

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

Total number of questions — 160

Shortfall in production of pulses

1441. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be a likely shortfall in the production of pulses leading to higher import of major pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed by Government to increase the acreage for enhancing cultivation of pulses to meet the domestic demand?

Cultivation of sugarcane in drought prone areas

1442. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to discourage cultivation of sugarcane in drought prone areas;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to compensate the farmers of drought affected Marathwada, if so, the details thereof?

Plantation of eucalyptus

†1443. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that in the area of real green revolution of Western Uttar Pradesh, in the Action Plan for the year 2015-16 available on the website *updasp.org* plantation of eucalyptus had been included;

(b) whether plantation of eucalyptus is against the real purpose of this scheme; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Scheme for drought hit areas

1444. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has asked State Governments to implement schemes meant for drought-hit areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many districts in the affected States, have been declared drought hit, the details thereof, State-wise?

Permission for cultivation of three new varieties of Khesari dal

†1445. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three new varieties of Khesari dal have been found fit for human health;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production of pulses are declining continuously;

(c) if so, whether Government would permit cultivation of those three varieties of Khesari dal in the country, which are found fit for human health;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pest attack on CR-1009 Samba rice variety

1446. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that CR-1009 Samba rice variety, grown widely

in Delta region, has over the years become susceptible to pests such as brown plant hopper and bacterial blight;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the yield losses reported due to such pest attack; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to develop new pest resistant variety of Samba rice for Delta region in order to prevent high scale losses to Samba cultivator farmers of the region?

Doubling the income of farmers by 2022

1447. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that it is not feasible to double the income of farmers by 2022 without changing the current agricultural policies and without provision of remunerative price to farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details of policy changes Government proposes in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that doubling the income by 2022 would not be achievable without implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee;

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the concrete road-map for doubling the income of farmers by 2022?

Compensation to farmers for crop loss

†1448. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no announcement so far to give compensation to farmers for the damage of rabi crops due to untimely rain and hailstorm recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, how many acres of crops have been damaged in this natural calamity and the amount of compensation announced by Government?

Allocation for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

†1449. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the current budget and the schemes which have been implemented to provide benefits to the farmers, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any separate package has been provided to poor States such as Bihar which are affected by floods and drought every year, if so, the amount which has been allocated, the details thereof?

Imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers

†1450. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers, agricultural land in the country has been severely damaged;

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

(c) whether Government has identified those areas in the country where agricultural lands have been affected the most and the least; and

(d) if so, names of those States and the details thereof?

Inflation in agricultural prices

1451. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth in agriculture GDP for the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the details of growth in real farm income of farmers for the last five years, State-wise;

(c) the details of inflation in agricultural prices in the last five years; and

(d) whether inflation in agricultural prices has been more than inflation in non-agricultural prices in the last five years, if so, the reasons therefor?

Decline in sowing of rabi crops

1452. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sowing of rabi crops in 2015-16 is 30 per cent less than 2014-15;

(b) if so, how Government will be able to increase grain production by 5 per cent to offset 2 per cent drop in kharif grain output; and

(c) how the Ministry is looking at the above situation and the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

Profit on MSP

†1453. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government proposes to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee as such, in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) the number of crops in the Centre's list including paddy and wheat for which minimum support price is given, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Central Government and the State Governments propose to add 10 per cent profit in the minimum support price given to the farmers every year; and

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

Storage facility to farmers

†1454. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the country do not have adequate storage facility;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering formulation of any plan to provide storage facility to farmers; and

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

Reviving National Commission on Farmers

1455. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to revive the National Commission on Farmers and to change its nomenclature, aims and objectives with new version; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps

taken/being taken by Government with long-term and short-term measures?

Drought in the country

1456. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts affected by drought in the country, State-wise, in the financial year 2015-16; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to rehabilitate the farmers and their families affected by the drought?

