

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 4, 2016/Phalguna 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 — 160

Livestock deaths in the country

960. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of top ten diseases that are responsible for most of the livestock deaths in the country, and the number of animal deaths occurred due to that disease during the last five years; and

(b) the steps Government has taken to eradicate these diseases from livestock and the amount spent during the last five years on the eradication of each of the listed ten diseases?

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture

961. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made, funds released and utilized under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during last two years, State-wise;

(b) the status of physical progress under the said Mission in the State of West Bengal during last two years, district-wise;

(c) whether Government manages the data of the beneficiaries of various components under the said Mission; and

(d) if so, the details of the beneficiaries under the said Mission in West Bengal during last two years, district-wise, component-wise and if not, reasons for not maintaining such data?

Implementation of PMKSY in Bihar

†962. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana;

(b) the amount of funds provided to Government of Bihar under this Yojana during the current year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had announced that this would

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

lead to initiation of green revolution from the north-eastern States in which Bihar's role would be important; and

(d) if so, the scheme formulated to achieve the desired goal and the manner in which it is being implemented?

Shortfall in production of pulses

963. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rates of pulses have almost doubled in the last twelve months adding thereby worries to citizens, already burdened with inflation;

(b) whether domestic production of pulses are not meeting the country's demand;

(c) if so, the reasons for shortfall in the production of pulses; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to overcome the shortfall of pulses in the country?

Research and development under crop improvement programme

964. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative in the area of research and development under crop improvement programme in the States, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether sufficient funds have been made available therefor, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of pulses

965. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the post Green Revolution period, the production of most of the crops has increased but the production of pulses has remained almost stagnant for the past few years;

(b) whether the area under pulses has remained almost the same and there has been no major breakthrough in this crop and certified seeds are not available in adequate quantity; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to increase the per capita net availability of pulses?

Production of pulses

966. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of pulses during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, State-wise;

(b) the per capita, per day availability of pulses during the above three years, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to increase the production of pulses in the country?

Crop Diversification Scheme in dry zones of the country

†967. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented Crop Diversification Scheme in various dry zones of the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, State-wise details thereof and the funds allocated so far;

(c) the names of crops included under the scheme;

(d) whether Government has recently sanctioned to plant eucalyptus tree under the Scheme; and

(e) if so, on what basis eucalyptus has been included while more water is required to grow it?

Increasing production of pulses

968. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to increase production of pulses on the pattern of wheat and rice;

(b) whether there is any plan to build a buffer stock of one to two million tonnes of pulses to control the hike in their prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of organic and bio-fertilizers and pesticides

969. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to produce and supply organic and bio-fertilizers and pesticides to farmers across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the production and supply thereof during last five years;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide financial support to Tamil Nadu to supply the essential organic and bio-fertilizers and pesticides to farmers at subsidized prices;

(d) the list of organic and bio-fertilizers, and pesticide manufacturers and suppliers from whom these fertilizers and pesticides are procured; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to encourage farmers to use organic and bio-fertilizers and pesticides instead of chemicals?

Support to Tamil Nadu to improve production

970. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects carried out to support and improve production of pulses, grains and essential edible oils in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of funds allocated, disbursed and expenditure incurred for the above purpose during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate financial, logistic and technical support to Tamil Nadu to improve production of pulses, grains and essential edible oils; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to support the revenue loss to farmers due to the natural calamities like heavy winds/ rainfall and subsequent floods?

Utilization of USOF

971. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds accumulated in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through fees/cess levied on telecom operators, year-wise, since 2010;

(b) the amount and proportion of these funds that have been utilized each year since 2010; and

(c) whether a large portion of funds is unused, if so, the reasons therefor?

Initiative to alleviate sufferings of farmers

972. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy initiative measures taken or proposed to be taken to alleviate the sufferings of farmers, particularly the small and marginal ones;

(b) whether Government has issued statutory powers to any commission so that they take decisions for arranging funds and providing it to the needy and poor farmers against nominal interest rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Risks to crops due to climate change

973. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any qualitative and quantitative assessment of the nature of risks involved for major crops

as a result of climate change/global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including major crops classified as risk prone crops, region-wise;

(c) whether crop insurance schemes would be reviewed and tuned in line with the nature of risks involved for the farmers due to natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Promoting organic farming

974. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for promoting organic farming and marketing of organic products on a large scale, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and released to farmers for encouraging organic farming and the benefits accrued to them during last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

975. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers it important to minimise the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

Improving living standard of fishermen

976. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average per capita income of fishermen in various States, including Gujarat; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to improve the livelihood and living standards of fishermen in the country, if so, the details thereof?

(a) whether Government is aware that onion, potato and tomato growing farmers are compelled to sell their produce at rate lower than the cost of production, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would provide for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for onion, tomato and potato and assured procurement by Government agencies in view of large scale suicide by farmers and their miserable condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Agricultural growth rate

977. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural growth rate for the last five years;

(b) whether agricultural growth dips into negative this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Blue revolution

980. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has planned for a blue revolution in fish production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Crop Insurance Scheme

†981. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing Crop Insurance Scheme keeping in view the farmers' interests, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of amount to be provided to farmers under the scheme?

Decrease in grain producing area

978. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of grain producing land in the country for the last ten years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for decrease in the grain producing area in the country?

Loss of crops due to drought

†982. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial loss suffered by agriculture due to drought ;

MSP for onion, tomato and potato

979. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of States and the amounts demanded by them from the Centre to deal with the situation of drought and the amounts received by them, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the alternatives available with Government to deal with the situation of drought and to what extent it will be effective in adverse circumstances?

