

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 4, 2015/Agrahayana 13, 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

High-speed rail system on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route

*61. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken examination of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's final report on the feasibility study of the proposed high-speed rail system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route;

(b) whether any follow up action has been taken on priority basis;

(c) whether Government has decided upon a future course of action for execution of this project, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Electioneering system

*62. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all

measures and precautions, the electioneering process still has many loopholes to be plugged;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any attempt to study and collaborate with other countries having similar but better electioneering systems;

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to adopt for improving our system;

(d) whether Government considers bringing in experts from other countries having in vogue better systems, in order to improve our electioneering system; and

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

Status of enquiries in 2G spectrum allocation

*63. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status and findings of various

enquiries into the 2G spectrum allocation of 2008, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government is contemplating in this regard?

Compensation for losses incurred by farmers

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

(a) the details of the agricultural area affected by excessive and scarce rainfall this year, State-wise;

(b) the details of the losses incurred in agricultural production due to excessive and scarce rainfall, separately, and the relief provided to farmers; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to compensate the farmers for the losses incurred?

Promotion and development of nutritious varieties of rice

*65. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to promote nutritious black rice "Chakhao" from North-East, having nutty flavour and vast potential of export, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government for promotion and development of a number of other little known nutritious varieties of rice from various regions of the country?

MSP for crops of Rabi season 2016

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

(a) whether Government has announced MSP for Rabi crops including pulses and wheat for Rabi season 2016, recently, if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(b) the basis and rationale on which such a meagre increase has been announced; and

(c) how Government would check large scale and unprecedented number of suicides by farmers without reasonable and profitable MSP for their farm produces?

Train service from Vasco-da-Gama to Tirupati

*67. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start a train service from Vasco-da-Gama to Tirupati or any other station near the Tirupati station;

(b) if so, whether necessary formal decision has been taken to that effect;

(c) the proposed route of this train and the stations that the train will halt at;

(d) the proposed frequency of the train; and

(e) by when the train services are expected to commence?

Train accidents at railway level crossings

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of train accidents and 66 per cent of the fatalities occur at railway level crossings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that around eighteen accidents on unmanned railway level crossings and three on manned ones, have been reported since April, 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to prevent accidents at both manned and unmanned railway level crossings?

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in farmers' suicides in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the major reasons for this increase in farmers' suicides across the country;

(c) the steps Government is taking to alleviate the concerns of the farmers; and

(d) whether Government is aware of media reports and experts' statements that releasing additional food stocks into the market during harvest season hurt the sales of the farmers' produce, if so, the reaction thereto?

Utilisation of package for enhancement of Railways in Bihar

†*70. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision to enhance railway traffic is also included in the package given to Bihar by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to

utilise the earmarked part of the Bihar package with additional resources for expansion of Railways in a backward State like Bihar, if so, the details thereof?

Rise in prices of pulses

*71. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while production of pulses had slipped down by 12 per cent in 2014-15 compared to previous year, the prices zoomed up by more than 100 per cent across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the production of pulses in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and variation in retail prices of pulses during the months of August-October 2015; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to intervene in the market to hold the prices of pulses along with the action taken against hoarders who were out to make a quick profit?

Direct transfer of food subsidy

†*72. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a time-bound plan to directly transfer food subsidy instead of foodgrains distribution, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has carried out any survey to assess the choice of consumers regarding cash transfer and foodgrains distribution, if so, the details of the result thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

introduce food coupons, if so, the details thereof?

Study to identify cyber threats from outside

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cyber attacks have increased in the country in recent times, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify the cyber threats from outside the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government intends to conduct such a study; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to protect cyberspace in the country?

Scam in Rail Neer supply

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious

scam has taken place in the Rail Neer being supplied by Railways in trains, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to book the culprits and initiate action against them?

Starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand

†*75. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will consider starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand in future;

(b) if so, whether the Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar railway line will be connected to this railway route;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Railways to remove the hurdles coming in the construction of above railway route, till date; and

(d) whether linking this part of the State with the railway route is not in the interest of the country and if not, the reasons for this delay?

NEW DELHI;
The 28th November, 2015
Agrahayana, 7, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 64, 65, 66, 69,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 63, 73,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 71, 72,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Law and Justice	: 62,
Railways	: 61, 67, 68, 70, 74, 75.
Textiles	: —