Menace of bogus seeds

1457. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of media reports that a cotton farmer of Aalur village Palamur in Mahbubnagar district tried to commit suicide on April 16, 2016 for being unable to bear the loss caused by bogus seeds; and

(b) if so, whether steps are being taken to check the menace of bogus seeds which is ruining the farmers' lives in rural economy if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Efficient use of water in agriculture

1458. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards any research report that India uses two to four times more water

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to produce a unit of major food crop than China and Brazil, if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the efficient use of water in agriculture sector, particularly in drought affected States?

Cultivation of new arhar variety

1459. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of Indian Agricultural Research Institute have developed a new arhar variety — pigeon pea that matures in 120 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with its main features; and

(c) the time by which the new variety of arhar is likely to be made available to farmers for commercial cultivation?

Use of hybrid and GM seeds

1460. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Survey has favoured use of hybrid and Genetically Modified (GM) seeds to increase agricultural productivity since there is limited scope for increasing acreage, if so, the views of Government in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to totally ban diversion of agricultural land for any other purposes, if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to farmers for crop loss due to change in climatic conditions

1461. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sudden and severe change in the climatic conditions is causing intense damage to crops and is affecting productivity also;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to ensure that the damage to crops is minimized and the loss to farmers is compensated; and

(c) whether Government will consider balancing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops based on the amount of damage that has been caused to the crops?

Schemes for poor fishermen

1462. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes provided by Government for poor fishermen who do not own fishing boats;

(b) the other schemes Government has to provide sustainable livelihood to poor fishermen; and

(c) the other financial help provided by Government to such fishermen?

Shortage of fodder

1463. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing shortage of fodder due to shrinking of country's grasslands;

(b) whether India is also facing a deficit of about 35.6 per cent of green fodder and

about 10.9 per cent of dry fodder due to burning of crop residue by farmers; and

(c) if so, whether Government is planning to bring in a policy on shortage of feed and fodder and also make some arrangements for awareness of farmer to stop burning crop residue which may help substantially decrease the deficit of dry fodder, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers

1464. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers' suicides taken place in the country, this year, State-wise;

(b) the details of relief measures provided to the bereaved families and the steps taken by Central Government to compensate the losses State-wise;

(c) whether all such families have got the compensation decided by the Government, especially in Marathwada region, if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent farmers' losses and suicides in the next agricultural cycle which may be due to conditions arising out of weather irregularities, the details thereof?

Providing smart phone to farmers

1465. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning or has any proposal to provide smart phone to farmers of the country as part of welfare measures for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of this proposal so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial losses incurred by SAFAL outlets

1466. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of objectives for establishment and promotion of 'SAFAL' outlets in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether 'SAFAL' a Government outlet for selling vegetables and fruits, has incurred financial losses during last several financial years;

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

(d) whether Government has conducted any study with regard to measures required to improve financial condition of 'SAFAL', make it economically viable and earn sufficient profit; and

(e) if so, the measures taken/plan prepared by Government to make SAFAL successful and fruitful?

Suicide by farmers

1467. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides by farmers has increased during last two years;

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

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers?

Damage of crops due to unseasonal rains

1468. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rains in the month of March have damaged crops and orchards in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) if so, the estimated loss caused to the farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have sought financial help from the Ministry to compensate the farmers for the losses; and

(d) if so, the details of funds released to these States till the end of December, 2015?

Interface of NAM with APMCs

1469. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch National Agriculture Market (NAM) and integrate 21 mandis under the umbrella of NAM, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the interface this NAM will have with the existing Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs); and

(c) how Government proposes to reform wholesale market so that farmers are able to sell their produce without intermediaries resulting into distress sale?

Availability of milk

1470. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the largest producer of milk in the world;

(b) if so, the details of production of milk in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of per-capita availability and consumption of milk in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make milk available to all children and women especially those living below poverty line?

