

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

Suicide by farmers

641. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committing suicide in the country in last one and half year (May, 2014 to October, 2015), State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ease the distress situation of farmers; and

(c) the compensation paid to the family-members of the victims, who committed suicide?

Protection of cattle and other animals used for dairying and farming

642. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any long

term programme to rear and protect cattle and other animals used for dairying and farming, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many animals came under this programme during last three years; and

(c) whether such animals are also outside the protection of Government, if so, the number thereof?

Agricultural production in the country

643. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production in the country has gone down since inception of the present Government, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to increase agricultural production in the country?

Scheme to promote dairy industry

†644. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is running any special scheme to promote dairy industry in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of funds allotted for the purpose from the last three years to the current year?

Employment opportunities in agriculture sector

†645. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid attention to employment opportunities in agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the initiative taken by Government for this purpose; and

(c) whether Government is running any scheme to increase employment opportunities in agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers

†646. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the suicides committed during the past five years by the farmers who could not repay their loans;

(b) the major reasons for the same;

(c) the details of the facilities provided by Government, State-wise and year-wise to compensate the families; and

(d) the schemes proposed by Government for the betterment of the such indebted farmers in the future?

Issuing biometric identity cards to fishermen

647. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified 19,60,488 marine fishermen across the country for issuing biometric identity cards, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has completed the process of issuing biometric identity cards to those identified fishermen, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Suicide by farmers in Burdwan, West Bengal

648. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Burdwan district of West Bengal more than one hundred farmers have committed suicide in the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to stop such incidents?

Suicide by farmers in West Bengal

649. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers' suicides have increased in West Bengal during the last four years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Compensation for damage to crops

650. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who applied for Government compensation for crop damage, State-wise and year-wise, since 2010;

(b) the number of farmers whose claims have been approved and the number of farmers who have been compensated;

(c) the number of such applicants who suffered less than 50 per cent damage; and

(d) the total amount of compensation given to farmers for crop damage since 2010, year-wise and State-wise?

Production of foodgrains etc. by using bio-technology

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

(a) whether India will be the leading country in 2020 in producing GM rice, wheat and vegetables by using bio-technology instead of conventional practices;

(b) if so, the details of the move proposed towards this end; and

(c) what could be the adverse effect on soil by resorting to bio-technology and in using the products through bio-technology means?

Damage to paddy crop in Jharkhand

652. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been widespread damage to paddy crop in Jharkhand due to deficient rains;

(b) if so, whether Government of Jharkhand has submitted a report to Central Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the estimate of financial loss projected by the State Government; and

(d) the quantum of financial assistance sought by the Government of Jharkhand to compensate the farmers for their losses?

Decline in sowing of rabi crops

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a substantial drop in rabi crop sowing in Maharashtra and other parts of the country which is likely to adversely affect the production of foodgrains in the country;

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

(c) the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

White fly attack on cotton crops

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

(a) whether it is a fact that white fly attack on cotton crops in Punjab and other parts of the country has almost destroyed the cotton crops, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to provide relief to the cotton growers and also to protect cotton crops from white fly?

Implementation of Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme

655. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to this programme in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and

(c) the funds disbursed so far to the State Government of Maharashtra for this programme?

Agreement with foreign countries in the field of agriculture

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

(a) whether India has entered into any agreement/cooperation with a number of countries in the field of agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the United States of America (USA) has also evinced keen interest to extend cooperation in the agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

Damage to cotton crops

†657. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage occurred to cotton crop in the country due to white fly insect, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than

25 per cent of cotton crop has been damaged by white fly in Haryana and Punjab;

(c) the effect of over-supply of cotton and falling price of yarn in global market on Indian cotton industry; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural production in the country?

Conservation of indigenous breeds of livestock

658. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for conserving the indigenous breeds of livestock viz. Murrah, ongole and Punganur, etc., which are superior in quality, resistant to diseases and able to withstand the vagaries of the local climate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Employment opportunities in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors

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

(a) whether Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors have tremendous potentials to generate employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details of employment generated in these sectors in each State during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period till date;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government intends to intensify its efforts in this direction during the remaining part of the Twelfth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pest infestation on cotton crops in Punjab and Haryana

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

(a) whether Government is aware that a pest infestation destroyed much of the cotton crop in Punjab and Haryana, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had taken any steps to prevent this calamity, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to ensure that such a situation doesn't arise in future?

Suicide by farmers in Karnataka

661. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who committed suicide in Karnataka during last three months, month-wise;

(b) whether Government has assessed/has been apprised by the State Government, the reasons for this alarming rise in farmers' suicide cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Central Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is considering

to announce any immediate relief measures like special packages/debt waiver etc. for the debt ridden farmers of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

Apprehension of rise in price of foodgrains

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

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that owing to low production of sugarcane and foodgrains such as rice, because of natural reasons, there is possibility of rise in the prices of these commodities;

(b) whether Industries Chamber ASSOCHAM has handed over to the Government a report which expresses a fear that the prices of foodgrains may rise; and

(c) if so, the plan Government contemplates to deal with this situation?

