

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

Input grants for horticultural and cash crops

†2142. SHRI NARENDRA
BUDANIA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the initial
cost in horticultural crops, like orange,
mandarin orange and cash crops like cumin
seed, isabgol etc. is excessive;

(b) whether input grant is provided
considering the initial cost of crops of this
category as base, in case of crop loss; and

(c) whether Government proposes to
enhance agricultural input grants on account
of initial cost of horticultural and cash crops
being excessive, if so, by when and if not,
the reasons therefor?

Grant to farmers for damage to crops

†2143. SHRI NARENDRA
BUDANIA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which damaged crops
of farmers and the affected farmers are
estimated;

(b) whether it is a fact that the reckoning
of tenant farmers is made on the basis of
agricultural census of 2010, which is very
less than the present number; and

(c) whether Government proposes to
give grants to all the farmers who have been
actually affected, if so, by when and if not,
the reasons therefor?

Implementation of NFSM in Madhya Pradesh

†2144. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits and aims of National
Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent
for this mission by Government and the
details of amount proposed to be spent,
State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any work regarding implementation of NFSM has been executed by Government in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and current financial year, if so the details thereof?

Implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

†2145 SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked and allotted for the last two years and the current financial year under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State-wise;

(b) whether it is planned to include deep borewell or other micro irrigation schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether comprehensive district agricultural scheme is being prepared in various districts under the RKVY by Government, if so, the details thereof?

Protecting indigenous cows

2146. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to open more and more gaushalas in the country so that abandoned cows are spared of any kind of cruelty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to promote indigenous cows in a big way to counter the effects of climate change on country's milk production; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that milk production in the country will decline by over 3 million tonnes per annum by 2020 due to global warming, if so, the details thereof?

Concept of Krishi Vikas Vriksh

†2147. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the mandis that have been connected, so, far, to National Agriculture Market, State-wise, and the number and names of mandis that shall be connected by September, 2016; and

(b) the details of the concept of Krishi Vikas Vriksh and the programme under the same and the details of the annual action plan formulated to double the income of farmers through a time-bound programme in the coming five years?

Focus on crop diversification and allied activities

2148. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked farmers to focus on crop diversification and go for allied activities like dairy, poultry and food processing to boost income; and

(b) if so, the incentives being provided by Government to farmers for crop diversification?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Wastage of grains etc. in storage and transportation

2149. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that wastage of grains, vegetables and fruits etc. during transit and storage is 30 per cent, which is very high; and

(b) whether Government is serious to improve storage and transportation facilities to save precious production of our agriculture/horticulture produces, if so, the details thereof;

Sale of sub-standard seeds

2150. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the increasing trend of sub-standard seed market; and

(b) whether it is being ensured by enforcement agencies that genuine varieties are grown to produce quality seeds and the same are packed and sold as seed only, if so, the details thereof?

Organic farming in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2151. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the plans and programme that Government has for organic farming in the country, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) the reasons that in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana organic farming is not catching up;

(c) the role of ICAR in providing technological support to farmers for taking up organic farming; and

(d) the details of technologies developed by ICAR that have reached to farm level in the last five years and the current year?

Productivity of coconut, chilli, oilpalm and papaya in Andhra Pradesh

2152. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that productivity of coconut, chilli, oilpalm and papaya is highest in Andhra Pradesh compared to other States;

(b) if so, the special incentives Government is going to extend to Andhra Pradesh to improve its productivity of above crops as also for other crops like mango, banana, tomato, onion, etc., where the State has got a strong base;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start Horticulture Mission in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

Doubling the income of farmers

2153. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that Government is not clarifying whether it proposes to double the present income of farmers by 2022 or provide support price double of the cost of production in 2022 to farmers;

(b) whether the committee, constituted under the chairmanship of Additional

Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, for doubling the income of farmers, has submitted its report, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and by when it is likely to submit its report?

**Establishment of offices under
Ministry of Agriculture in
Amaravati**

2154. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated setting up of its offices/departments in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether procurement of land and infrastructure are needed for this purpose from the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether any requests have been made to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Implementation of Pradhan Mantri
Fasal Bima Yojana**

2155. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN
DAS:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the details of the insurance companies which have been allowed under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana;

(b) whether private companies have been allowed under the said scheme and

public sector insurance companies, which have wide reach, have not been allowed, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons and rationale for the same?

**Amount of compensation paid to
farmers by insurance companies**

†2156. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of premium paid to insurance companies by Central and State Governments and farmers under Agriculture Insurance Scheme in last two years and the amount of compensation paid to farmers by insurance companies, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of farmers insured under new Agriculture Insurance Policy and the amount paid to insurance companies by farmers, Central and State Governments, the details thereof?

Assessment of cotton crop loss

2157. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the methodology used for assessing the cotton crop loss/damage in Punjab and other States;

(b) whether appointment of the assessing individuals or agencies is undertaken by the Central or State Government in Punjab and other States; and

(c) the time-period over which the assessment was conducted in Punjab and whether the Ministry received periodic

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

review reports during the assessment period?

Compensation for cotton crop loss

2158. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the amount of compensation paid by Government of Punjab for cotton crop loss due to whitefly attack, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total area, in lakh hectares, under which cotton crop was cultivated during the year 2015-16 and the area in which the crop was damaged; and

(c) the total area, in lakh hectares, of cotton crop cultivation for which the compensation was awarded by the Revenue Department of the Government of Punjab?