Drought in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand

1471. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rural areas of Maharashtra and Bundelkhand are suffering from severe drought conditions and for the last three years farmers have been facing very critical conditions;

(b) if so, the kind of financial help provided to these farmers in severe drought hit areas;

(c) whether continuous growing of cane crop and other crops using excessive water are responsible for drain out of water in such areas; and

(d) whether any research has been conducted on cropping pattern in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof?

Farmers leaving their occupation

1472. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of farmers in Maharashtra and rest of the

country are leaving farming due to climate change, increasing prices of inputs and unremunerative prices of their produce, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to retain farmers in their occupation?

Protection and preservation of genotype of Gir cows

1473. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent livestock census report, the number of cows in the country is decreasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details thereof and an updated status of steps being taken/contemplated to reverse this trend;

(c) whether Government is using new scientific methods to protect genotype of Gir cows, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount allocated and spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of steps taken for preservation of genotype of Jafrabadi buffaloes?

Drought in the country

1474. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decline in production of foodgrains has been recorded in the current year, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified districts that are facing drought/heatwave

currently, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure food security and livelihood security to the drought/heatwave affected areas in the country; and

(d) whether Government has extended/plans to extend central assistance to State Government's to combat the drought situation/heatwave, if so, the details thereof along with the time-line, identified States and quantum of funds, if not, the reasons therefor?

Suicide by farmers and Arthiyas

1475. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides committed by farmers in the country, including Punjab in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether suicides by six Arthiyas/middlemen through whom Government procures wheat and paddy from farmers have come to the notice of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes of stress of farmers and Arthiyas and the action taken by Government to reduce their debt burden; and

(d) the schemes announced by Government for their welfare and the impact of those schemes on the farmers, the details thereof?

Losses to animal husbandry and dairy sectors due to drought

1476. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any

assessment of losses suffered by Animal Husbandry and Dairy sectors due to drought, especially in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to protect these sectors from drought?

Compensation to farmers for crop failure due to drought

1477. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the drought-hit region, after crop failure, immediate help/compensation to farmers for plantation of next crop or 'input subsidy' has been disbursed in time bound manner from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF);

(b) if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh, since last two years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the reasons for delays in providing compensation to affected farmers; and

(d) the additional steps being taken/structural changes made by Government in this regard?

Implementation of PMKSY

1478. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is under

implementation in various States, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the salient features and components of the scheme;

(b) whether big, medium and small irrigation projects have been included under PMKSY, if so, the details thereof and the initiatives taken by Government to bring more areas under irrigation and increase agricultural production; and

(c) the allocation made to various States under PMKSY during the current fiscal year, State-wise?

Monopoly of seed trade companies

†1479. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI KANAK LATA
SINGH:

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

(a) whether the monopoly of a few companies on seed trade is increasingly growing in the country due to which farmers are being provided seeds at a very high rate in the name of hybrid seeds;

(b) if so, the mechanism available in the country to control the prices of seeds of these companies to prevent them from overcharging the farmers for their seeds;

(c) the names of Government companies currently providing seeds to farmers in the country for preservation and enrichment of seeds of their crops; and

(d) details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Insurance cover to all farmers

†1480. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only less than 20 per cent farmers insure their crops despite of the fact that there are more than fourteen crore families of farmers in the country due to which their condition deteriorates by unfavourable weather;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to cover all farmers under crop insurance;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to make insurance cover necessary for farmers who are taking loan;

(d) if so, the number of farmers in the country including Maharashtra whose crops have been insured till now; and

(e) the State-wise details thereof?

Shelf life of fruits and vegetables

1481. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are incurring losses due to short shelf life of some of the most popular vegetables like potatoes and onions;

(b) whether there is any proposal by Government to tie up with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to work on the issue of extending shelf life of fruits and vegetables; and

(c) if so, the places where Government proposes to establish Research Centres for such purposes?

Providing importance to animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sector

1482. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to give more importance to animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has become necessary to take care of our cattle due to erratic rains and paucity of water in many parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard?