Controlling prices of essential items

983. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken some steps to control the prices of essential items, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the rate of inflation in December, 2014 and the rate of inflation in December, 2015; and

(c) whether Government has considered measures to check the inflation?

Financial assistance from NDRF

984. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received memoranda from State Governments seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought affected Rabi crops in the current year 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of funds sought by each of them, State-wise;

(c) whether the Central Team has visited the said States, so far; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the funds sanctioned/released so far, State-wise?

Reducing dependence on monsoon for farming

985. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of change in pattern of monsoon in past few years and its effect on crop growth across the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to provide modern irrigation facilities and reduce dependence on monsoon for farming the details thereof?

Shortage of pulses for meeting the demand

986. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a shortfall of the supply of pulses for meeting the demand;

(b) the quantity of pulses produced in 2014 and 2015 and the area in hectares used for sowing of pulses; and

(c) the shortfall of pulses in 2015 and the details of the pulses imported to meet the shortage?

Production of wheat

987. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing inadequacy of wheat and the

production has declined in 2015, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the production of wheat in the country in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to augment the production of wheat?

Production of pulses

988. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that pulses constitute an integral accompaniment to rice and wheat in Indian diet, Government has been neglecting cultivation of pulses which are now confined to marginal and unirrigated lands with low fertility; and

(b) whether with the current production of pulses stagnating at around 17 million tonnes against a total projected demand of 23.00 million tonnes, Government would enhance the pulse acreage to more irrigated lands with the availability of quicker maturing and high-yielding varieties, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers

†989. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country are resorting to suicide as farming is turning unprofitable, farmers are indebted and they are left with no other option but to commit suicide;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by Government in this direction, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for which farmers in States like Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, are committing suicide?

Horticulture production outpacing production of foodgrains

990. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's horticulture output has outpaced the production of foodgrains third year in a row in 2014-15, despite deficit monsoon, unseasonal rains and hailstorms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides horticulture production has shown continuous increase in the foodgrains output has reported a decline in 2014-15 as compared to 2013-14; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to the continued support extended by Government of Tamil Nadu, the State has become the top flower producing State in the country?

Decrease in agricultural production despite increasing loan

991. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan amount given to agriculture sector during the last two years is constantly being increased;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in such loan amount provided to agriculture sector during each year of the last two years;

(c) whether there has been no increase in agricultural production during consecutive years despite making or increasing availability of loan; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the percentage of increase in agricultural production recorded during each year, year-wise?

Assessment of demand and supply of agricultural produces

992. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to make an advance assessment of expected demand and supply of various agricultural produces so that excess production and acute shortage is prevented;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the mechanism has been successful in percolating such information to the farmers to grow crops as per requirement thereby making farming profitable as well as taming the demand-supply mismatch; and

(c) the fresh initiatives of the Government to fine tune such advance assessment and to sensitize farmers well in advance in this regard?

Ability of Bt. cotton seeds to fight with 'rose insect' or 'pink insect'

993. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that the potential and ability of Bt. cotton seeds to fight with 'rose insect' or 'pink insect' has been coming down;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there was focus on the above issue in the meeting recently held in the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM); and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Ministry to address this problem?

Indebtedness among cotton growing farmers

994. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotion of cultivation of Bt. cotton has led to an increase in indebtedness among the cotton growing farmers, especially those of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra;

(b) if not, the reasons and factors that support this conclusion; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to study, prevent and compensate the loss occasioned to such farmers?

Report on decline in production of rice, maize and jawar

†995. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decline in the yield of rice, maize and jawar has been indicated in the report "Climate Change and India: A 4X4 Assessment-A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030" issued by Government of India in 2010, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action plan formulated by Government for checking the decline in yield of rice, maize and jawar and increasing the production of these crops, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in farm sector

996. SHRI SALIMANSARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's farm sector shrank for the first time in last five years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the total foodgrains production during the last 11 months ending 28th February, 2016 and how much the production has declined?

Compensation for spoiled cultivation

997. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to provide compensation to farmers, if the cultivation spoiled during any natural calamities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to provide such type of compensation to farmers, so that the compensation reaches to the beneficiaries directly?

Subsidy for various types of cultivation

998. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to give subsidy to farmers for various types of cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to give such type of subsidy to farmers, so that they reach to the beneficiaries directly?

Subsidy for purchasing combine harvester

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

- (a) whether Government is extending subsidy to farmers for purchase of combine harvester; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of new variety of Arhar

1000. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IARI has recently developed new Super Arhar pulse variety that matures within two months and can be grown in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has prepared any action plan to provide drip irrigation facilities to grow the Super Arhar to get bumper harvest; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Functioning of KVKs

1001. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our farmers are not enlightened to take care of weather fluctuations and uncertainties resulting in crop losses;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) working in districts have not come forward in time to assist the farming community; and

(d) whether Government has warned the KVKs to improve their functioning and if so, the results obtained in this regard?

Increase in premium for weather based crop insurance scheme

1002. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the weather based crop insurance scheme premium payable by the farmers has been increased by Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide impetus to agriculture and incentives to farmers in the country?

Suicide by farmers

†1003. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have committed suicide in various States of the country from June, 2013 to December 2015, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the names of programmes started for the welfare of farmers, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers who have benefited so far, State-wise?