De-listing of fruits and vegetables from States' APMC Act, 1963

2159. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Maharashtra has recently delisted fruits and vegetables from State's Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, 1963 despite stiff opposition and strike by APMC, to protect the interests of farmers of the State;

(b) whether Government proposes to issue advisory to all States to follow the example of Maharashtra to protect the farmers; and

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

Performance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

2160. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements of the Ministry in the last two years;

(b) whether presentation has been made before the Prime Minister about Ministry's last two years' achievements, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has fallen short of its targets and where it has excelled;

(d) the targets set for the coming three years and the road-map to achieve the same;

(e) the details of difficulties brought before the Prime Minister and suggestions made to overcome them; and

(f) the details of core areas the Ministry is going to focus on in the coming three years?

Average income of agricultural household

2161. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average income of an agricultural household in the country and their monthly savings; and

(b) the extent to which Government has accomplished its target of implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission which provides that the Minimum Support Price of crops for farmers should be at least 50 per cent higher than the cost of cultivation?

Acquisition of land in Myanmar and Mozambique for production of pulses

2162. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has acquired land in Myanmar and Mozambique for production of pulses on contract farming basis, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of import of pulses during the last two years and the details of buffer stock thereof at present?

Increasing the income of farmers

2163. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the article captioned "A thought for Food," published in an English daily on 18 July, 2016;

(b) whether it is a fact that the major roadblocks for increasing income of farmers are the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act and the Essential Commodities Act;

(c) if so, what way Government will find solutions to allow farmers to sell directly to the buyers without intermediaries;

(d) whether interim action or steps have been proposed in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to help farmers get the full benefits of market demand for their crops?

All India single market for farmers

2164. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural market segmentation prevents gains for farmers as it reduces competition, efficient resource allocation and high number of intermediaries between farmers and buyers;

(b) what have been identified presently as the major causes of agricultural market segmentation;

(c) how does Government propose to reduce the negatives of market segmentation in the short run;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to bring about an all-India single market for agriculture; and

(e) if so, the details of creating a single market for farmers across the country in 2016-17?

Loss to farmers due to climate change

†2165. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crops have been damaged, the production and the income of farmers has decreased due to sudden change in climate;

(b) if so, the total loss incurred to farmers due to this reason during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether sudden change in climate has caused heavy rainfall, hailstorm, cyclone, less rainfall, drought etc.; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the names of areas which are affected by such abnormal weather system?

Research and development in Agriculture sector

2166. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of agricultural development in the country;

(b) whether the amount of investment on research and development in Agriculture sector is not adequate, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for and spent on agricultural research in the country during the last three years and the current year, State and year-wise;

(d) whether Government has stressed on the need for more research in Agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds for research and development in agriculture, if so, the details thereof?

Single cropping in Jharkhand

†2167. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total geographical area of Jharkhand is 79.70 lakh hectares, out of which agriculture is done on 23.62 lakh hectares only, which is 28 per cent of the total land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent area of the arable land in the State is under single cropping;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agricultural output in the State is less as big portion of the land is not fertile; and

(d) if so, whether Government would run any special programme in order to make infertile, inferior and barren land arable?

Vacant posts of agricultural scientists

2168. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;

(b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists, against sanctioned posts, are lying vacant in the country, including in institutions of ICAR;

(c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitution of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB); and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

Policy to boost production of pulses

2169. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has formed a panel for formulating a long term policy framework to boost output of pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the panel has been asked to look into interventions at the farm policy level, including reasonable increase in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Minimum Support Prices for the pulses and bonus for farmers for producing pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to submit its report?

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

†2170. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been launched to save the farmers from crisis due to crop damage caused by vagaries of weather;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount allocated under this scheme in the current financial year;

(c) the mandatory conditions for farmers to join this scheme; and

(d) the total insurance cover and the premium amount therefor under this scheme for the damaged foodgrains, oilseeds and cotton and whether there is any cap on premium, if so, the details thereof?

Average income of farmers

2171. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' in 2015-16 to calculate the average income of farmers;

(b) whether the average income of farmers in comparison to the workers in industrial and service sectors is generally low; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the survey?

Sowing of Kharif crops

2172. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sowing of Kharif crops is lagging behind last year's levels and is likely to pick up in coming weeks as deficient monsoon in June has turned surplus by mid-July;

(b) whether as many as thirty two of country's meteorological sub-divisions have recorded normal to excess rainfall;

(c) whether delayed onset of monsoon resulting in late plantings is unlikely to affect acreages with even a jump in area sown under all crops, barring, may be, cotton and soyabean; and

(d) whether surplus rains this season, due to AI-Nino factor, is likely to help recharge ground water level leading to good Rabi crop as well?

Steps to boost the income of farmers

†2173. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the policy of liberalization in place, there has been no substantial change in the conditions of farmers and deprived people;

(b) if so, the steps taken during last three years for promotion of agriculture and other means of employment so that

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

agriculture sector and income of farmers could get a boost; and

(c) the details of enhancement in income of farmers during last one decade and the details about migration from villages on account of agriculture being abandoned by people during this period?

Area of land under cultivation of pulses

2174. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the existing gap between demand and supply of pulses;

(b) the area of land under cultivation of pulses in the country and whether there has been no increase in this area; and

(c) whether any incentive has been offered to farmers to increase production of pulses?

Production of pulses and cereals

2175. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in talks with other countries for long term supply contracts of pulses that will encourage farmers in those countries to produce more, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is increasing the MSP for pulses and other cereals to encourage Indian farmers to grow more pulses and cereals to bridge the gap between demand and supply; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to encourage Indian farmers?

Whitefly attack on cotton crops

2176. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a substantial area under the cotton cultivation in Punjab and Haryana was affected by whitefly attack during 2015-16;

(b) if so, the quantum of area, in lakh hectares, under cotton cultivation and the area in which the crop was damaged;

(c) the amount of compensation paid by Government to the farmers for the loss of cotton crop in major cotton producing States; and

(d) the steps taken by Central and State Governments to check whitefly epidemic?

