

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 4, 2016/Phalgun 14, 1937 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; Food Processing Industries;
Law and Justice; Railways; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 15

Food processing units in Maharashtra

*91. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra tops in the list of fruits producing States in the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) the details of food processing units functioning in the State, district-wise;

(c) whether a large quantity of fruits is wasted for want of food processing units in the State, if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to establish more food processing units in the State?

High speed rail network

†*92. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in a position to implement the high speed rail network in view of its high cost;

(b) the action being taken by Railways to increase the existing speed of trains instead of starting high speed rail network;

(c) the number of such high speed rail networks proposed to be set up in the country and by when they will be started; and

(d) whether this network would prove to be economically useful for the people of the country?

Legislation on agriculture tenancy

*93. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government proposes to prepare a draft Agricultural

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tenancy Bill as a model legislation for guidance of the States;

(b) if so, why a need was felt by the Central Government when State Governments are competent to enact legislations on the subject and proved competent by dealing with the matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Central Government desires to introduce private sector companies in the development of agricultural lands; and

(d) the essential features of the provisions that the Central Government has in mind for inclusion in the proposed draft Bill?

Compensation to victims of rail accidents

*94. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate and amount of compensation paid by Railways to victims of rail accidents during last three years and the number of compensation claim cases pending with Railways as on 1 December, 2015;

(b) whether discussions have been held with insurance companies for insurance of rail passengers, if so, details thereof along-with agreement(s), if any, signed in this regard; and

(c) whether Government proposes to set up independent safety regulator for this purpose and if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor and by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

Revamping of the Crop Insurance Scheme

*95. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to revamp the Crop Insurance Scheme, stressing on advantage to the farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the precautions taken by Government to make the Scheme a Suraksha Kavach and more advantageous to farmers for getting out of the burden of premiums and crop losses;

(c) whether it is also a fact that abnormal delays are taking place in settlement of claims of farmers; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government for early settlement of claims and to prevent losses to the farmers?

Shortfall in production of chillies

*96. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports of a steep shortfall in the production of chillies in major chilli producing States like Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated by Government to help the distressed chilli farmers?

Using Twitter to lodge complaints

†*97. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only those passengers who convey their complaints to Railways through Twitter, and not in any other way, are receiving facilities instantly, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether passengers, who do not use Twitter, are not entitled to receive help from Railways; and

(c) if not, the other ways, besides Twitter, through which one can connect with Railways and receive instant help?

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

*98. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has recorded 3,228 cases of farmers' suicides in 2015, the highest since 2001; and

(b) if so, the region-wise details thereof and the reasons for failure to arrest this disturbing trend despite a slew of measures taken by Government?

Achievements of PMKSY

†*99. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements as on date, with regard to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), State-wise; and

(b) the contribution of this Yojana in the national context, including action plan thereunder for the next three years *vis-a-vis* the targets?

Development of Buxar railway station

†*100. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to develop Buxar railway station in Bihar in view of its religious, historical and ancient legacy;

(b) the status of construction of overbridge on the eastern crossing of the Station;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposal for construction of the overbridge was prepared much earlier in view of the heavy congestion of traffic on the eastern crossing; and

(d) if so, by when it is planned to be completed?

Cash maternity benefits under NFSA

*101. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pregnant mothers are entitled to cash maternity benefits under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in implementation of this provision of the Act; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early implementation of the provision?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Digitally connecting rural post offices

*102. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to digitally connect rural post offices across the country and enable core banking facilities at 1,20,000 other post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to set up over 1,000 ATMs in three months for the convenience of post office savings bank customers, if so, the details thereof?

Sponsoring Agriculture Extension personnel/farmers abroad

*103. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sponsored Agriculture Extension personnel/farmers outside the country for their exposure and capacity building; and

(b) if so, the number of farmers/ personnel sponsored to different countries during the last three years and the current year, the details thereof, State-wise?

Separate Ministry for pharma and medical devices sector

*104. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recognizes the pharma sector as a sunshine industry having a tremendous potential for growth;

(b) whether Government is considering to set up a separate Ministry for pharma and medical devices sector in the next one year; and

(c) whether Government is considering to implement the recommendations of the Katoch Committee to cut bulk drugs import from China to help pharma industry in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Food subsidy to poor families

*105. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have stopped providing food subsidy to the poor families;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th February, 2016
Phalguna 8, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 93, 95, 96, 98, 99, 103,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 104,
Communications and Information Technology	: 102,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 101, 105,
Food Processing Industries	: 91,
Law and Justice	: —
Railways	: 92, 94, 97, 100.
Textiles	: —