Farmers suicide

1004. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the steps taken to boost agricultural productivity and income of farmers to prevent farmers' suicide epidemic in the country?

Reforms in agricultural marketing

1005. SHRID. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural markets in the country are not keeping pace with the changes in production and demands of the country if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to bring in urgent reforms in agricultural marketing of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and current status thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken to enable farmers to receive a large proportion of the price paid by the consumers?

Extending support to farmers in case of crop failure

1006. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is willing to consider extending guarantee for the loan taken by farmers for agricultural purposes in order to ensure that they do not commit suicide in case of crop failure for which they had availed the loan; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government would consider, as a second option, to go for the insurance cover up, purchase the crop of the farmer in advance and claim compensation from the insurance company, in case the crop fails so that the life of the farmer is protected in any eventuality?

Dependence on monsoon for production of pulses

1007. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that nearly 90 per cent of production of pulses still remain dependent on monsoon;

(b) whether it is a fact that production of pulses has come down from 18.2 million tonnes in 2011-12 to 17.2 million tonnes in 2014-15;

(c) the tentative expectation of production of pulses in 2015-16;

(d) the reasons that Government is giving little importance to production of pulses; and

(e) the efforts being made to ensure that there is less dependence on monsoon for production of pulses in the country?

Industrial status to agriculture

1008. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand of farmers across the country to provide industry status to agriculture;

(b) whether it is a fact that agricultural activities are showing a declining trend in the country for quite some time now;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received many proposals in this regard from many corners; and

(d) whether finally Government is considering to grant industrial status to agriculture?

Decline in production of rice

1009. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of rice in the country has gone down considerably this year, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to handle the shortfall?

Adoption of low carbon agriculture techniques

1010. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the likely impact of climate change on Indian agriculture and food security, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has undertaken measures to promote climate resistant crop varieties, if so, the details thereof, measures through which the same has been undertaken and coverage of programme and such crops; and

(c) whether Government has taken initiatives/plans to take initiatives to encourage farmers to adopt low carbon agriculture techniques, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Monitoring mechanism for
controlling milk prices**

1011. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian farmers and milk producers are presently getting around ₹ 16 to 19 per litre as against the earlier ₹ 26 to 28 from co-operatives and Dairy industry despite selling milk in open market to the consumers more than ₹ 40 per litre;

(b) whether Government has any monitoring mechanism for controlling milk prices for consumers and also for purchase rate of milk from farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the milk prices for consumers?

**Implementation of agricultural
schemes**

1012. KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various agricultural schemes being implemented in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has set up a monitoring mechanism for periodical review of these schemes, if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned and released by Government to various States and the details of funds utilized by the States under the schemes during last two years, year-wise and State-wise?

Measures to prevent farmers' suicide

1013. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:
SHRI N.
GOKULAKRISHNAN:
DR. BHALCHANDRA
MUNGEKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of farmers' suicides in the country during last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the reasons for suicide by farmers and how Government is planning to address this problem;

(c) whether the National Policy on Farmers is not showing impact to prevent farmers' suicide; and

(d) if so, whether there are any plans to revisit the policy?

Agro startups

1014. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to work out details about agro startups;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(c) whether any deadline has been fixed for the purpose?

Regulation of price of cotton seed

1015. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that Government is considering to provide full regulation of cotton seed price, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to keep cotton seed away from the regulation of trait fee or royalty charged by private technology providers, if so, the details thereof?

Unified national market for agriculture commodities

1016. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create a unified national market for agriculture commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for deployment of electronic trading platforms in all wholesale markets across the country in a time-bound manner?

High production cost of fertilizers

1017. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set and actual production of fertilizers during last five years, year-wise, sector-wise and component-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to address the long standing problem of high production cost of fertilizers especially with regard to the customs duty on import of raw materials;

(c) whether Government is aware that several joint ventures entered into with foreign countries have not been completed; and

(d) the details of the joint venture projects entered into by India during last ten years along with their current status

and expected time period for completion, project-wise and country-wise?

New Jan Aushadi Stores in Himachal Pradesh

†1018. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to open twenty new Jan Aushadi Stores in Himachal Pradesh where medicines and surgical items will be provided at affordable prices; and

(b) if so, by when and where these stores will be opened, district-wise details thereof?

Review of drugs pricing policy

1019. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of some medicines is around 4000 per cent higher than that fixed by some State Governments;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government is considering to review its drug pricing policy for essential medicines by ensuring to provide life-saving drugs at reasonable rates to the poor people in the country?

Revival of fertilizer factories

†1020. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer factories in public sector lying closed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has constituted a committee to revive the fertilizer factories at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni lying closed;

(c) if so, by when these factories would start production and the amount of estimated expenditure on it;

(d) the number of persons likely to get employment in them;

(e) whether these factories would be supplied gas from Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline; and

(f) if so, by when the work of extending Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline upto aforesaid factories would be completed?

Supply of fertilizers to Gujarat

1021. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has supplied fertilizers to Gujarat in accordance with the demand for the year 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the plan to supply fertilizers for the next monsoon season?

Quality compliance of IDPL drugs with WHO

1022. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Government's plan to restart production of drugs from IDPL unit in Hyderabad;

(b) whether the process proposed to produce drug from the above unit are WHO compliant, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure that drugs produced by IDPL, Hyderabad, meet WHO's quality standards as it intends to export generics going to be produced?