Adverse effect of insecticides on gene/DNA synthesis

2177. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the insecticides being used in India have been found to be impeding the gene/DNA synthesis; and

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Availability of milk

2178. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of buffalo meat has increased four fold between 2009-10 and 2014-15;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the corresponding period, the population of buffalo in the country has come down; and

(c) if so, whether it has raised some apprehensions about its impact on domestic milk availability?

Providing Centrta Agricultural University status to Pusa Agricultural Institute

†2179. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to make Pusa Agricultural Institute as a Central Agricultural University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of budget provision made, and the time by when action will be initiated on this work?

Whitefly attack on cotton crops in Punjab

2180. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fear of whitefly infestation has led to biggest drop in areas under cotton cultivation in Punjab, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to help Punjab Government to meet the situation?

Setting up of rice/paddy research centre in Andhra Pradesh

2181. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up a sub-regional centre of rice/paddy research centre in Naira, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, post-bifurcation; and

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

Revival of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited

2182. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to revive Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to revive the said unit from the sale of landholding it has, if so, the details thereof?

Jan Aushadhi Stores

†2183. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores opened since its inception till date and the total number of Stores proposed to be opened for providing generic medicines at affordable rates;

(b) the details of Jan Aushadhi Stores functioning in the country, State-wise, including in Assam and Uttar Pradesh; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount spent by Government till date under this scheme and under which heads?

fall in global prices of input costs to farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Broadening the ambit of NPPA

2184. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to broaden the mandate of NPPA and include all essential medicines listed by Department of Pharmaceuticals under its ambit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the details of action being taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether a number of life saving and other patented/branded drugs, including those for treatment of cancer, AIDS, diabetes etc. are outside the ambit of NPPA and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government proposes to include such drugs under NPPA, if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in prices of key fertilizers

2185. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a big relief to farmers Government has reduced prices of key fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that reduction in prices will entail a benefit of ₹ 4,500 crore to farmers; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is passing on the benefits of

Production of fertilizers

2186. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether production of fertilizers in the country is sufficient to meet the local demand;

(b) if so, the details of production of all types of fertilizers in the country during the last two years; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for importing fertilizers from foreign countries?

Ethanol requirement by the chemical industry in the country

2187. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemical industry is the second biggest user of ethanol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its quantity used during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the total requirement of ethanol by the chemical industry in the country, particularly in the State of Odisha;

(d) whether there is a shortage of domestically produced ethanol and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase production of ethanol to meet the demand?

Controlling the prices of medicines

2188. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to control prices of many medicines;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this direction so far; and

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

Revival of closed fertilizer plants

2189. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether revival of closed fertilizer plants at Talcher, Ramagundam, Barauni, Gorakhpur and Sindri is fast progressing;

(b) whether revival plans have been approved by the Cabinet, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of revival of these fertilizer plants?

CAG report on understatement of revenue

2190. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG report tabled in the Parliament on 12 March, 2016 on understatement of revenue by telecom operators, found six leading telecom operators understanding their gross revenue of over ₹ 46,000 crore between 2006-07 and 2009-10, causing a loss of ₹ 12,488.93 crore to Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to recover the loss incurred to the exchequer;

(c) whether Government has announced a special audit of these six telecom operators to re-evaluate the findings presented in the CAG report; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether this special audit will be carried out by the CAG?

Facilities under NOFN to Karnataka

2191. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in implementation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) in the country, State/ Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the details of facilities being provided to people under the said scheme in Karnataka?

Sim cards sold on basis of fake identity

2192. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints that Sim cards for mobile phones are being sold on the basis of fake identity proofs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of internet services in Rajasthan

†2193. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of the schemes formulated by Central Government to expand internet services in the rural areas of Rajasthan; and

(b) the names of cities of Rajasthan covered under 4G services at present and names of important cities and tourist places where 4G services would be made available by the end of this year, the details thereof?

Challenge to the imposition of penalty on telecoms for call drops

†2194. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government to impose penalty on telecom companies against call drops was challenged by the companies in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave its verdict in favour of the companies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating adopting alternative measures to deal with the problem of call drops and to protect the interests of the consumers and if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies in Rajasthan under Department of Communications and Information Technology

†2195. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the District-wise number of sanctioned and vacant posts in various categories under the Department of Communications and Information Technology in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that targeted works are getting

delayed due to vacancies in this Department, if so, by when these posts will be filled-up; and

(c) the number of such Saansad Adarsh Grams in Rajasthan which are covered under overall services of the Department and the factual position of all the Saansad Adarsh Grams in terms of Information Technology, the details thereof?

Amendment in Unified Licence

2196. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications has amended the Unified License, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it means that the consumer can now call phone numbers from online voice service providers;

(c) whether the country has sufficient handsets which support Voice over Long Term Evolution; and

(d) if not, the reasons for amending the licence beforehand?

New system of postal delivery

†2197. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to introduce a new system of postal delivery to deliver the speed post, registry and parcel on the same day of booking;

(b) whether Government is planning to start logistic services for postal delivery in all the district centres of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the number of district centres where logistic service has been started so far; and

(d) the number of post offices in Maharashtra which are currently working under Core Banking System and whether any time-frame has been fixed for starting online services in all the post offices?

False publicity of mobile networks by telecoms

†2198. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain mobile operators are making false publicity about their sound network, while the real condition is contrary to it;

(b) whether TRAI has taken action on the complaints received in this regard;

(c) whether TRAI has also issued guidelines that the mobile operators should keep their helpline number free-of-cost; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons behind not keeping the helpline service free-of-cost?

Relaxation in norms for opening post offices

†2199. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has relaxed the norms for opening post offices in remote, tribal, hilly and border States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the goals set by Government for setting up or upgrading the branches of post offices during the current plan period?