Rise in incidents of suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of farmers committing suicide has risen/increased constantly since the inception of the present Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent suicide cases of farmers in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of Soil Health Card Programme

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

(a) the number of soil samples collected, tested and number of Soil Health Cards issued till date against fixed targets, State-wise;

(b) whether Government plans to increase infrastructure and capacity of soil testing laboratories, if so, details thereof and time-line therefor and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plans to shift to evaluation of fields of individual farmers from the current grid system followed, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government envisages establishment of mobile testing facilities under Soil Health Card programme, if so, details thereof and time-line for implementation, if not, reasons therefor?

Review of agriculture policy

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

(a) whether there has been a constant decline in the percentage of land under cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the decreasing trend till date;

(c) whether Government would consider to review the Agriculture policy in order to float more lucrative schemes to attract farmers to their traditional profession of agriculture farming in the interest of the Nation and its population; and

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

MSP for agricultural produces to encourage organic farming

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

(a) whether any scheme to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits to encourage organic farming, is under Government's consideration so that farmers could get fair price for their produce; and

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

Suicide by farmers owing to insufficient rains

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the incidents of suicide by farmers in the country owing to insufficient rains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Governments in this regard for release of financial assistance; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the farmers community from committing suicides?

Import of 'fake' dals

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

(a) whether attention of Governments has been drawn towards the criticism of a noted environment activist that Government is importing 'fake' dals and is sending the signal to farmers that it is not worth growing pulses; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Production and import of pulses

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

(a) the production of pulses in the country in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively;

(b) the quantity of import of pulses in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014; and

(c) the shortfall of pulses in 2015 and the quantity of imports in metric tonnes?

Problem of recurring drought situation in the country

670. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of districts in various States, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand which are facing drought almost every year;

(b) whether Central Government has received any suggestions from these States to deal with the drought situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the response/assistance of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problem of drought in the country?

Production technique to increase production in farms of small holdings

671. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) the percentage of agricultural land in the country;

(b) whether production technique based on machines can be beneficial for agricultural production in farms of small holdings; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto and the technique being suggested by scientists to farmers having small holdings for increase in production?

Controlling the prices of medicines

672. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government for controlling the prices of medicines and providing medicines at cheap/fair rate to the poor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some medicines have been added and some removed by making changes at a large scale in the control list by Government for providing medicines at cheaper price, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of procurement policy for urea and manure

†673. SHRI HARIVANSH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Government proposes to implement procurement policy for urea and manure;

(b) the details of the report of Government suggesting the hazards caused from urea consumption;

(c) the details of the total availability of manures in the country and the steps taken by Government to enhance its production;

(d) whether natural manure is cheaper than chemicals fertilizers and the steps taken by Government to popularize it; and

(e) the details of the production of natural manure as on date and how much Government will save by linking it to subsidy?

Profit sharing mechanism of urea producers with Government

674. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether urea producers have approached Government expressing their unhappiness about the present profit sharing mechanism with it with regard to selling excess ammonia produced by them, citing it to be uneconomical due to prevailing high prices of natural gas and current market price of ammonia, the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government would come forward to resolve this issue on priority, if so, the details thereof along with the

specific time limit for resolution thereof; and

(c) how much excess ammonia has been sold by urea producers from 1st April, 2015 till date, unit-wise details thereof?

Profit making PSUs

675. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all public sector undertakings under the Ministry are making profits;

(b) if not, the details of the profit making and loss making PSUs under the Ministry; and

(c) the steps taken for revival of loss making PSUs?

New centres of CIPET

†676. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of centres of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) running in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any scheme to open new centres, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to open a centre of CIPET in the State of Rajasthan; and

(d) the number of students trained so far from CIPET and the status of the employment of trained students?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reducing import of urea

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of urea in the country has grown phenomenally;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take or has taken so far any step to reduce the import of urea; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of weak monsoon over crop producing areas

678. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is decreased agricultural production due to weak monsoon over crop producing areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase agricultural production by other sources of irrigation?

4G services by BSNL and MTNL

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

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL plan to introduce 4G services in the country;

(b) the reasons for their lagging behind in unveiling 4G services when private players have already started the services; and

(c) whether there are any plans to tie-up with private players, if so, the details thereof?

Misuse of social media platforms

680. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding a prominent company abusing its net dominance in many instances related to business, economy and other political affairs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has initiated any investigation against the said company in this regard;

(c) if so, the status thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the company; and

(d) the response of the Government towards the fact that misuse of social media platforms can also influence business, economy and other political affairs?

New initiatives by BSNL

681. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL added 8 lakh new mobile subscribers in almost a month's time after the launch of free roaming service for its customers in June this year;

(b) whether the landline segment of BSNL has turned positive after the free night calling scheme was introduced;

(c) whether 1.52 lakh subscribers used Mobile Number Portability (MNP) to switch to BSNL while 1.20 lakh users ported out, leading to net addition of 30,000 users *via* MNP; and

(d) whether BSNL is also considering to come out with some sops for its mobile users soon, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Study on ill effects of radiation from mobile towers

682. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the ill effects of radiation from mobile towers, if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether in view of the said study, the Ministry proposes to request local authorities to de-seal the towers and give permission to telcos to operate these towers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the problem of call drops?

High speed internet facility in rural areas

†683. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country equipped with internet services in rural areas;

(b) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to increase availability of high speed internet facility in rural areas; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure digital literacy among students and elderly people in rural areas, the current status of such efforts?