Demand and supply of fertilizers

1023. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of fertilizers in the country during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of fertilizers in the country and there has been delay in providing the same, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to deal with the problems of availability and distribution of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

New draft Pharmaceutical Policy

1024. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new draft Pharmaceutical Policy contains how best to protect the interests of consumers by providing drugs at reasonable prices;

(b) whether pharma companies are against price control system for drugs; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to face the situation?

Rise in internet penetration

1025. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the internet penetration is rising rapidly and has increased by 100 million in a year to 400 million, including through mobile phones;

(b) whether it is a fact that with this growth rate, Government is hoping to achieve the target of 500 million; and

(c) whether Government is also considering to provide all support for the experimentation of new technologies in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Participation of private institutes under ISEA Project

1026. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for participation of private institutes, resource centres and participating institutes under Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) project across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of private institutes which participated during the last three years in the above scheme; and

(d) the results achieved so far?

Speed Post service

1027. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the parcel revenue, which registered a two per cent decline in 2013-14, had clocked 37 per cent growth in 2014-15, and further grew by 117 per cent during the first half of 2015-16, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether now-a-days the delivery of Speed Post service is taking much time and customers are losing confidence on reliability of Speed Post;

(c) whether the cause of delay in the delivery of Speed Post consignment is because of acute shortage of personnel in Speed Post Department; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Broadband penetration and speed

1028. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the broadband penetration is very poor in the country and the broadband speed is very low compared to other countries in the world, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to improve the broadband penetration and better services to the subscribers in the country?

Single emergency number

1029. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to approve the proposal of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for a single emergency number across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the new emergency number and the plan to close the already existing emergency numbers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Refurbishing and selling used mobile phones

1030. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies have sought permission for refurbishing and selling used mobile phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether refurbishing and selling of used electronic devices would lead to reduction in electronic waste, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government intends to formulate a permanent policy in this regard, if so, the details of steps taken so far in this direction?

Auction of spectrum

1031. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is ready to hold the mega spectrum auction this year to fetch around ₹ 5 lakh crore, if all of it gets sold;

(b) whether, while this auction would help the Finance Ministry grappling with huge budget deficit, the telecom sector reeling under debt will find the additional payout a burden; and

(c) whether telecom majors feel that the proposed auction of 700 MHz spectrum band is too premature due to the eco-system supporting mobile broadband services/4G, is not yet ready, if so, the details thereof?

Free internet facility to consumers

†1032. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is mulling over providing free internet facility to the consumers;

(b) if so, by when and the names of places selected for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compensation for call drop

†1033. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Authority of India (TRAI) has made amendments in telecom rules under which telecom companies would have to pay compensation to the consumers in case of a 'call drop', if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether telecom companies are paying compensation to consumers for call drop, as per the rules imposed and if so, the details thereof?

Poor BSNL connectivity in Uttarakhand

†1034. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for BSNL signals not reaching the consumers of Uttarakhand whereas the signals of the private mobile operators are easily reaching their consumers;

(b) whether this is happening due to the technology available with BSNL being outdated;

(c) if so, the difficulties being faced by Government in making available new technology to BSNL, the details thereof; and

(d) by when these problems are expected to be addressed?

Skill development in telecom sector

1035. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps towards skill development in telecom

sector of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the existing educational infrastructure for imparting skill development in the sector; and

(c) the initiatives taken/being taken by the Ministry to make India's telecom sector world-class?

Online frauds by shopping portals

1036. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that online frauds are on the rise as online shopping portals are publicizing attractive and tempting offers to consumers to buy goods at throw away prices;

(b) if so, whether cyber authorities check authenticity of such shopping portals;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that such cases rise during festive seasons and lots of customers are duped; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government against such portals during this year and the last year?

Portals engaged in unethical deals

1037. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is no clear definition of e-commerce

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and there is no clear policy regarding the operation of various portals doing e-business, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether some companies are violating foreign investment rules, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has received complaints against some portals for engaging in unethical deals and committing fraud, if so, the action taken against such portals?

Mobile telephony services of MTNL, Delhi

1038. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile telephony services of MTNL, Delhi continue to be grim;

(b) if so, since when there is problem in mobile telephony of MTNL; and

(c) the action plan and road-map to make MTNL a good service provider?

Auctioning of 700 MHz spectrum

1039. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has recently recommended for auctioning of 700 MHz spectrum for the first time in the country;

(b) if so, the reserve price fixed by TRAI; and

(c) the reasons that telecom companies are asking to hold back the auctioning of this spectrum along with the reasons why Government is planning to go ahead with it?

Legislation to regulate issues relating to net neutrality

1040. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to effect legislation to give the telecom regulator, TRAI, the powers to regulate on issues relating to net neutrality or directly legislate on other issues of net neutrality like fast lane, slow lane, throttling etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Addressing of consumer interest issues by telecom operators

1041. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been little progress by telecom companies in addressing consumer interest issues like call drops and expansion of internet connectivity;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider seeking TRAI's recommendations on the need and timing for new operators, thereby increasing competition and choice for the consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Proposal for IT Investment Region in Odisha

1042. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IT Investment Region (ITIR) proposal of the Government of Odisha is lying pending with the Central Government for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the proposal would be approved?

Surrendering of MTNL and BSNL connections

1043. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of subscribers who have surrendered the MTNL and BSNL landline as well as mobile connections during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the MTNL and BSNL subscribers who have migrated to other operators after introduction of the Mobile Number Portability; and

(c) the details of overall reduction of MTNL and BSNL subscriber base?