Telecom spectrum auction

2200. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI. AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently cleared mega telecom spectrum auction plan that would offer high-speed data, help reduce call drops etc, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the estimated revenue that is expected from the auction;

(c) whether this would increase the cost of operation of mobile service providers and consequently passed on to the customers, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC), which telecom firms have to pay, has been decided; and

(e) if not, when and who will decide the payment of SUC?

Villages with access to telecom services

2201. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all inhabited villages in the country have not been covered with access to telecom services at affordable price though Government is releasing huge subsidies to telecom companies under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) since one and half decades, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is having steady monitoring mechanism on the expenditure of these funds and services delivered by the service providers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the year-wise funds collected under Universal Access levy (UAL) and expenditure since inception?

Internet facility for full year

†2202. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to provide internet facility for full year in just ₹100;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard; and

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

State Food Commissions

2203. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Food Commissions for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of the National Food Security Act, are in place in all States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the names of States where the Commission is not in place and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete formation of the Commissions?

Release of subsidy fund to FCI

2204. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to delayed and inadequate release of subsidy fund to FCI, it often needs to resort to raising short term loans and exhausting its cash credit limit of ₹54,000 crore with designated banks; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the FCI had raised about ₹2000 crore each as short term loans in financial year 2014, financial year 2015 and financial year 2016, if so, the details thereof?

Using e-pass machine to check pilferage

†2205. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the States which have shown interest in using e-pass machine to check pilferage in ration system and the number of ration shops where ration is being provided under this system, State-wise;

(b) whether satisfactory steps have been taken in Uttar Pradesh in respect of this system; and

(c) whether any study has been conducted to see that the pilferage of food stuff has been curbed or not in the distribution of ration with the use of e-pass machine?

Rise in price of sugar and other food items

†2206. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware that despite having sufficient stock of sugar in the country, a huge jump in the price of sugar has been witnessed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been phenomenal increase in the prices of other food items over last few months, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to reduce the price of sugar and other food items upto that level which is affordable, especially for the consumers?

Allocation of foodgrains for tea garden workers in Assam under TPDS

2207. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Assam more than 20 lakh tea garden workers and their dependents are being allocated rice and wheat by the Central Government for the last more than 50 years under TPDS, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government is planning to discontinue the age old practice of allocation of foodgrains for the welfare of tea garden workers and their dependents in future, if so, the details thereof?

Transparency in PDS

†2208. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated/proposed any scheme to make food and Public Distribution System (PDS) transparent and sound, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government if also formulating any scheme wherein subsidy would directly be transferred in the accounts of concerned persons, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Production, consumption and import of sugar

2209. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production, consumption and import sugar in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether Government intends to reduce the sugar import; and

(c) whether Government has extended subsidy on export of raw sugar, if so, the details thereof?

Proposal to connect old depot holders with any other scheme

†2210. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) has decreased at a large scale in Delhi, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether kerosene oil depots have been closed due to kerosene-free Delhi drive;

(c) whether Government is bringing any proposal to connect the old depot owners (licence holders) with any other scheme, if so, by when and the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether ration shopkeepers are also facing difficulties in getting their livelihood through FPS shops, if so, whether Government is considering this issue, the details thereof?

Complaints against technology-based marketing firms

2211. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received against technology-based marketing firms, including e-commerce companies, telemarketing companies etc. during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of defaulting companies along with the action taken against them, including fine collected from the defaulting companies during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide protection to the consumers against such malpractices, including the safeguards which have been made a part of the amended Consumer Protection Act, 1986?

Rotting of foodgrains in the godowns of FCI

2212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of foodgrains rot in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last four years, year-wise;

(c) the revenue lost by FCI due to rotting of foodgrains during the said period; and

(d) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

Outstanding claims under LSPEF

2213. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Sugar has issued directions for payment of difference of cost of sugar to States under LSPEF;

(b) whether there are any outstanding claims of Rajasthan State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Jaipur;

(c) if so, why LSPEF claims have not been released to the Corporation;

(d) whether any outstanding subsidy claims of the Corporation are also pending for non-lifting Levy Sugar from Lokmangal Sugar Mill because of revised policy of procurement of sugar from open market; and

(e) if so, whether Central Government will issue directions to its concerned authorities to settle the outstanding subsidy claims?

Norms to protect direct selling agents

2214. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bring in new norms to protect direct selling agents, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the direct selling industry is set to touch nearly ₹ 2000 crore by 2025, if so, the details thereof?

Storage of wheat in open plinth

2215. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total storage capacity of wheat and rice of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the country; and

(b) the quantity of wheat stored in the open plinth by FCI on an average in the last three years?

Wastage of foodgrains due to lack of storage facilities

2216. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of foodgrains in the country is wasted due to lack of storage facilities;

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

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to avoid wastage of foodgrains due to lack of storage facility; and

(d) the details of hired, acquired and built storage facilities for storage of foodgrains for the last three years, State-wise?

Rotting of wheat in Punjab

†2217. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

lakhs of tonnes of wheat has rotten in Punjab due to lying in the open;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat which has rotten and the cost of the same; and

(c) the reasons owing to which the wheat could not be stored in the godowns?

Rise in price of sugar

†2218. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that owing to deregulation of sugar sector in the country, the prices of sugar are spiralling up by the day;

(b) if not, the details of retail prices of sugar during the financial years 2013-14 and 2015-16;

(c) whether Government has formulated any action plan to reduce the prices of sugar; and

(d) if not, how would Government Control the spiralling prices of sugar?

