

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, May 6, 2016/Vaisakha 16, 1938 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions — 15**

#### **Reservation of SCs/STs/OBCs etc. in judicial service**

\*136. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA  
RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND  
JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received  
requests/suggestions in favour of  
reservation for OBCs/SCs/STs/Muslims/  
Women in the judicial service;

(b) if so, whether the demand would  
be considered favourably; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Decreasing land area under cultivation**

\*137. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of  
land under cultivation is decreasing; and

(b) if so, the rate of decrease during the  
last three years?

#### **Ongoing/pending railway projects in Maharashtra**

\*138. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the  
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to  
state:

(a) the present status of ongoing/  
pending railway projects in Maharashtra,  
project-wise, on cost-sharing basis  
between Government of Maharashtra and  
the Ministry of Railways;

(b) whether Government of  
Maharashtra has proposed new railway  
lines/construction works for balanced  
socio-economic development of the State  
on cost-sharing basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and  
Government's response thereto?

**Health hazard from mobile towers**

\*139. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mobile towers set up in the residential areas are serious health hazards;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Ministry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check this health hazard?

**Bringing transparency and objectivity in computing MSP**

\*140. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Minimum Support Price (MSP), cost of production and profit margins over cost of production in respect of all principal crops during the last one year, crop/produce-wise;

(b) the latest data of projected cost of production of all principal crops in the current year and the next year;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring objectivity and transparency in the procedure to compute the MSP for crops, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to announce the MSP for various agricultural produces for the current year, if so, the details thereof, produce-wise?

**Subsidy for establishing Oil Palm processing units**

\*141. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy would be made available to establish Oil Palm processing units in the country, particularly in Odisha; and

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

**Protecting earthworm for sustainable development of farming**

†\*142. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excessive use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and other toxic chemicals in the agricultural fields of the country, including Maharashtra, has brought the man's friend, earthworm, on the brink of extinction whereas these play a vital role in preserving the nutrients of the soil naturally;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to protect earthworms for sustainable development of farming; and

(c) the scheme formulated by Government to encourage the farmers of the country, including Maharashtra, for adopting organic farming through adequate improvement in the soil quality, the details thereof, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Bringing down prices of essential medicines**

\*143. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential medicines have come down from April, 2016 since the WPI has come down, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by Government under National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy to bring down prices of all essential formulations, including pain killers, anti-infectives, antibiotics and drugs for diabetes and cardiac problems;

(c) whether some of the private companies are still selling medicines at MRP of last year; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

**Anti-Collision Device**

\*144. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of implementation of Anti-Collision Device to control train accidents;

(b) whether this device has since been tested and implemented successfully, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action plan to improve this device to make it effective in controlling train accidents?

**Assistance to drought-affected States**

†\*145. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry in view of the drought situation in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the States which have suffered heavy losses due to drought in the last three years and the assistance provided to those States during that period in this regard;

(c) the preparations of Government to deal with emergency situations like drought; and

(d) the details of assistance provided to the drought-affected States and people at present?

**Agricultural productivity of India  
*vis-a-vis* other countries**

\*146. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture sector of the country is the second largest in the world in terms of arable land; and

(b) the comparative productivity on per hectare basis of India *vis-a-vis* top ten agricultural countries in the world?

**Fertilizer subsidy to farmers**

\*147. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy provided on

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ Union Territory and fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether poor and marginal farmers are unable to reap the benefits of fertilizer subsidy;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide fertilizer subsidy directly to farmers through their bank accounts on the lines of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

#### **Call drops per day**

\*148. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for call drops and the number of call drops per day all over the country, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to curb call drops, if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, who is to bear the losses incurred by the customers?

#### **Output of rice**

\*149. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice output is likely to slip below 100 MT due to monsoon failure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss estimated so far, State-wise, including in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

#### **Setting up of Pharma Technology Upgradation Fund and Venture Capital Fund**

\*150. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a ₹ 500 crore Pharma Technology Upgradation Fund which will facilitate cheaper loans to entities looking to upgrade their manufacturing facilities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is also working on a proposal to establish a Venture Capital Fund to provide cheaper loans to small and marginal companies to set up new units under Make-in-India Scheme, if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 30th April, 2016*  
*Vaisakha 10, 1938 (Saka)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

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|-------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</b>                | : | 137, 140, 141, 142, 145, 146, 149, |
| <b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>                      | : | 143, 147, 150,                     |
| <b>Communications and Information Technology</b>      | : | 139, 148,                          |
| <b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b> | : | —                                  |
| <b>Food Processing Industries</b>                     | : | —                                  |
| <b>Law and Justice</b>                                | : | 136,                               |
| <b>Railways</b>                                       | : | 138, 144.                          |
| <b>Textiles</b>                                       | : | —                                  |