Cyber Readiness Index of India

1044. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the Cyber Readiness Index of India under the new Digital India initiative, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to expand the cyber surveillance of the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Damage to foodgrains in FCI godowns

1045. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains damaged in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) across the country during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for continuance as well as three fold increase in the quantity of foodgrains damaged during the last five years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to check such damage of large quantity of foodgrains in FCI godowns as well as action taken against those responsible for the loss and pilferage of foodgrains from FCI godowns?

Payment of food security allowances

1046. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households/ beneficiaries who were paid food security allowance due to non-supply of PDS foodgrains since January, 2015, month-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of households that faced non-supply of PDS foodgrains, since January, 2015, month-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount of funds allocated and disbursed for payment of food security allowance; and

(d) the procedure beneficiaries must follow to report non-supply of PDS foodgrains and to receive food security allowance?

Agricultural development schemes in West Bengal and North-Eastern States

1047. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foodgrains purchased by Government from each State, especially West Bengal and North-Eastern States, year-wise during the last five years;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any agricultural development schemes in West Bengal and the North-East, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the budgetary allocation and disbursement for such schemes?

Allotment of wheat and rice to Rajasthan

†1048. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of providing free meals to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children upto the age of six years through Anganwadi under the NFSA, 2013, if so, types of foodgrains

and quantity thereof allocated to States including Rajasthan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested Central Government under the above Act for allocation of 34,000 metric tonnes of wheat and 14,000 metric tonnes of rice per year; and

(c) if so, whether Central Government intends to accept the above request, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Regulating e-commerce business

†1049. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints against direct selling/e-commerce companies regarding fraud, selling goods at very low prices, quality and privacy;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints, e-commerce company/site-wise, during the last two years and current year;

(c) whether Government feels the need to regulate e-commerce business in the country; and

(d) the present status of the proposal regarding setting up of National Consumer Safety Authority?

Charging arbitrary price for packaged foods and drinks

1050. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of charging arbitrary prices - most often more

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

than MRP for packaged food products, aerated drinks and water by some of the retailers; and

(b) whether any measures are in the offing for making the manufacturers accountable to ensure that the retail price remains within the MRP?

Rise in prices of essential food items

1051. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a body to monitor the variation in prices of essential food articles in view of sudden sharp rise in prices of essential food items since last few years and failure of the Government to check price rise in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Corruption in PDS

†1052. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large scale corruption is prevailing in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether e-Ration Card Service can be an effective measure to curb corruption prevailing in the PDS, if so, the details thereof?

Including private agencies in crops procurement

†1053. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where farmers are not getting Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the steps taken by Government to solve this problem;

(b) the names of private agencies which are proposed to be included for procurement of crops and whether any solution to the above problem is possible with such a step; and

(c) whether any arrangement has been made for monitoring the work of private agencies, if so, the details thereof?

Buffer stock of chillies

1054. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to create a buffer stock of chillies for price stabilisation and for meeting domestic demand in view of low production thereof by as much as forty per cent, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering import of chillies to overcome the shortage?

Control of prices of food items

1055. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been taking

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

steps to control the prices of food items in the country and is making them available to the States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in spite of the Centre's initiation, some States are not coming forward to draw their share of food items from the Central Government, if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to control the hoardings by traders which is the main cause of increase of prices of food items?

Storage capacity of foodgrains in the country

1056. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of storage capacity available *vis-à-vis* required for various foodgrains in the country, State-wise, food-grain-wise, as on date;

(b) the storage capacity added for various foodgrains during the last five years *vis-à-vis* the targets set for the purpose, year-wise;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains along with their monetary value that got wasted due to non-availability of storage facilities during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government has chalked out a comprehensive strategy to enhance storage capacity of various foodgrains in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mechanism to deal with variation of prices of essential commodities

1057. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a body for monitoring and intervening in case of sharp variation in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether, at present, there is no unified mechanism to deal with sharp increase or fall in prices of essential commodities as different Departments deal with different aspects of commodities;

(c) whether the proposed Body's main objective would be to find the substitute for items that are short in supply, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether the entity would also have a mechanism to engage all stakeholders, including traders and importers, if so, details thereof?

Availability of essential food items at affordable price

†1058. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has taken a number of policy measures in the last one year to ensure availability of essential food items at affordable rates in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether those policy measures are yielding positive results, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Proposal to amend Consumer Protection Act, 1986

1059. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to strengthen the consumer protection system and make it more responsive to the needs of the consumers in the present scenario; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the salient features of the proposed amendment/review reports?

Irregularities in PDS

1060. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irregularities, including diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) foodgrains, prevalence of fake ration cards, supply of poor quality foodgrains and charging of high price, have been reported during the last three years and the current year, particularly from Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measure taken by Government in this regard indicating the number of cases reported and the losses suffered as a result thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide additional items under the PDS, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of NFSA

1061. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the country;

(b) the number of States yet to join this scheme;

(c) whether digitization and identification of beneficiaries has been done by various States, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Direct Benefit Transfer is made compulsory or subsidy will be given in cash to the beneficiaries, the details thereof?

Introduction of fortified wheat and rice in PDS

1062. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce fortified wheat and rice in the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the standards finalized for Atta and Rice for the purpose; and

(c) the time by when fortified wheat and rice are likely to be made available to people under PDS across the country?