Dues of subsidy amount of rice

†2219. 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 Chhattisgarh has procured 63.08 lakh tonne paddy in 2015, which will produce 42.26 lakh tonne of rice;

(b) whether out of that, Civil Supply Corporation had to get 10 lakh tonne rice

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and FCI 32.26 lakh tonne, but Civil Supply Corporation had got only 4.71 lakh tonne and FCI 5.66 lakh tonne rice only;

(c) whether Centre has not issued the subsidy of ₹100.19 crore on rice distributed in 2004-05 under the National Food of Work Programme; and

(d) whether as per part C, subsidy amount on rice since 2002-03 under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana has not been paid?

Freight and labour charges at ICP Attari

2220. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour charges and freight charges at Integrated Check Post (ICP) Attari are much higher than at any other land port in the region like Jalandhar, Ludhiana etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons to impose labour charges when no labour work is involved and all the process is automated; and

(c) whether trucks coming at ICP Attari at 9.00 A.M. and at 7.00 P.M. are charged for full day, if so, the reasons for warehousing charges not being on clock cycle basis?

Dues of sugarcane farmers

2221. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of reduction in sugarcane production in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether sugarcane farmers are not getting MSP, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the total amount of farmers' dues towards mill owners in these States in 2013-14 and 2014-15; and

(d) the action Government is taking to resolve the issue of non payment of dues to farmers?

Payment of dues to sugarcane farmers

2222. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears due to sugarcane farmers from sugar mills/factories since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers affected by such overdue payments in each State, year-wise, since 2010;

(c) the number of companies/business owners who have received loans from Government to help pay these arrears; and

(d) the proportion of Government loan amount that has been paid to farmers as arrears?

Completion of process of issuing Aadhaar cards

2223. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) in how many States the work of issuing of Aadhaar cards has been completed and in how many States, the work is still in progress;

(b) the approximate number of people

covered by Aadhaar cards in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether cases of duplicate, ineligible enrolment of Aadhaar cards have been reported;

(d) if so, the action taken to investigate and penalize delinquent operator or enrolment agency, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the task of issuing of Aadhaar cards to people living throughout the country, as on 1 January, 2016, would be completed, the details thereof?

Digitalization of the country under Digital India programme

2224. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed and met in the digitalization of the country through Digital India so far;

(b) the details of funds allocated/ released/utilised for the purpose;

(c) to what extent the Digital India programme has penetrated in the rural areas/ villages of the country;

(d) whether infrastructure for 100 per cent digitalization of rural areas has been established/provided; and

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

State-Wide Area Network project in Tamil Nadu

2225. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken State-Wide Area Network (SWAN) project in the State of Tamil Nadu to connect State headquarters up to the Block level *via* District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps per link; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this project in the State of Tamil Nadu?

Setting up of Software Technology Parks of India

2226. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical as well as the financial targets fixed and achieved for setting up of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres in the country for the current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has any proposal to develop new Information Technology (IT) cities in the country, especially in the newly formed State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

Attracting FDI and formulating special schemes for FPIs

†2227. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for the establishment of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any impact of this

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

investment on the growth of FPIs, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has formulated any special scheme to encourage/boost FPIs in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on food products

2228. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the amount of subsidy being given by Government on food products, the details thereof for the last two years?

Schemes for promotion of FPIs

†2229. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme to promote Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) the facilities being provided to farmers for establishing food processing units under existing policy; and

(c) whether, keeping in view the fact that vegetables are grown on large scale in and around Buxar in Bihar, Government would formulate any scheme for establishing processing units, especially vegetable based, and implement it?

Steps to resolve delay in appointment of Judges

†2230. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 per cent of posts of Judges were vacant in the year 2002, which increased to 22 per cent in 2016;

(b) whether delay in appointment of Judges in judiciary is due to disagreement between Government and judiciary with regard to selection system;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a situation; and

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

Pending court cases

†2231. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending as on date in District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court, the details thereof and at which level the highest number of such cases are pending; and

(b) the measures taken to speed up the judicial process and quick adjudication of cases relating to social issues?

Fast Track Courts to deal with cases of women's rights

†2232. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of cases related to women's rights are pending in courts, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to set up Fast Track Courts for disposing of matter related to rights of women, specially single women, if so, the number of persons getting benefit from it, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Steps to implement Uniform Civil Code

2233. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the details of steps taken, if any, by Government to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country, apart from requesting the Law Commission to examine its implementation?

Change in procedure for appointment of Judges

2234. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to change the procedure for appointment of Judges in High Courts in view of large scale vacancies in High Courts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal; and

(c) how much time will be taken to introduce the new procedure for appointment of Judges?

Appointment of Judges and disposal of pending cases

2235. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) regarding appointment in judiciary, which was sent to the Ministry by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government would go ahead and fill up the vacancies pending finalization of the MoP;

(c) the number of vacancies in the

Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts at present; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure speedy disposal of crores of pending cases in the judiciary?

Policy to dispose of pending court cases

†2236. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a concrete policy is yet to be framed to dispose of crores of cases pending before the Courts, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the number of cases disposed of during the last three years, out of the cases pending before the lower courts upto the Supreme Court alongwith the number of cases remaining to be disposed of?

Fast Track Courts

†2237. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate Fast Track Courts have been set up in the country by Government to dispose of the cases which have been pending for several years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of old cases disposed of during the last two years in the country?

National Litigation Policy

2238. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

a National Litigation Policy in order to reduce the backlog of cases in courts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the proposed policy will include measures to avoid unnecessary litigation as well as inter-Ministerial litigation in Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has identified obsolete laws, Amendments Acts and Appropriation Acts for repeal, if so, the details thereof?

Steps to clear backlog of pending cases

2239. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of cases pending in High Courts and the Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of vacant seats of Judges in High Courts, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of seats in High Courts, State-wise?