Probe into 2G spectrum scam

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

(a) whether investigations made by various investigative agencies in the 2G spectrum scam are fully completed or nearing completion and whether charge-sheet was filed against all the accused;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which investigations are likely to be completed;

(d) whether there has been any delay in conducting investigations on some of the accused and foreign companies and their owners involved in the scam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons and reaction of Government thereto?

Schemes and projects under Digital India programme

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

(a) the details of schemes and projects which have been included under Digital India programme recently launched by Government in the country;

(b) the state of progress in implementing the projects under this programme in various States of the country; and

(c) whether States are being provided

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with sufficient funds to implement the projects and laying of cables, if not, the reasons therefor?

Creation of jobs under Digital India programme

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

(a) whether Government proposes to create 4.5 lakh jobs through launching of Digital India programme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and how many jobs have been created so far;

(c) the progress made in the field of electronic manufacturing in the country and whether our domestic industry is capable to provide electronic equipments under Digital India programme; and

(d) how many jobs have been added in electronic manufacturing sector during the last two years?

Refusal of Telecom operators to pay penalty for call drops

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom operators have refused to pay the penalty imposed for call drops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, how and by when Government will address the subscribers' problem of call drops; and

(c) if not, how the telecom operators will pay penalty to the customers, the nature thereof?

Increase in revenue of BSNL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL aims to increase its revenue by almost 50 per cent to ₹ 42,000 crore in the next four years as part of Government's plan to turnaround the loss making firm by 2018-19;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Company's revenue stood at ₹ 28,000 crore during the last financial year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has prepared a detailed plan as per which BSNL should turn profitable in 2018-19, if so, the details thereof?

Method of measuring call drop data

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

(a) whether TRAI has now relented on its earlier stance of penalising telecom companies for call drops above accepted norms by inviting telecom companies for a conciliatory dialogue;

(b) whether telecom operators are of the view that the current method of measuring call drop data does not present a real picture; and

(c) whether TRAI has now agreed to consider changing the method of conducting drive tests for call drops, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Digital India programme

690. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved in 2006 a policy to provide at least one public run facility for internet access in every village;

(b) whether Government has recently announced Digital India Plan programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the rollout coverage plans?

Cyber War capability

†691. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Cyber War capability is of world class; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the problems which may arise due to cyber attack?

Removal of unwanted MTNL poles

692. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some residents of South Extension, Part-I, South Delhi have requested to remove MTNL poles having few or no wire link for delivery to residences;

(b) if so, the reasons for not removing such unwanted poles in the area; and

(c) whether MTNL/BSNL have any plans to remove ungainly poles in South Delhi, South Extension area in a time bound manner; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mobile Governance Programme

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

(a) the steps Government is taking to implement the recently announced Mobile Governance Programme;

(b) the time-line and road-map for the same; and

(c) the specific elements of the Digital India campaign which are being used to transform the functioning of Government Departments and Governance services in order to make them more efficient?

Making BSNL profitable

694. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the remedial steps taken and new schemes introduced by Government to make BSNL profit-oriented and compete with other private telecom players;

(b) whether BSNL proposes to offer VRS to its one lakh employees to trim its mounting losses and also to utilize the existing facilities for multi tasking activities of Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether the profit of BSNL was ₹ 10183 crore in 2004-05 and there is a continuous revenue loss for it during the last five years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Upgradation of post offices to save their extinction

695. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of post offices has decreased considerably during the past 20 years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government would consider upgrading the post offices into a multi-facility provider unit like ATM/ money transfer/foreign exchange etc. to attract more and more people, which in turn will make it economically viable and prevent its extinction?

Absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Uttarakhand

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is unrest among public due to absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Pithoragarh, Champawat, Bageshwar, Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether Government has received requests to install BSNL mobile towers in the above areas;

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(d) if not, whether Government considers it proper to provide mobile facility in above mentioned places; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in installing mobile towers?

Internet speed provisioned for cities and Panchayats under Digital India campaign

†697. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the download/ upload speed in mbps to be offered by Government for free wi-fi, broadband in order to connect 2500 cities and 2.5 lakh Panchayats under the 'Digital India' campaign in the country;

(b) the average speed presently offered under all types of internet data plans; and

(c) whether it is being considered to reduce the same, the details thereof?

Setting up and operationalization of CMS

698. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the Central Monitoring System (CMS) set up by Government for lawful interception and monitoring of communications;

(b) the details and salient features of the system, including the nodal agency implementing CMS;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the total expenditure approved and incurred by Government for setting up of CMS;

(d) whether it is presently operational, if so, in which parts of country; and

(e) if not, the time-frame within which setting up and operationalization of CMS across the country is expected to be complete?

Making AADHAR card mandatory for Digital India Programme Schemes

699. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made AADHAR card mandatory for the schemes under Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, the details of all such schemes and the benefits where this is mandatory;

(c) whether concern has been raised regarding storage of AADHAR card data;

(d) if so, the steps undertaken by Government to ensure security of data under AADHAR scheme; and

(e) whether the Ministry will pay to UIDAI for using AADHAR information under the schemes of Digital India?

Telephone facilities to village Panchayats

†700. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have

been provided to all the village Panchayats of all States, including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of village Panchayats that have been provided telephone facilities in the last Five Year Plan; and

(c) the number of village Panchayats that are proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise?

