any proposal regarding survey or construction of new broad gauge railway lines in Rajasthan during the last five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the status of such proposals with its cost of construction and rate of return, project-wise?

MoU with Ministry of Skill Development

2689 # **Shri Om Prakash Mathur:**

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

(a) whether the Railways has signed any MoU with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to utilize the railway site and technical manpower for organising skill development programmes;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the said MoU and the extent to which the shortage of technical manpower will be met with the implementation of the said MoU;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways already has shortage of technical manpower; and

(d) if so, the way in which Railways would provide its manpower for programmes of skill development?

Beautification and modernisation of railway stations

2690 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

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

(a) whether Government has sanctioned works related to the beautification and modernisation of various railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the list of stations selected from various States/UTs of the country; and

(c) the details of the current progress of the beautification and modernisation works at the selected railway stations?

Railway concessions and charges

2691 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

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

(a) whether Railways have reinstated the different concessions to the citizens which were stopped during COVID;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the availability of facilities in Rajadhani, Duronto and other AC trains have been reinstated;

(d) if not, whether Government intends to reduce the charges of services which are not provided to the passengers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Kadapa-Bengaluru new railway line

2692 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

(a) when was Kadapa-Bengaluru new railway line conceived;

- (b) the original cost of the project and whether there is time and cost overrun;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh expressed its willingness to bear 50 per cent cost of the project; and
- (e) if so, the details of budget sanctioned for this project in 2022-23 and by when it is likely to be completed?

Sanctioned posts of FPE

2693 **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Shri P. Bhattacharya:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

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

- (a) the details of number of sanctioned posts of Finger Print Examiner (FPE) and the currently filled posts;
- (b) whether the FPEs have not yet been paid for the work and travelling allowances in connection with Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and Railway Recruitment Cell (RRC);
- (c) whether the retired FPEs, who were working from home due to COVID-19 pandemic, have not been paid any salary till now; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be paid the same?

Development of suburban railway network

2694 **Dr. Subramanian Swamy:**

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

- (a) the salient features of the development and improvement that is proposed and underway for the suburban railway network of both Central and Western Railway in Mumbai and surrounding areas;
- (b) the present frequency of local Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains on the slow track in Mumbai; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the frequency, taking into consideration the overcrowding in the EMU rakes?

Railway projects in ECR Zone

2695 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

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

- (a) the area-wise details of railway projects sanctioned in East Central Railway (ECR) Zone;
- (b) the details of area-wise allocated scheme and the funds spent thereon;
- (c) the area-wise total number of projects which are lagging behind the schedule as well as projects pending due to financial constraints; and
- (d) whether any committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the aforesaid projects and to find out the reasons for their delay, if so, the details thereof and the result thereof?

Railway connectivity to Barpeta

2696 **Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

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

- (a) whether the Railways is considering construction of railways track from Amin Gaon to Barpeta Road (via Hajo & Barpeta town) to connect to district head quarter of Barpeta district;
- (b) if so, whether the survey is being done earlier, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the new track of Northeastern Frontier Railways (NFR) will be completed?

Expansion of railway facility at Rangiya Junction

2697 **Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any action for expansion of railway facilities in Rangiya Junction including construction of new platform and construction of railway stadium for sports facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schedule for starting and completion/availability of the facilities?

Namakkal-Ariyalur railway line

2698 **Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that feasibility study/survey conducted to expedite new railway line between Namakkal and Ariyalur via Perambalur and Thuraiyur in Tamil Nadu was published in Pink Book 2019-20;
- (b) if so, the current status of the said new railway line; and
- (c) by when the said line is likely to be completed and the train services are likely to be started?

Privatisation of railway production units

2699 **Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to privatise the railway production units;
- (b) if so, whether stakeholders like workers' unions were consulted before taking the aforementioned decision;
- (c) if so, the details of the consultation process including objections raised and responses to these objections; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government during the last five years to upgrade the existing production units?