Judge-Population ratio and clearance of backlog of pending cases

2240. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Justice of India had recently attributed over three crore pending cases to a huge gap in the Judge-Population ratio and had sought 70,000 more Judges to clear the backlog;

(b) the main reason for the huge gap in the Judge-Population ratio;

(c) the manner in which Government is going to meet the alarming situation; and

(d) the details thereof along with the target date to overcome the problem?

Family Courts

†2241. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present condition and role of Family Courts in dealing with increasing family/domestic violence in the country;

(b) the number of cases disposed of by these Courts during the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the total number of Family Courts in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether there is any fixed time-limit to dispose of cases related to domestic/family violence in these Courts; and

(e) whether functioning of the said Courts is reviewed from time to time?

Online voting by defence and para-military personnel

2242. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would consider online voting through PIN for eligible defence and para-military personnel who are on duty at remote areas during elections;

(b) if so, by when the Ministry would consider implementing such measures; and

(c) if not, how the Ministry proposes to resolve the issue in order to ensure that the defence and para-military personnel are also able to exercise their right of adult franchise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Legal Information Management and Briefing System

2243. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made so far for implementation of the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS);

(b) the funds earmarked and spent so far for the same;

(c) whether project coordinators for LIMBS have been appointed by every Ministry, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the System is likely to be operational?

Kannur-Mysore railway line

2244. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Kannur-Mattannur-Mysore railway line is under consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof?

Routes of high-speed trains

†2245. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when and the routes on which high-speed trains are likely to be run as reports for trial of these trains are coming continuously;

(b) the speed, per-hour, of high-speed trains and the total expenditure to be incurred on their operation; and

(c) the time by when regular operation of these trains will start, the details thereof?

Facilities for poor people in general bogies of trains

†2246. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Railways to provide facilities to the poor people travelling in general bogies;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways is making special efforts to increase the speed of trains and provide more facilities; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these efforts are being made keeping in view the medium and high income group people, the details thereof?

Executive lounges at railway stations

2247. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway has set up executive lounges at New Delhi Railway Station for providing value added services to passengers, if so, the complete details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to set up similar lounges at railway stations in various cities of Gujarat and in not, the reasons therefor?

Solar-powered locomotives

2248. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have initiated steps to run solar-powered locomotives on main-line routes to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to utilize solar energy for traction needs of Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Concession to domestic tourists in luxury trains

†2249. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering upon giving concession in fares to domestic tourists boarding luxury trains;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken by Government in this regard; and

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

Alternative scheme for passengers of reserved class

†2250. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to extend alternative scheme for passengers of reserved class;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far; and

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

Railway works with regard to Ujjain Mahakumbh

†2251. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets set, works

carried out and pending in respect of railway works with regard to Ujjain Mahakumbh, 2016; and

(b) the significance of converting Ujjain-Fatehabad metre-gauge line into broad-gauge line to cut-short the distance between Ujjain and Indore, and details of measures that would be adopted for this gauge conversion?

Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme in Rajasthan

†2252. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stations in Rajasthan proposed to be developed under Adarsh Station Scheme;

(b) the amount allotted to the State of Rajasthan by Government under this scheme; and

(c) the details of work done on the railway stations selected under this scheme?

Trains from Rajasthan to Haridwar

†2253. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of routes and trains running to Haridwar from various places of Rajasthan;

(b) the extent of passenger burden on these trains from the State of Rajasthan to Haridwar; and

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to increase the frequency of trains or run new trains to Haridwar from the State of Rajasthan, if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Exporting rail coaches and engines to other countries

2254. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are exporting rail coaches and engines to any country;

(b) if so, the number of engines and coaches exported country-wise during the last three years with amount in INR; and

(c) whether there is any plan to export rail coaches and engines to some other countries in near future?

Heavy expenditure on subsidies

†2255. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways incur heavy expenditure every year on subsidy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have done away with different types of subsidies being given on tickets in order to reduce the burden of subsidy and propose to further end other subsidies, if so, the details thereof?

Deficiencies in facilities at railway stations

†2256. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following recent visit by a Parliamentary Committee to a number of Divisions including Delhi, it was found that railway stations lack many facilities, the details thereof;

(b) whether this Committee found many deficiencies at Hazrat Nizamuddin, Old Delhi, New Delhi and Anand Vihar railway stations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove these deficiencies?

Pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh

†2257. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2366 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18 December, 2015 and state:

(a) whether any target has been set for doubling of Jagdalpur-Koraput railway line, construction of Jharsuguda-Bilaspur flyover/bypass and laying of third and fourth lines on Bilaspur-Anuppur, Jharsuguda-Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon-Nagpur rail routes and completion of construction of flyover/bypasses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Requisitions of MPs for HOR quota

2258. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether touts have become active once again in Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the number of touts arrested during current year till date, Zone-wise;

(c) whether tickets under HOR quota are being confirmed on requisitions of some MPs on mandatory basis daily, while requisitions of other MPs are denied citing demand and supply of berths under HOR quota, if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons why demand and supply gap do not apply in case of some MPs who secure berths on mandatory basis in each and every train daily?

Roof-top travelling on trains

2259. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of roof-top travelling on trains in certain areas of the country;

(b) the details of accidents occurred due to this dangerous travelling and revenue loss to Railways due to this ticket-less travelling during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to stop both these menaces?

Sonnagar-Dankuni section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

2260. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister is aware that despite the passage of several years, the Sonnagar-Dankuni section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) has not been completed leading to the incompleteness of EDFC and severely hampering growth prospects in West Bengal;

(b) the State-wise details of progress of EDFC, including the Sonnagar-Dankuni section along with issue faced and the expected period of its completion; and

(c) the details of funding pattern for EDFC project, including loan component received from the world Bank and expenditure incurred till date year-wise and State-wise?