Measures against call drops

701. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that call drop cases have increased manifold in the last one year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether TRAI has proposed certain measures against call drops and penal action against the companies, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of cases where companies have been penalized for call drops; and

(d) the details of stringent steps Government will take to protect the interest of consumers against call drop?

Charging for spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz

702. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is charging for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz from new players; and

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

Protection for small vendors and traders

703. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to control and monitor the sale of foodgrains, cereals, edible oils etc. by the multinational and big corporate companies in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of lakhs of small vendors and small scale traders?

Steep rise in the prices of pulses

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

(a) whether prices of pulses have reached upto ₹ 200 per kg in retail market in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether during the current year, prices of pulses have shown the steepest rise in last ten years, if so, the details thereof for last five years and the current year;

(c) the reasons for failure of Government to check the price rise; and

(d) the details of the quantity of pulses imported from foreign countries during the current years, country-wise rate thereof?

Rise in prices of pulses

705. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the shortage of pulses in the country;

(b) the reasons for rise in the prices of pulses in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ease the availability and controlling the prices of pulses in retail markets of the country?

People eligible for subsidized food under NFSA

706. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people eligible for subsidized food under NFSA in 2014-15 and 2015-16;

(b) whether the data is according to the socio-economic and caste census available for eligible families; and

(c) the number of people who got benefited under NFSA in 2014-15 and the amount of money Government spent for them?

Distribution of wheat and rice through PDS

707. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat

produced in the country in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;

(b) the quantities of these grains procured for PDS during these years; and

(c) how much of the procured quantities were distributed through PDS during these years?

Establishment of irradiation plants

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating using large scale nuclear irradiation technology for increasing the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for establishing irradiation plants for the purpose alongside warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India, especially those situated around metro cities for the benefit of farmers?

Raids to curb prices of foodgrains and pulses

†709. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has resorted to large scale raiding in some States in order to curb the spiraling price rise of foodgrains and pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken against the hoarders?

Rotting of foodgrains in FCI godowns

710. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of foodgrains are rotting in FCI godowns in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the position in the FCI godowns/ yards in the State of West Bengal;

(c) the efforts being made to off take these grains; and

(d) how is the responsibility fixed for rotting of the foodgrains in FCI godowns?

Interest on borrowings paid by FCI

711. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has to pay ₹ 8000 crore every year as interest on the money it has borrowed from different sources, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the proposals to take FCI out of this situation?

Digitization of ration card

712. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that Government of West Bengal has been able to eliminate 70 lakh bogus ration cards through digitization of Ration Card system;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to implement best practices learnt from West Bengal for better delivery in Public Distribution System (PDS) across other States;

(c) the extent of reduction of losses because of digitization of Ration Card system in West Bengal; and

(d) the amount allocated and utilized for end-to-end computerization of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during last three years in West Bengal?

Procurement of foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government agencies have failed to achieve the targets set for procurement of foodgrains due to farmers taking less interest in selling their produces;

(b) if so, the details of the targets set and achieved in each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the details of the price paid for the purchase of foodgrains during above period?

Import of vegetable oil

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

(a) whether import of vegetable oil is likely to fall during next year, if so, the quantum of vegetable oil imported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the quantity of vegetable oil which

is estimated to be imported during next year and its impact on the availability and price of vegetable oil in the country; and

(c) whether any corrective measures have been taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Action on letters of Members of Parliament

715. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister since August, 2014 till date;

(b) the number of letters on which interim and final reply has been sent to the Members of Parliament;

(c) the number of letters on which action has been taken and those on which action is still pending;

(d) the number of letters on which neither any reply has been sent to the Members nor any action has been taken, thereon, along with reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to avoid the situation in part (d) above?

Rise in prices of onion

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

(a) whether retail prices of onion had jumped to almost ₹ 80 per kg. in many cities in August and September this year nearly ₹ 50/- more than the average price a year ago, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether attention of Government has been drawn to an analysis made by NITI Aayog on this year's onion crisis stating that traders could have milked about ₹ 8000 crore from consumers in August-September months by manipulating prices and Government failed to use price-stabilisation instruments to deal with the crisis, if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Setting up of CCPA

717. 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 Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the proposed CCPA will have the power to inquire into violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements, besides conducting search and seizure of documents, if so, the details thereof?

Monitoring on MRP of products being sold in market

†718. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the parameter to determine the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of various products sold in the country;

(b) whether any ceiling has been fixed on the profit earned in regard to the cost price and sale price;

(c) whether Government regularly monitors the MRP of the products being

sold in the market so that the consumers could be saved from being looted; and

(d) if such a system or parameter does not exist then would Government consider taking steps in this direction?

Reforms in Consumer Commission

719. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to clear a stricter consumer protection bill with provisions to make manufacturers and service providers liable for their products and services, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is also considering to make reforms in Consumer Commission, if so, the details thereof?

Construction of new godowns

720. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of Food Corporation of India to store grains, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to construct new storage godowns in 2015-16, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Lack of awareness about procurement agency

721. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry accepts that lack of awareness or lack of access led to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

only six per cent of the farmers in India being able to sell their produce to a procurement agency according to NSSO data for 2012-13;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to increase awareness about Government procurement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to improve access, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Distribution of pulses through PDS

722. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked State Governments to make cheaper lentils available to consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections, through the Public Distribution System, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has also asked State Governments to indicate their requirement of pulses for distribution through the PDS and control, the price rise; and

(c) if so, whether Government has received the requirements from State Governments, if so, the details thereof?

