

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, August 5, 2016/Sravana 14, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Replacement of conventional coaches with light-weight coaches

*211. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to replace all conventional coaches with the light-weight Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches;

(b) if so, how allocation of LHB coaches to various Divisions of Railways is conducted;

(c) the number of LHB coaches allotted to various Divisions of Railways; and

(d) the number of LHB coaches put into service, so far, in the Southern Railway, which has 6,500 conventional coaches, the largest in the country?

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team constituted to assess the damage to the Rabi crop owing to hailstorms has submitted its report to the Central Government after the survey in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Central Government has provided the amount of compensation to the State Government as per the assessment in the report, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan has demanded ₹ 4372 crore as compensation for the damages to the Rabi crops because of hailstorms, if so, by when the aforesaid amount will be sanctioned, if not, the reasons therefor?

Damage to Rabi crops due to hailstorm

†*212. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of

Disbursing compensation to kin of farmers

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is showing laxity in disbursing compensation to the kin of farmers who committed suicide due to distress in agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) by when Government would disburse compensation to the kin of farmers through State Governments?

Scheme for parity in pension of serving and retired staff of BSNL

*214. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a scheme for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) employees which will ensure parity in pension between the serving and the retired staff;

(b) whether the decision will benefit over 1.18 lakh pensioners across the country;

(c) whether this will cost an estimated ₹155 crore annually apart from ₹ 284 crore approximately to be paid in arrears; and

(d) whether this will help reduce BSNL's financial burden, if so, the details thereof?

Central assistance for promotion of Hathkargha in Rajasthan

*215. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under instructions of the Central Government, the Government of Rajasthan had constituted a State Cell for promotion of Hathkargha;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has not yet sanctioned the

related funds for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 for the said scheme, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would sanction the Central assistance to the Government of Rajasthan under the said scheme?

Development of infrastructure of courts

*216. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are enormous vacancies of judges in all the courts throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to space problem, Government is not able to fill up the vacancies;

(c) the action plan of Government to speed up disposal of pending cases through appointment of judges to full strength in all the courts of the country; and

(d) the details of Government proposal towards development of infrastructure for courts in the country?

Digital India Outreach Campaign

*217. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats connected through National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) till 30 June, 2016 under the Digital India Programme;

(b) the effectiveness of NOFN pipes and how many kilometres are operational and with what internet speed, the details thereof;

(c) the number of districts in various States, including Punjab, covered by vans under the first phase of Digital India Outreach Campaign; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to meet the target of connecting India by 2018 under NOFN?

Non-Bt. Cotton variety

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

(a) whether it is a fact that non-Bt. Cotton varieties have made a comeback in some parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the native non-Bt. Cotton varieties are more sturdy and more resilient to the vagaries of Indian weather?

National Policy on Software Products

*219. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized a National Policy on Software Products to promote talent and contribute bigger share of software products to the global market, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what would be the growth of software products sector by the next ten years and the worth of IT industry in the country and its export share in the global market; and

(c) the details of steps taken to promote creation of sustainable software product industry with innovations and cutting edge technologies?

Opposition to Telecommunications Service Priority-agnostic intermediary

*220. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom companies, in their response to TRAI's consultation paper, have opposed mandating a Telecommunications Service Priority-agnostic intermediary for the purpose;

(b) whether it is also a fact that telecom companies have demanded free data for users; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has made public, the comments it received for its consultation paper on free data, if so, the details thereof?

Payment of subsidy amount to Chhattisgarh

†*221. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest loss is being incurred by Government of Chhattisgarh because Central Government is not providing Public Distribution System subsidy amount in time; and

(b) whether the balance amount of 2014 and the amount due upto March, 2015 for subsidy of rice distribution from Central Government under various schemes is yet to be received by the State Government and whether the said subsidy will be released at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Paperless railway tickets in
Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce paperless railway tickets and railway platform tickets at all stations of Maharashtra or at some selected railway stations;

(b) whether this is going to be selective; and

(c) if so, the names of the stations and the reason for selected stations instead of all stations in Maharashtra, the details thereof?

Rise in prices of pulses

*223. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been an abnormal increase in the prices of pulses during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government proposes to import pulses from other countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has recently signed a pact with Government of

Mozambique for the import of pulses, if so, the details thereof and at what rate it is proposed to be procured?

Demand and supply of pulses

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

(a) the production and price of pulses during each of the last three years and the current year in pulses producing States; and

(b) the domestic demand and supply of pulses during the said period, including mechanism to control its prices?

**Railway link between Konark and
Paradip**

*225. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations/proposals have been received by Railways for a railway link between Konark and Paradip, if so, the details and status thereof;

(b) the present status of the Haridaspur-Paradip broad-gauge rail link project along with the time-line fixed for its completion; and

(c) the initiative taken by Government for its timely completion ?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th July, 2016
Sravana 8, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	212, 213, 218,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	—
Communications	:	214, 217, 220,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	221, 223, 224,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	219,
Food Processing Industries	:	—
Law and Justice	:	216,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Railways	:	211, 222, 225,
Textiles	:	215.