Coach factories in India

2700 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) how many coach factories are there in India at present;
- (b) how many of the proposed coach factories are yet to start functioning or yet to be constructed as of now, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the Railways will start construction of proposed Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Palakkad, Kerala, the reason for the delay; and
- (d) whether there is a need for improving the coach production capacity of Indian Railways, the actions taken by Government in this direction?

Steps for animal safety near railway tracks

2701 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry in the last five years to reduce animal fatalities on railway tracks across States;
- (b) whether any impact analysis of the same has been done, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of quantum of animal deaths on railway tracks in the last five years, including the animal species and areas most affected;
- (d) whether specific steps have been taken on railway lines running through forest areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Recruitment advertisement published by Railways

2702 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) the category-wise details of the posts of Railways for which advertisements were published from the year 2017 to December, 2021 and their list alongwith number;
- (b) whether recruitment was done as per the advertisements;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Railways has tried to resolve the problems being faced in appointments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of manpower

2703 Shri Jose K. Mani:

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

- (a) whether the Railways is facing a manpower shortage, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any organization of station masters has represented with prayer to fill up the vacancies in Railways so as to avoid accidents ;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to fill the vacancies;
- (d) the division-wise statistics of total strength of each technical and non technical post and number of posts and vacancies at present; and
- (e) whether immediate steps would be taken to fill all the vacancies on war footing?

Broad gauge works in Goa

2704 Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro:

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

- (a) the status of broad gauge work on Hosapete to Mormugao railway line;
- (b) the status of land acquisition from Mormugao to Chandor Goa, village-wise;
- (c) what is done/proposed to be done about serious objections raised by people who live close to tracks and whose property/houses will be within touching distance of double track in Goa;
- (d) the number of trees cut and proposed to be cut in Mollem Wildlife Sanctuary to make way for doubling of tracks on Goa side; and
- (e) whether Government allows cutting of these trees, despite it being against various forest and environment acts and laws?

Railway projects in Gujarat

2705 # Shri Narhari Amin:

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

- (a) the zone-wise and year-wise details of new railway projects sanctioned for Gujarat since 2017;
- (b) the number of projects out of above mentioned that are under progress and the amount spent on them so far and the project-wise steps being taken by Government to complete them on time; and
- (c) the number of Railway projects in Gujarat that have been surveyed and approved but work has not yet started?

Redevelopment of stations in Odisha

2706 Shri Muzibulla Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government had announced to re-develop 12 stations (Puri, Bhadrak, Brahmapur, Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Khurda Road, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Balasore, Jharsuguda, Rourkela and Bhubaneswar) in Odisha to international standards with superior passenger amenities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when Government plan to re-develop these stations?

Vande Bharat Express trains

2707 # Shri Rewati Raman Singh:

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

- (a) the actual status of the running of 75 Vande Bharat Express trains as announced by Government recently in order to connect all parts of the country;
- (b) the work which has been completed to determine the possible routes of these 75 Vande Bharat Express trains; and
- (c) the number of trains among them which will run from Prayagraj to other cities, the details thereof?

Free land for construction of new railway projects

2708 Dr. Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State of Odisha has agreed to provide free land for construction of new/ongoing railway projects; and
- (b) if so, the details of such land commitments, project-wise and present status?

Construction of over bridge near Dhandhuka

2709 # Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:

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

- (a) the time since when the over bridge is being constructed over the railways near Dhandhuka town of Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and the deadline fixed for the completion of this work; and
- (b) the reasons for its slow pace of progress though it is being built from a long time back, the details thereof?

Categorisation of railway stations

2710 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether Delhi/NCR under Northern Railway is still non-suburban category;
- (b) whether Government is creating division among the citizens of India by introducing different local train fares i.e. Rs.2/-, Rs.5/- and Rs.10/-;
- (c) if so, by when Delhi/NCR would be upgraded as suburban and the reasons for continuously causing loss to railway revenue and depriving the local passengers of cheap and best commuting benefits; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce uniform suburban train services at par with Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

Textile industries

2711 Smt. Mausam Noor:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to provide subsidy to the small textile manufacturing units particularly in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the textile units approved by Government in West Bengal so far?