Gap in demand and supply of pulses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country needs 10 million tonnes of pulses as per ASSOCHAM, considering the deficit in rainfall coupled with shortage of production of pulses in the country; and

(b) if so, how the Ministry is planning to bridge the demand-supply gap of pulses in the country in 2015-16 in view of global supply constraints?

Improper storage of foodgrains

†724. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI KANAT LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decaying of different foodgrains kept in the godowns of the country during the last five years;

(b) whether any action has been taken against any officials in this regard;

(c) whether Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has stated in its report-'The state of food insecurity in the world, 2015' that the number of persons facing hunger is higher in India than China; and

(d) if so, whether it is appropriate that on the one hand the foodgrains decay due to the improper storage and on the other hand, people starve?

Rise in price of essential food items

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

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and month-wise rate of increase in the wholesale and retail prices of essential food items and pulses-oilseeds during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether common man in under heavy financial burden due to inordinate increase in the prices of pulses;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to determine the reasons for rise in prices of pulses and failure of Government mechanism to check it;

(d) the organization working to control the rise in prices of essential food items; and

(e) the number of people held responsible for inflation and action taken against them during last two years?

Sale of foodgrains below the purchasing rate

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

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of different sub-standard foodgrains sold at a rate less than purchase rate in the last five years, the foodgrain-wise details thereof;

(b) the rate of purchase of such foodgrains during these five years and at which rate they were sold owing to low quality, year-wise details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains sold to the wine-manufacturing companies at a rate less than purchase rate during these years the details thereof?

Rise in prices of essential commodities

727. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to curb the steep price-rise of essential commodities like pulses, vegetables, onion etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for the price-rise of these commodities during the recent past?

Use of bio-diesel

728. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:
DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has set any standards for higher usages of bio-diesel in automobiles, locomotives, heavy engineering machines and generator to boost usage of green and clean energy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in the matter in orders to facilitate increased use of cost effective bio-diesel across the country?

Computerization of ration cards

729. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States the ration cards of the beneficiaries are computerized; and

(b) whether Government has set a target of computerization of PDS cards throughout the country in order to curb their duplication, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Steps to improve efficiency of PDS

730. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) is reaching the people sufficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal during the last two years;

(c) the the people who have been benefited under PDS under BPL category, during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the efficiency of PDS, especially in remote areas?

Procurement of pulses

731. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to start procuring pulses directly from farmers through NAFED and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to create buffer stock of pulses?

Rise in prices of pulses

732. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of pulses rose up to 42 per cent in October as compared to the same period last year due to hoarding;

(b) the action taken against hoarders and measures taken to bring down the prices of pulses; and

(c) whether unscrupulous traders are selling Tur (Arhar) Dal at ₹ 200 per kg. in open market whereas Kendriya Bhandar is selling it at ₹ 120 per kg. for the benefit of the people of Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

National Food Processing Policy

733. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring out National Food Processing Policy to reduce wastage of perishables and improve supply position thereof;

(b) if so, by when it would be finalized;

(c) the quantity of wastage of fruits due to their perishable nature and in terms of money during the last three years; and

(d) whether construction of cold storages and warehouses would be encouraged, both in private sector and through joint venture, for preservation of perishables and if so, the details thereof?

Schemes for promotion of FPIs in North-Eastern States

734. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of schemes being implemented by Government in North-Eastern States for promotion of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) during the last year, scheme-wise and State-wise?

Assistance to States for strengthening irrigation facilities

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is an agricultural country and is committed to strengthen the farmers and in this regard it has been announced that each and every field of farmers will be provided water for irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the policy of the Central Government in this regard and the role of States in it; and

(d) whether Government proposes to provide financial support to States to strengthen them in the field of irrigation, if so, the details thereof?

Telephone connectivity of villages

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

(a) whether a large number of villages in the country are yet to be connected with mobile telephones, if so, the details of such villages, State-wise;

(b) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges installed by Central Government in the country to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of mobile towers and telephone exchanges presently working and likely to be installed in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to connect the left out villages/areas with mobile telephones?

Electoral Photo Identity Cards

737. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in which 100 per cent Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) coverage has been achieved; and

(b) the reasons for not achieving 100 per cent EPIC coverage in other States and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Abolition of death penalty

738. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry agrees with the recommendation of the Law Commission, put forth in its 262nd report regarding abolition of death penalty for all crimes except terrorism-related offences and waging war against the State;

(b) if so, whether it is seeking to implement this recommendation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Free legal services

739. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been provided free legal services by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) or State and District Authorities State-wise and year-wise, over last ten years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of people who applied for free legal services by NALSA/State Authority/District Authority over the same period;

(c) the process of identifying eligible persons and providing free legal aid by the Government; and

(d) the details of any other measures taken by Government to ensure that each accused person has competent legal representation?

Recovery of outstanding amount from private telecom operators

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to recover the outstanding amount from private telecom operators, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, by when this outstanding amount will be recovered from them and names of the companies from which recoveries are to be made?

Utilization of funds for infrastructure development

741. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether judiciary and State Governments have failed to utilize up to 80 per cent of the funds allocated for development of infrastructure and new courtrooms in the last five years across the country;

(b) whether the funds meant for running of special morning and evening courts also reportedly remained unused so far; and

(c) if so, the details of the funds released so far and their actual utilization?