Sale of wheat and rice through Open Market Sale scheme

1063. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total stocks of wheat and rice with FCI as of 31 January, 2016;

(b) whether FCI sells wheat and rice normally during September and March;

(c) whether this has now been changed and FCI decided to sell them frequently to reduce more than double buffer stocks in the country;

(d) how much wheat and rice FCI has been able to sell through Open Market Sale scheme in last one year, month-wise and commodity-wise; and

(e) the quantity of wheat and rice allocated to various States during last one year and quantity lifted by the States, State-wise?

Consumer awareness programme in rural and backward areas

1064. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is no awareness of consumer rights among those who are living in the rural and backward areas;

(b) if so, whether any awareness programme is being undertaken by Government for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how long such programmes are undertaken; and

(d) the financial allocations made to carry out these programmes, State-wise to achieve maximum results of bringing awareness about the rights of consumers?

Extraction of juices from fruits and flowers

†1065. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to extract juice from fruits and flowers or their processing, especially from flowers like burans, is being implemented in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details of types of such fruits and their processing and their availability in market; and

(c) if not, whether the Ministry would initiate such work in this field in future?

FDI in Food Processing sector

1066. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that there has been a considerable reduction in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in Food Processing sector in the country in the year 2014-15;

(b) the FDI in Food Processing sector in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to increase the FDI inflows in this sector?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Stipend/subsistence allowance for Junior lawyers

1067. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide stipend/subsistence allowance to Junior lawyers belonging to the SC/ST category, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Annual Report of High Courts

1068. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to compile Annual Report listing the performance of their courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the responses of the Chief Justices;

(c) the number and names of High Courts which have compiled the Annual Report;

(d) the reasons for not compiling the Report by other High Courts; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to make public reliable and accurate judicial data of higher courts?

Vacancies of judges and pending cases in High Courts

1069. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges which were vacant in various High Courts as on 31 December, 2015;

(b) the number of cases which were pending in various High Courts as on 31 December, 2015; and

(c) the time-frame for filling up all these vacancies?

Slow pace of Fast Track Courts

1070. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Fast Track Courts dealing with rape cases are incredibly slow;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in each State, particularly in metro cities, for a long time and were sent back to the trial court they originated from;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry will set up special POCSO court for child sexual abuse cases rather than Fast Track Courts;

(d) whether judges could be trained and sensitised around specific concerns and issues; and

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto?

Review of Anti-Defection Law

1071. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers it necessary to take a fresh look at the Anti-Defection Law in the light of experience in its implementation and Court's observations; and

(b) if so, the changes planned and the time-frame for making such changes therein?

Effect of shortage of judges on pendency of cases

†1072. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in various High Courts of the country, especially in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, 25, 85, 31, 24, 20, 13 and 20 posts of judges, respectively, are lying vacant;

(b) if so, whether it is affecting the pending cases in courts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court?

Measures to restore confidence in law

1073. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offenders are losing fear of law while the victims of crime and common people are losing confidence in law; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures Government intends to take in this regard, the details thereof?

Creation of National Level Judicial Services

1074. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that creation of National Level Judicial Services on the pattern of All India Civil Services in the country is being contemplated by

Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the proposal under consideration at present and the advantages likely to accrue from implementation of the proposal?

Judicial vacancies and pending cases

1075. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in the judiciary of the country, State-wise, including High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) the steps taken to fillup such vacancies and by when the vacancies are expected to be filled up; and

(c) the number of cases pending in different courts for more than five years?

Accumulation of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts

1076. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies in the Supreme Court and various High Courts of the country have accumulated in the recent past resulting in substantial increase in the pendency of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Supreme Court and High Court-wise;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of these vacancies; and

(d) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take so that vacancies are filled up on priority?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implication of judges' vacancies on pendency of cases

1077. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the actual strength at present;
- (c) the reasons for posts of judges lying vacant in these High Courts;
- (d) the implication of these vacancies on the pendency of cases; and
- (e) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

Wi-Fi facility in courts

1078. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide Wi-Fi facility in all the courts, including High Courts and the Supreme Court in near future, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) in how many States, including Delhi, these facilities are already available or are under consideration; and
- (c) whether Government would consider grants to States for providing Wi-Fi facility at the court premises, if so, the details thereof?

Vacant posts of Judges

1079. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of Judges in various High Courts and in the Supreme Court, as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that 24 High Courts are functioning with 43 per cent vacancies; and

(c) the details of the action being initiated by Government to fill up all vacancies and to streamline the whole selection procedure?

Audit of train operations for late running of trains

1080. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any audit of train operations so far, to address the perennial problem of late running of trains on certain sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its outcome;

(c) the sections which account for maximum late running of trains, zone-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Railways to improve their over all performance, including arresting the declining trend in passengers and freight traffic?

Seizure of passenger train by farmers of Chitradurga, Karnataka

1081. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers from Chitradurga, Karnataka, recently seized five-coach passenger train after a local court ordered the confiscation for the railway department's failure to compensate the

farmers, whose land was acquired by Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons for unreasonable 25 years' delay in the payment of compensation, the details thereof?

buildings to set up solar panels, apart from setting up solar panels in large tracts of railway land; and

(e) if so, the action plan in the 2016-17 fiscal in this regard?

Security measures to prevent manipulation of online booking website

1082. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken a slew of measures, including a 35 second compulsory wait, to book tickets online through its website to facilitate hassle-free booking by genuine ticket seekers; and

(b) whether the IRCTC has taken certain security measures to prevent manipulation of the tickets site and the site has been upgraded with a substantial investment to enable the system to book 15,000 tickets per minute, if so, the details thereof?