Modernizing railway stations through PPP mode

2261. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop and modernize major railway stations under the PPP mode, if so the details thereof;

(b) how many railway stations at present are being modernized under the PPP mode;

(c) the details and the names of railway stations; and

(d) the status of these railway stations and how much time will be taken to modernize these railway stations?

Vacancies in Railway Police Force

2262. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies to be filled-up in Railway Police Force, rank-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for not filling-up such vacant posts?

Integrated security plan for railway stations

2263. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are preparing an integrated security plan for selected railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this project;

(c) the names of the railway stations selected for implementation of the said plan at the initial stage; and

(d) the other measures taken by Railways to provide foolproof security at vulnerable stations?

Development of Sabarmati railway station

†2264. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ahmedabad, being a metropolitan city and Kalupur station being centrally located in Ahmedabad, railway traffic is overburdened there;

(b) whether in view of the above, there is any proposal to develop Sabarmati railway station as an additional terminal station of Ahmedabad so as to reduce the burden of railway traffic on Ahmedabad and Kalupur railway stations to some extent;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop any other railway stations in order to reduce the burden of railway traffic on Ahmedabad and Kalupur railway stations; and

(d) the steps taken so far to develop integrated rail network at Ahmedabad?

Inconvenient new rail coaches

2265. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the newly-inducted rail coaches are inaccessible and despite their paying capacity, the differently-abled people find it inconvenient to travel in higher classes like 3AC or 2AC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for making the new rail coaches user un-friendly to the differently-abled people;

(c) the details of trains which have been provided with new and modern coaches since last three years; and

(d) the details and names of trains which are likely to be inducted with new and modern rail coaches in the current year?

Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Udaipur railway line

2266. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work of gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Udaipur railway line has been taken up;

(b) if so, the time-frame for completion of the project;

(c) the present position of the same in Gujarat section; and

(d) whether the budget provision for 2016-17 is sufficient for the project implementation?

Capacity creation by Railways

2267. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Railways for speedy capacity creation;

(b) the important areas identified by Railways for investment; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by Railways to generate sufficient internal surplus to meet the investment requirements?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Solar power for purifying
contaminated water at
railway stations**

2268. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the fact that lakhs of passengers are consuming unsafe drinking water at various railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Railways to ensure that passengers get safe and pure water to drink free-of-cost;

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal to use solar power for purifying and filtering contaminated water at railway stations to avoid water borne diseases; and

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

Non-conventional energy sources

2269. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal for utilisation of non-conventional energy sources as an alternative to diesel and electric power, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total funds likely to be allocated in this regard?

Release of berths under HO quota

2270. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIP references for release of HQ quota to the Minister of Railways (Reservation Cell) are not being given priority in recent times;

(b) if so, whether complaints have been regularly received against officials of MR Cell (Return Reservation) for deliberate, biased and irregularities in treatment of VIP references;

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

(d) whether representations from Members of Parliament have been received against such officials;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

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

**Maintenance of Ghaziabad railway
station**

2271. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the platforms at Ghaziabad railway station under Northern Railway Zone are not being maintained and cleaned properly;

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

(c) whether entries to the railway station from city side and Vijay Nagar side are full of encroachment by Autowalas, Rehariwalas, Rickshawwalas, etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways to maintain the Ghaziabad railway station and its entry sides properly?

**Rate contracts for food articles in
North Central Railway**

2272. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rate contracts for various food articles under the departmental

catering in North Central Railway, especially for Allahabad/Kanpur;

(b) whether the PAD items are not included for rate contracts under departmental catering, especially for Allahabad/Kanpur;

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

(d) whether any arrangements have been made for sale of such PAD items under departmental catering in the absence of rate contracts, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the rate contracts for PAD items under departmental catering in North Central Railway will be finalised?

Survey report for new railway line projects in Karnataka

2273. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of action taken on the survey report for new railway line projects in Karnataka;

(b) the estimated cost of the projects;

(c) the time-frame set for completion of the said projects; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite the work on the said projects?

Expanding public services of IRCTC

2274. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the hurdles in expanding the public services of IRCTC;

(b) the details of private booking websites carrying the same role of IRCTC; and

(c) the details of such private agencies authorized so far?

Restructuring of Ministry of Railways/Railway Board

2275. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to restructure Ministry of Railways/Railway Board;

(b) if so, the arguments therefor;

(c) the Government's stand on that; and

(d) the NITI Aayog's take on this?

Train between Amritsar and Katra

2276. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main factors leading to the cancellation of a fully-AC-tri-weekly train between Amritsar and Katra, which was inaugurated by Railways on 21 September, 2015; and

(b) whether it is possible to re-start this train on daily basis with two AC coaches and rest as general coaches?

Releasing of grants to Madhya Pradesh under Development of Fresh Water Aquaculture scheme

†2277. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision to provide grant to Fisheries Development Agencies under the Development of Freshwater Aquaculture scheme run by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the amount concerning the approved proposals of Government of Madhya Pradesh under this scheme is yet to be sanctioned and released, if so, the details thereof?

Medical facilities for passengers in running trains

2278. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate medical facilities for passengers are not available in running trains, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to provide adequate Medical facilities for passengers?

Enhancing train fares to upgrade basic facilities

2279. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to enhance train fares to upgrade basic facilities for railway passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be effected?

Demolitions to clear railway land under encroachment

2280. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of railway land that is under encroachment, year-wise since 2010;

(b) the number of demolition carried out to clear railway land, year-wise since 2010;

(c) the number of people affected by each demolition; and

(d) the steps taken to resettle people evicted from encroached railway land?

Approval of railway projects for doubling and tripling of railway lines

2281. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved railway projects for doubling and tripling of railway lines in various States of the country, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the status of on-going projects on doubling and tripling of railway lines in different zonal railways?