Apparel and garment manufacturing centres

2712 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) the details of number of apparel and garment manufacturing centres functional in the country especially in the South Region and Karnataka and the cost of setting up of each centre during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government is implementing any scheme for incubation in apparel manufacturing, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken to promote apparel manufacturing and its export in the country?

Employment generation by ATUFS

2713 Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) is estimated to create employment in the textiles sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposed to provide financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Indian Institute for Handloom Technologies in Maharashtra

2714 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

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

- (a) whether Government has proposed or planning to propose developing an Indian Institute for Handloom Technologies (IIHT) in Maharashtra given the variety of several handloom units operating in the State in the current year, if so, the details thereof, if not,

the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when does Government propose to establish the same?

Contribution of textile industry to GDP

2715 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) the contribution of textile industry to GDP in terms of percentage of industrial production and employment generation during the last three years and efforts made by Government to increase the employment in the textile industry;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to increase investment/expansion of textile industry including modernization of weaving and processing sector;
- (c) whether the textile industry is facing problems due to global slowdown and growth of the sector has declined during the same period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

PM MITRA scheme

2716 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has obtained approval of the Cabinet for the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme;
- (b) the status of each of the Mega Textile Parks to be set up under the PM MITRA scheme as announced in the Union Budget 2021-22;
- (c) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from the States who have expressed interest and the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has set a timeline for the completion of the project and whether Government is on track to meet the timeline?

Jute weavers

2717 Shri P. Bhattacharya:

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

- (a) the number of jute weavers, State-wise/category-wise;
- (b) the facilities provided by Government to these weavers during the last five years;
- (c) the subsidy made available to each State during the said period for the welfare of weavers; and
- (d) the number of jute weavers benefited thereunder?

Employment generation in textile industry in Gujarat

2718 Dr. Amee Yajnik:

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

- (a) how the pandemic has affected employment generation in the textile industry, particularly in Gujarat;
- (b) whether the employment generation in the textile industry in Gujarat is much less than the target set for the last five years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) the details of the action plan by Government to increase employment in Gujarat, especially in the textile sector;
- (e) whether Government maintains the figure of the number of people directly affected

during the pandemic period in the textile industry; and
(f) if so, the details thereof including the number?

Closure of textile mills under NTC

2719 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) the total number of textile mills under National Textile Corporation (NTC) that were closed due to COVID-19 pandemic and number of mills that have reopened at present, the State-wise details;
- (b) whether there are any mills that have closed permanently, if so, the reasons therefor, the State-wise details;
- (c) the steps taken by NTC to ensure that workers of these mills did not suffer during pandemic, whether any relief package was given to them; and
- (d) the total number of workers employed under NTC pre pandemic and current number of workers employed, the State-wise details?

Reducing Grade Pay of retired employees

2720 Dr. Ashok Bajpai:

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

- (a) whether due to audit objection the Grade Pay of retired employees of Textiles Committee was reduced from 7600 to 6600 and the Ministry recovered excess payment from pensioner amounting to ₹ 1.37 crores;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a verdict on 5/3/2020 against such reduction in Grade Pay and recovery;
- (c) if so, why the Ministry has not implemented the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court/consequent recommendation of Supreme Audit Institution/Finance Ministry/DOPT; and
- (d) whether DOPT has already agreed on increasing the Grade Pay and return of excess payment to the pensioners?

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

P. C. Mody,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-Wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585
Commerce and Industry	: 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605
Communications	: 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642
Electronics and Information Technology	: 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655
Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	: 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662
Food Processing Industries	: 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671
Heavy Industries	: 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676
Railways	: 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710
Textiles	: 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720