Policy on solar capacity panels

1083. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have come out with a policy on solar capacity panels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the policy would help Railways to reduce its dependency on fossil fuels;

(d) whether Railways would think of using roof tops of stations and other

Surcharge on railway passengers for travelling to Kumbh Melas at Haridwar and Ujjain

†1084. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a surcharge has been imposed on railway passengers for travelling on the occasion of 'Ardh Kumbh Mela' being organised at Haridwar in 2016, if so, the amount of surcharge levied, rail travel class-wise, the period for which the surcharge would be recovered and the basis for recovering the surcharge; and

(b) whether, in context of (a) above, surcharge would also be imposed for 'Simhastha Kumbh Mela' at Ujjain, if so, the reasons therefor and the amount of surcharge and the period for which the surcharge would be imposed?

Income from passenger and goods traffic

1085. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the top ten railway divisions in the country in terms of income from passenger traffic;

(b) the top ten railway divisions in the country in terms of income from goods traffic; and

(c) whether any comparative study about ticket-less travel reported in various

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

divisions has been done recently, if so, the details thereof?

Promoting e-tickets

1086. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the over-all cost is very less for issuing e-tickets compared to the tickets issued by Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters;

(b) whether passengers have to shell out more money on e-tickets than the tickets issued by PRS counters like service charges and banking charges etc.; and

(c) whether Railways would provide any incentives to passengers or waive off these charges to promote e-tickets?

Multi Modal Logistics Park in Andhra Pradesh

1087. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Container Corporation of India proposes to set up a Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the setting up of MMLP, the capacity of goods transport will be increased in Andhra Pradesh in view of its huge coastline, if so, the details thereof?

Railway zones and divisions in the country

1088. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of railway zones and divisions in the country;

(b) whether new zones and divisions have been sanctioned along with the details of those which have not commenced operations; and

(c) the details of the progress of work in this regard?

Investments from foreign institutions for expansion and modernization of Railways

1089. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are seeking investments from foreign institutions for its expansion and modernization projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details on achievements made so far, Agency/Institution-wise?

High-speed trains

1090. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to introduce high-speed trains on certain lines;

(b) if so, the details of the lines chosen;

(c) the cost of the projects, project-wise; and

(d) how does Railways plan to finance these projects, the details thereof?

Setting up of Centres for Railway Research

1091. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to set up Centres for Railway

Research in collaboration with IITs all over the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that an MoU has already been entered into with various branches of IITs in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Linke Hofmann Busch coaches

1092. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modified version of Linke Hofmann Busch coaches have been delivered to Southern Railway by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai;

(b) whether they are not put into service because power coaches are not available in required numbers; and

(c) whether Government would see to it that such mismatch between purchase of various items is not repeated leading to delay in implementation of project or to loss of finance?

Rail Coach Factory in Kanjikode, Kerala

1093. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to build a rail coach factory in Kanjikode, Kerala;

(b) whether there is a proposal to run it as a joint venture between Railways and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); and

(c) if not, the alternative proposal being considered by the Government?

Revenue from passenger and goods traffic

1094. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of passenger and goods traffic during the last five years, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) the details of revenue earned through passenger and goods traffic in the last five years, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(c) whether the passenger traffic is gradually coming down, if so, the reasons for such decline;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in spite of decline in passenger traffic, Railways are getting more revenue on the passenger side; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

E-ticketing curbs to tame touts

1095. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are unable to control the flourishing business of touts; and

(b) whether Railways' new attempt of bringing e-ticketing curbs to tame touts is going to be an effective measure, if so, the details thereof?

Train accidents due to negligence of railway employees

1096. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that train accidents

are also caused due to negligence of railway employees, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of action taken by the competent authority against the erring employees; and

(c) the number of employees held guilty for negligence during the last three years?

Increase in incidents of train collisions and derailments

1097. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of train collisions and derailments have increased in the past years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of measures taken by Railways to prevent frequent occurrence of train collisions; and

(c) the details of incidents of train collisions and derailments in last three years, State-wise?

Absorption of Volunteer Ticket Collectors

†1098. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta High Court and CAT have issued any directions for absorption of the employees who had worked as Volunteer Ticket Collectors (TC) in Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far and the number of Volunteer TCs who had worked in Eastern Railway and have since been regularised; and

(c) whether correspondence has been done by public representatives regarding examination of the said matter and absorption of Volunteer TCs?

Survey of pending railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

†1099. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of the pending railway projects in Madhya Pradesh has been completed in respect of Jabalpur-Udaipura-Sagar line; Bhind-Lahar-Konch line and Urai-Mahur line;

(b) if so, whether these projects have been found technically viable as per the report of the survey;

(c) whether these projects have been accorded sanction by the Government; and

(d) if so, the time-frame set to complete these projects and if not, the reasons therefor?

Locomotives running both on diesel and electricity

1100. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total trains operating on diesel and electric traction;

(b) whether Railways have decided to manufacture locomotives that run both on diesel and electricity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this move would reduce the cost and increase efficiency?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Study to assess stress among loco drivers

1101. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Loco Running Men's Organisation has sought the help of NHRC as the Railway Board has rejected their demand seeking toilet breaks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain stress among loco drivers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the changes made in the engine cabins to remove stress and strain while working in the engines?

Railway line projects

†1102. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether immediate action would be taken for implementing the projects of new railway lines declared in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Railways are concerned about increasing railway facility to Mayurbhanj district of Odisha which is densely covered with forests; and

(c) whether with reference to (b) above, there could be help by extending railway line *via* Udala and Aamadapur from Baripada to Jeypore and from Baripada to Jamshedpur?