Setting up of Commercial courts

742. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up commercial courts for the expeditious disposal of commercial disputes, including disputes relating to foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when they will be set up after consultation process with the stakeholders;

(c) whether Government has suggested any activities to the judiciary in order to attract investment in the country under Make in India programme by making litigation process smoother; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps being taken in this regard?

Ban on advertisements by Election Commission

743. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether during the recently concluded elections in Bihar, the Election Commission had issued some directions banning certain advertisements, if so, the details thereof?

Alternative voting option for NRIs

†744. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalised the system to cast vote through alternative voting option by Non-Resident Indian (NRI) voters, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it is likely to be implemented/notified?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Computerization of District level courts

745. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for computerization of courts at the District level in the State of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of postal ballot and proxy voting for internal migrant workers

746. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evaluated the introduction of postal ballot and proxy for voting by internal migrant workers and their families, if so, the details thereof and time-line for introduction of the same and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has evaluated the number of migrant workers who exercised the right to vote in the 2014 General elections, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the methods through which Government plans to make internal migrant workers aware of voting methods available to them and the time-line for undertaking the same?

Control on hoarding by traders

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been taking 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 in prices of food items?

Purchase of gram and pulses from NAFED

†748. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments were asked to purchase gram and pulses directly from NAFED by the Central Government, if so, the number of times communications were made between the Centre and the States for the purchase in the last one year;

(b) the total quantity of gram pulse purchased by the States from NAFED, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a decision was taken regarding the import of pulses in view of its increasing demand, if so, when and name of the country from which pulses were purchased in its compliance along with details of rate and quantity?

Change in reservation/cancellation rules

749. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Railways have changed any of the reservation/cancellation rules recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any complaints have been received on these changes citing inconvenience to passengers; and

(c) if so, the details, thereof and the measures taken by the Ministry to solve them?

Complaints regarding Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi Express

†750. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers and tourists have to face great inconvenience due to lack of proper arrangement for food and cleaning of toilets in the Shatabdi Express and Janshabdi Express running between New Delhi and Dehradun;

(b) whether the dinner served in the Shatabdi Express returning to Delhi from Dehradun is of very inferior quality; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government for providing quality food and systematic cleaning of toilets in these two trains, the details thereof?

Dehradun-Kalsi railway line

†751. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made budgetary provision for the sanctioned Dehradun-Kalsi railway line in the budget for the year 2011;

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to start construction work of this railway line; and

(c) the complete details thereof?

Development of Railways under PPP system

752. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to adopt Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system in development of Railways in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it was tried earlier on the railway system in the country; and

(c) if so, the results thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the benefits that had accrued in the development of Railways under this system?

PPP model in development of Railways

753. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of putting PPP model in the development of Railways;

(b) the status and effective action plan in resolving the disputes between Government and the private partners in such a development; and

(c) the status of capacity enhancement and laying of tracks in underdeveloped regions of the country under this model?

Modernization of railway stations

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

(a) whether Railways have any plan to modernize all railway stations in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations selected for the purpose;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the criteria Railways follow in selection of railway stations; and

(d) the other railway stations in the country selected for modernization, the details thereof?

Agreements for railway projects in Maharashtra

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

(a) how many agreements have been signed recently between Railways and Government of Maharashtra for speedy implementation of railway projects in the State;

(b) the total number of agreements and the projects for which the agreements have been signed along with places of projects to be undertaken; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been agreed to complete these pending projects, the details thereof along with the money sanctioned, project-wise?

Railway works in Rajasthan

†756. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provisioned for construction works regarding amenities to railway passengers in Rajasthan in 2015-16, the quantum of work for which the work order has been given so far, the status of the remaining works, complete details thereof; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for laying of new railway lines, doubling of railway lines and gauge conversion in Rajasthan in 2015-16, the amount of funds in respect of which work order has been given so far,

location-wise, the status of the remaining works and complete details thereof?

Development of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in Tamil Nadu

757. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu which have been identified for development on 'as is where is' basis by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around these stations; and

(b) the details of the mechanism in place to oversee whether land and air space is used according to the norms prescribed under this method?

Feasibility study for Bullet train project

758. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility study conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the Bullet train project is the sole evaluation/assessment before an investment of approximately 98,000 crore is made in the project;

(b) whether the Ministry recognises that it is a potential conflict of interest for JICA to not just conduct a feasibility study but consequently also provide Railways with a soft loan and technology transfer for this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons why JICA is the only agency whose recommendations are being considered by Railways?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Integrated Security System

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

(a) the status of implementation of Integrated Security System (ISS), which was proposed for 202 important railway stations across the entire railway network, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to bring in more railway stations under Integrated Security System (ISS); and

(c) if so, the details of the number of railway stations identified for the purpose in the country, State-wise?

Loan for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor

760. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to take off Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor;

(b) if so, the names of the countries who offered soft loan for taking off the aforesaid corridor;

(c) whether Government has decided from whom the loan is to be taken; and

(d) if so, the quantum of loan to be taken and the percentage of interest to be paid on the aforesaid loan?