Development of Buxar Railway station

†2282. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made for expansion and modernisation of Buxar railway station in Bihar;

(b) the efforts being made to preserve the station as per cultural and mythological traditions of Buxar; and

(c) the progress with regard to construction of Railway overbridge at eastern level crossing of Buxar station, keeping in view the heavy jam at this side and the time by which it would be constructed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Averting accidents at unmanned railway level crossings

2283. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised any effective accident protection system for railway trains with a view to avert train collision, derailment and accidents on unmanned railway level crossings;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such devices are likely to be installed in trains; and

(c) if the response to parts (a) and (b) above is in negative, whether Government proposes to import such equipments from foreign countries and if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

Earnings of Railways

2284. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the earnings of Railways for the last two years; and

(b) whether the percentage rise in earnings for financial year 2015-16 is lower as compared to financial year 2014-15 and 2013-14, if so, the reasons therefor?

Categorisation of railway stations

2285. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria laid down for categorization of railway stations in the country;

(b) whether some of the railway stations have passenger amenities below their prescribed criteria/norms in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps taken by Government to improve passenger amenities at small and medium railway stations in Himachal Pradesh?

Pending railway projects in Himachal Pradesh

2286. SMRIMATI. VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of proposals for gauge conversion, new railway lines and doubling of railway lines, etc. in Himachal Pradesh are lying pending with Government, if so, the details thereof, proposal-wise;

(b) whether Railways have approved all these proposals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the pending proposals, if any, are likely to be approved?

Model railway stations

2287. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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

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

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

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

Free Wi-Fi at railway stations

2288. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status of free Wi-Fi services being rolled out at railway stations across the country in the months to come, the details thereof?

Revenue foregone on account of concessions

2289. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise data on revenue foregone due to concessions provided for passenger rail services to 53 categories;

(b) the year when these concessions were started, category-wise; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plans to reduce the burden of these concessions to the exchequer, if so, the details thereof?

Bio-toilets in railway coaches

2290. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have embarked on the scheme to replace the existing toilets system in coaches with bio-toilets;

(b) if so, the progress made so far, zone-wise; and

(c) whether any target has been set for complete implementation of the programme, if so, the details thereof?

Third line doubling of Barang-Raja Athagarh project

2291. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS

be pleased to state whether the Ministry would consider to complete and commission the Barang-Raja Athagarh and Bhubaneswar-Barang third line doubling projects early, in view of these projects being sanctioned in the year 1990-2000 and 2003-04, respectively, and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, a Railway Undertaking, executing the work very slowly?

Bifurcation of East Coast Railway

2292. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate East Coast Railway and take Waltair Division away; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

Running trains on solar power

2293. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently, Railways have run a train with rooftop solar power, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts being made to run more and more solar trains in the country; and

(c) approximately how much savings would be made if solar energy is used to run a train for 1000 kilometres?

Funds for handloom clusters in Chhattisgarh

†2294. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal, for allocation of ₹915.56 crore for the development of and provision of other facilities for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

weavers of Champa area of Chhattisgarh, has been received by the Government for approval;

(b) whether the approval for setting up handloom clusters in Umreli, Korba, Kera-Janjgir, Seoni-Janjgir, Bhanwarpur-Mahasamund for the development of handloom industry, is yet to be accorded; and

(c) whether the second, third and last outstanding instalment for handloom cluster of some places will be released at an early date?

Allocation of funds for development of handloom weavers

2295. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for various schemes for handloom/handloom weavers' development during the last three fiscal years, the scheme-wise, year-wise details thereof; and

(b) the details of funds utilized and lapsed, scheme-wise and year-wise details for the last three years?

Functional/Non-functional/new textile mills

†2296. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of textile mills have been lying inoperative in the country, if so the details thereof;

(b) the number of textile mills which are operational in the country;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to set up new textile mills in the country; and

(d) the details of operational and non-operational textile mills in Bihar?

Protecting domestic Textile sector

2297. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Indian Textile Industry so far as production, export and employment generation is concerned;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to modernize the textile industry;

(c) whether this sector is facing stiff competition from Chinese imports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect this domestic industry from Chinese imports?

Iranian market for Indian textiles

2298. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran, having just opened up, offers good scope for marketing of Indian Textiles;

(b) whether, presently, Indian textiles/apparels have no significant share in Iranian market due to an extremely high import tax by the Iranian Government;

(c) whether Iran offers immense opportunities for Indian produce, with a combination of western and traditional taste; and

(d) whether a recent trade delegation from India was assured by Iran that the import taxes for textiles and apparels would be reduced?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assistance to handloom weavers

2299. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives financial,
marketing, technical and other kind of
assistance to handloom weavers in the
country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-
wise and scheme-wise details of assistance
provided over the last two years; and

(c) whether such assistance has helped
the handloom industry and the weavers to
withstand competition from modern
looms?

Purchase of cotton by CCI

2300. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN
REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES
be pleased to state:

(a) the lessons Cotton Corporation of
India (CCI), has learnt from last season's

irregularities in purchase of cotton, more
particularly from States of Andhra Pradesh
and Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that cotton season
has started from 1st October;

(c) how much cotton CCI is expecting
to reach the market and the price
Government has fixed for various grades,
grade-wise;

(d) the efforts made by CCI to make
payments online; and

(e) the plan of action CCI has to
purchase cotton from farmers in the market
yard itself to stop the role of middlemen?

**Block level handloom clusters of
Tamil Nadu**

2301. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will
the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to
state whether all the ten Block level clusters
sanctioned for Tamil Nadu under National
Handloom Development Programme
(NHDP) have become functional, if so, the
details thereof and if not, the reasons
therefor?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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