Panel to study private sector role in Railways

1103. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any panel to study the role of private sector in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations received in this regard so far; and

(d) the measures Government would take to protect the interests of passengers and safety at the same time?

Introduction of new train in Gujarat

†1104. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to introduce a new train in Gujarat linking Mumbai-Anand-Nadiad-Modasa-Udaipur in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Incomplete projects under North-Eastern Railway

1105. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incomplete projects under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the pace of work under North-Eastern Railway is extremely slow and that there is lack of transparency and accountability;

(c) since when each of these projects are pending;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps being taken to stimulate the North-Eastern Railway; and

(e) by when the pending projects will be completed?

Establishment of railway factories in West Bengal

1106. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixteen railway factories in West Bengal were promised to be established by the then Railway Minister in her Rail Budget speech during UPA II;

(b) if so, whether they have been established; and

(c) the details of those sixteen factories?

Model railway station's

1107. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many model railway stations are there in the country and which are they;

(b) who is responsible for maintaining those railway stations;

(c) the hindrance in implementing the same model in all the important and major railway stations of the country; and

(d) the cost of maintaining such stations and how is the expenditure met?

Demands of All India Railwaymen's Federation

1108. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Railwaymen's Federation has raised various demands, including review of new pension scheme and filling up of large number of vacant posts in Railways;

(b) whether the Federation has also threatened to go on strike for implementation of the said demands; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

Revival of EMU train on a circular route around Delhi

1109. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the EMU train that runs on a circular route from the Hazrat Nizamuddin station in Delhi, covering a distance of 35.5 km. connecting 22 stations, has deteriorated over the years and the number of commuters have deeply gone down to about 3700 last year against the capacity of 20,000;

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

(c) whether Railways have any plan to revive this cheapest mode of transport in Delhi, the details thereof?

Electrification of railway line between Basti and Gorakhpur

†1110. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when is the electrification work

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of railway line between Basti and Gorakhpur under Eastern Railway going on and by when it is likely to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a massive increase in its cost due to excessive time being taken to complete it;

(c) the cost at the time of tender and the amount to which it has increased now; and

(d) whether anyone has been identified for this delay and if so, the action taken against the people responsible for this, the details thereof?

Meetings with Members of Parliament in the region serviced by North Eastern Railway

†1111. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held with Members of Parliament in regions serviced by North-Eastern Railway during last five years and details of action taken on suggestions given by them in these meetings;

(b) the number of such meetings held in railway campuses and in hotels;

(c) the reasons for arranging meetings in hotels, total cost involved in organizing the meetings, head-wise, the number of guests participated in these meetings and number of rooms booked for such meetings; and

(d) whether Government is considering to issue guidelines to hold the meetings in railway campuses to check wasteful expenditure?

Handing over of the catering system to IRCTC

†1112. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to hand over the catering system of Railways to IRCTC once again, is under consideration;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking away this task from IRCTC and handing it over to the Railways;

(c) the reasons for considering to shift the task of catering from Railways to IRCTC once again and whether there is any guarantee that the same problems will not be faced once again on handing over the task of catering to IRCTC; and

(d) the status thereof?

Setting up of Urban Haats in Rajasthan

†1113. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent the project report to the Central Government for setting up Urban Haat at Sikar and Alwar;

(b) if so, by when the administrative and financial approvals would be granted to it;

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government for approval of Central assistance under Enforcement Scheme;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government intends to accord the said approval; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, by when?

Performance of Textile sector

1114. SHRIN. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of segments that are doing well in Textile and Clothing sectors in the last two years and the current year, year-wise and segment-wise;

(b) to what extent the global gloom is impacting export of our clothing and textile exports and how the Ministry is planning to push it further;

(c) whether it is a fact that exports of handicrafts, including handmade carpets, has shown improvement in the first half of 2015-16 as compared to the same period in the last year; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to push the exports by taking advantage of this?

Price Deficiency Payment System to safeguard interests of cotton growers

1115. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed a Price Deficiency Payment System as an alternative to MSP, to promote cotton, to be started on pilot basis in Wardha district of Maharashtra, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether such a step will reduce outflow from public exchequer and increase returns to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce excise duty on manmade fibres from the current 12 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Finance Ministry in this regard?

Rural textile industries

1116. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken or plans to undertake measures to promote rural textile industries in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of rural textile industries set up in the country, particularly in Odisha, during the last three years and the current year along with the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the same, along with the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to promote rural textile industries in Odisha in the coming year, particularly in the KBK districts, the details thereof?

Promotion of traditional weaving craft

1117. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:
KUMARI SELJA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and salient features of various schemes being implemented by

Central Government to promote age old traditional weaving craft; and

(b) the financial, technical marketing and other assistance and support provided to the traditional weavers of the country under each of these schemes, district-wise?

Promotion of linen as dress material

1118. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is promoting linen as a dress material; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Textile Parks

†1119. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of Textile Parks in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Textile Parks set up in various regions of the country during the last five years;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up new Textile Parks in Madhya Pradesh and other States in the current or next financial year; and

(d) if so, the details of the places, including those in Madhya Pradesh, identified for establishing Textile Parks, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024,
Communications and Information Technology	:	971, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	983, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064,
Food Processing Industries	:	1065, 1066,
Law and Justice	:	1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079,
Railways	:	1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112,
Textiles	:	1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119.