Discontinuance of pantry car facility in long distance trains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to discontinue pantry car

facility in long distance trains and introduce e-catering system, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is aware that a majority of passengers are not accustomed to the e-catering system and the passengers in long distance trains will not get even tea and snacks in the trains if the pantry car system is discontinued, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Development of railway stations through Swiss Challenger Model

762. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has envisioned a plan to redevelop around 400 stations through an innovative Public-Private Partnership model called the 'Swiss Challenger';

(b) if so, whether Railways have worked out details of the railway stations to be re-developed, including land plan indicating the area of its yard, buildings and circulating areas; and

(c) whether Railways have called potential investors for a preliminary discussion to assess the expectations of the private investors, if so, the details thereof?

Railway Medical College in Jharkhand

763. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amongst the States, Jharkhand has one of the busiest freight traffic for Railways;

(b) in which States are the five medical colleges being set up by Railways; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a Railway Medical College in Jharkhand, if not, the reasons therefor?

Railway projects during Twelfth Five Year Plan under PPP model

764. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects proposed to be taken up under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model during the Twelfth Five Year Plan in the country, State/zone-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by Railways in this regard;

(c) the details of financial implications involved therein; and

(d) the time-frame set for execution of such projects?

E-catering facilities in trains

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

(a) whether Government has decided to make available e-catering facilities in a number of trains at 45 stations across the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) the details of stations selected for this purpose; and

(c) how does Government proposes to monitor quality, quantity and issues of hygiene of the food under e-catering facility?

Eliminating Unmanned Level Crossings

766. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are going to miss the target of eliminating 10,797 Unmanned Level Crossing (ULCs) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan by huge margin, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of accidents and 60 per cent of fatalities are accounted for by ULCs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways to gear up its efforts in eliminating the ULCs by paying focussed attention to it?

Setting up of captive nuclear power plants

767. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to set up captive nuclear power plants to meet the rising demand of energy for train operations as well as reducing its power bills;

(b) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been approached for setting up captive nuclear power plants, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the move will help cash-strapped Railways which spent ₹ 8000 crore on electricity bills and ₹ 15,000 crore on diesel during the last fiscal, if so, the details thereof?

Hike in train fares

768. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train fares have been hiked two times during the year 2014-15, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action plan/steps being taken by Government to provide better facilities to passengers and for the betterment of Railways?

Railway line in Kangra Valley

769. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the narrow gauge railway line in Kangra Valley is in a bad shape;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve and modernize this railway track?

Ghanauli-Baddi railway line

770. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned Ghanauli-Baddi railway line project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has not accorded its permission for the Ghanauli-Baddi railway line project; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by Railways to seek necessary approval of the Planning Commission?

Derailment of trains

†771. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 coaches of Secunderabad-Mumbai Duronto Express and 3 coaches of Kalka-Shimla toy train in Himachal Pradesh derailed on 12 September, 2015, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the toy train had four coaches and all the passengers belonged to Britain; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain the human error and other reasons in train accidents?

Agreement with Google for wi-fi facility

†772. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have entered into any agreement with Google for providing highspeed wi-fi facility at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of railway stations earmarked/selected for this purpose and the basis on which their selection has been made;

(c) the amount of budget allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time frame earmarked for this purpose?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Faster engines and coaches

773. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce locomotive engines and train coaches which could run at a speed of 200 kilometers per hour;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by when the trial run of these engines and coaches is likely to take place?

On Board Housekeeping Services

774. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trains which have been provided with On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS);

(b) whether Government has identified more trains for providing OBHS and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revised criterion for provisions of OBHS on trains; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide OBHS facility on all long distance trains?

Charges levied on train journeys

†775. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details regarding charges levied, class-wise, on purchase of tickets, return journeys and cancellation charges from May, 2014 till date with regard to train journey?

High-speed railway lines

776. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the high-speed railway lines proposed to be laid by Railways in the country;

(b) whether Railways have asked for conducting feasibility studies on three new high speed railway lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which feasibility report is likely to be prepared; and

(d) whether Railways propose to speed up its efforts to start the work on the projects and if so, the details thereof?

Modernisation of railway stations to international standards

777. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to modernise railway stations to international standards, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the number and names of railway stations developed to international standards in the country including in Tamil Nadu, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated/spent on this, year-wise and State-wise during the above period; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ongoing/pending railway projects in Karnataka

778. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the ongoing/pending railway projects in Karnataka, project-wise;

(b) whether there are audit observations regarding inordinate delay and huge escalation of cost in these projects and if so, the reaction of Railways thereto;

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in completion and the resultant escalation of cost thereof;

(d) the details of the funds allocated/spent thereon, project-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite completion thereof to prevent further escalation of cost?

Ticketing racket on IRCTC website

779. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ticketing racket existed on the IRCTC website which could book over two lakh train tickets in thirty seconds;

(b) if so, for how long was the racket functioning; and

(c) how the racket was detected?

Disabled-friendly railway stations

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

(a) whether Government has set an

ambitious target to make 75 railway stations disabled-friendly by July, 2016;

(b) how many of the 75 railway stations have already been included in earlier schemes to make them disabled-friendly;

(c) the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana selected under the above scheme; and

(d) the details of funds allotted for this purpose by Railways?

New Rajdhani train from Goa

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to start Rajdhani train from Goa;

(b) if so, by when will the service commence;

(c) the proposed frequency of the train; and

(d) whether the train will run on the route other than the one on which the Trivandrum-Goa-Nizamuddin train runs through Goa, the details thereof?

Accidents on unmanned level crossings

782. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on the unmanned level crossings during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to contain such accidents; and

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the number of unmanned level crossings and if so, the details thereof?

Doubling of rail track between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati

783. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes doubling of railway track between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati and extending it upto Kamakhya station, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the project report thereon; and

(c) the budget allocation for 2015-16 along with the sanction details, till date, therefor?

Criteria for declaring suburban railway services as a separate zone

784. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind creating a new zone for Kolkata Metro and whether it can be replicated in other cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi that also have similar suburban rail services;

(b) the criteria that a suburban railway system must fulfil to enable it to be notified as a separate zone; and

(c) whether the above three cities fulfil that criteria and are eligible for being notified as separate zones?

Revision in train ticket booking and cancellation charges

785. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the

rates of train ticket bookings and cancellations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the charges for cancellation of reserved ticket is too high and will cost much to poor people, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will review its decision in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Stoppage of daytime travel facility to unreserved travellers in non-AC sleeper coaches

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

(a) whether Government has any plans to stop the daytime travel facility available to unreserved travellers in non-AC sleeper coaches of Express/Superfast trains; and

(b) whether railway authorities are planning any alternative such as new local trains or additional unreserved coaches in Express trains in the event of withdrawal of the facility, if so, the details thereof?

Rail Neer scam

787. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI GULAM RASOOL
BALYAWI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge Rail Neer scam has been reported/detected in Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the scam and has fixed responsibility in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would make it mandatory for vendors to provide Rail Neer in every train, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Pending railway projects

788. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would complete the incomplete railway projects in West Bengal;

(b) the details of railway projects which have been announced along with their current status of completion for West Bengal since 2000 till the year 2007, project-wise;

(c) the allocation of funds along with the disbursements made for West Bengal during the last three years; and

(d) the list of projects from the above mentioned set of projects which the Ministry is planning to shelve along with the reasons therefor and the proposed alternatives, project-wise?

Construction of overbridges

789. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many overbridges have been completed in the country during the last two years;

(b) how many overbridges are under construction and by when they are going to be completed;

(c) how many overbridges have been sanctioned where work is yet to start; and

(d) how many projects are under consideration and how long it would take to decide on them?

Unhygienic and unsanitary conditions near railway tracks

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are unhygienic and unsanitary conditions near railway tracks in Delhi and other places;

(b) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has made certain serious adverse remarks in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken to remedy the situation?

Production of coaches

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

(a) the annual target for production of coaches by Rail Coach Factories, factory-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target to produce additional coaches has not been achieved by the Rail Coach Factories for the last several years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps being taken by Government to enhance the production of coaches and wagons in order to meet the growing demands of railway traffic?

Revival of closed NTC mills

792. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to revive all textile mills managed by the National Textile Corporation, including Parvathy

Mills in Kollam and Alagappa Textiles in Thrissur;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated to each unit; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure the job security of the workers in these mills, fill up the vacancies and also to generate additional employment?

New law for betterment of weavers

†793. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed the Central Government about the day-to-day deteriorating condition of weavers living in the State; and

(b) whether Government is considering to bring a new law to address the problems of the weavers, if so, the details thereof?

Policy for closed textile mills

†794. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick textile mills which have been closed in the country, State-wise;

(b) the year-wise details of the losses being incurred because of them; and

(c) the policy proposed by Government with regard to these mills in future?

Boost to textile industry

†795. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

provide financial aid and raw materials to handicraft units/textile industry in order to make textile industry competitive at international level;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to establish textile centres in order to generate employment opportunities in textile industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof and State-wise details of the concessions and incentives given by Government for this purpose; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Cotton production

796. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is expected to emerge as the largest cotton producer in the world in 2015-16;

(b) whether cotton output in all major producing countries in the year barring India, has been anticipated to be lower than the previous season;

(c) whether the global cotton production during 2015-16 had been estimated at 23.68 million tonnes *i.e.* 8.6 per cent lower than the previous season's production of 25.90 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, whether Government expects that there would be a huge demand of cotton for exports?

Potential of textile industry in creation of jobs

797. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the textile setor has a potential to create 45 to 50 per cent of direct jobs in rural India;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for branding Indian cotton against the world labels;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether textile sector is a driving force behind Skill India and Make in India initiatives; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to harness textile sector with regard to creation of direct jobs, particularly in rural India?

providing necessary infrastructure and technical support to develop Konark Spinning Mill bestowed with state-of-the art facilities which shall be a much needed support to the languishing textile sector in Odisha;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide support for revival of three spinning mills closed down in the State due to obsolescence; and

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) proposes to open a branch at Bhawanipatna, the epicenter of cotton production in Odisha for MSP support in the interest of cotton farmers, if so, by when?

Awards for innovative design and branding in handloom sector

798. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to institute awards for innovative design and branding initiatives in handloom sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed award will be given from the year 2016 onwards, if so, the details thereof?

Revival of spinning mills in Odisha

799. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps would be taken for

Study on hank yarn requirement

800. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to take up study of hank yarn requirement in the country;

(b) whether Government is considering to modify the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to focus on technical textiles, promoting research and development, obtaining patent for products developed by the Centres of Excellence and putting a monitoring mechanism in place, if so, the details thereof?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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