Strengthening data base of Fisheries sector

* 1483. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had requested the Ministry for release of ₹ 13.93 lakh for strengthening of database relating to Fisheries sector, a scheme approved for 100 per cent financing by Central Government;

(b) whether the State Government had also submitted a proposal to implement the component of Catch Assessment survey of inland fisheries, involving a Central grant of ₹ 65.51 lakh and requested for sanction and release of funds;

(c) whether these proposals were considered in the Ministry; and

(d) if so, by when these proposals would be approved and funds released to the State Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

* Question Cancelled as Member resigned from Rajya Sabha w.e.f.4-5-2016

Separate Ministry for Fisheries

1484. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to form a separate Ministry for Fisheries; and

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been kept for formation of such a Ministry?

Decline in production of foodgrains

1485. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of foodgrains has declined during the last three years and the current year in the country, including West Bengal;

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

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to increase the production of foodgrains in the country?

Availability and distribution of generic medicines

†1486. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan during last two years to increase the availability and to streamline the distribution of generic medicines; and

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

Revival of closed urea units through SPV

1487. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to constitute a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to revive the closed urea units in the country;

(b) if so, details of the three units that are going to be revived under SPV;

(c) the status of revival of Ramagundam and other fertilizer units identified earlier for revival and whether work has already been started; and

(d) by when the production would start in Ramagundam unit?

Statutory code to curb unethical practices in pharma sector

1488. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has postponed implementation of a statutory code of principles to curb unethical practices by pharmaceutical industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is preparing a set of binding principles to check practices such as gifting and facilitating overseas travels, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new set of statutory code is likely to be implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Capping on trade margins of costly drugs

1489. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level committee has recommended for capping of trade margins for costly drugs with a view to bring down the MRP of medicines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision of Government on this issue?

Controlling prices of patented medicines

1490. KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to control the prices of exorbitantly high prices of patented medicines to make them more affordable, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the difference between the reference pricing system and the negotiated pricing model; and

(c) the further steps taken by Government in the matter?

Modifying composition of chemical fertilizers to boost productivity

1491. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Government institutions are working on modifications

in existing standard composition of chemical fertilizers, so as to enable farmers increase their produces with use of lesser quantity of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of funds allocated by Government for this purpose and the names of institutions involved; and

(c) if not, whether Government would initiate such a project so as to enable farmers increase their productivity?

Aadhaar card issued to Transgender people

1492. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a person can choose to register a gender as neither male nor female while getting Aadhaar card;

(b) if so, State-wise details of number of such Aadhaar card holders, including district-wise details for West Bengal and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise details of number of bank accounts linked with such above mentioned Aadhaar card holders, including district-wise details for West Bengal; and

(d) the State-wise list of beneficiaries with such above mentioned Aadhaar card holders receiving Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under various Central Government Schemes including district-wise details for West Bengal?

Alternative network in place of NOFN

1493. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes an alternative Wi-Fi-based network with high speed internet in place of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) to implement the Government rural broadband project;

(b) the reasons for replacing the NOFN; and

(c) the target and the time-frame for implementing the alternative Wi-Fi-based network to connect village panchayats in the country, the details thereof?

Gram Panchayats covered under NOFN

1494. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), project along with the number of Gram Panchayats provided with high speed rural broadband network so far, State-wise;

(b) whether establishment of Wi-Fi hotspots are proposed to provide Wi-Fi services at public places under the project, if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard so far; and

(c) the details of criteria for selection of Gram Panchayats, particularly those in remote, backward and hilly areas, along with the action taken for timely implementation of the project?

Post offices in Uttarakhand

†1495. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that post offices in Uttarakhand take more than 30 days to make payments to their customers as they do not have accounts in local branches of the banks;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Ministry to minimize the delay in withdrawal of money by the account holders;

(c) whether Government will grant permission to all post offices to open accounts in local branches of banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Partnership with Chinese companies in communication sector

†1496. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some Indian Companies have entered into partnerships with Chinese companies in the communications sector;

(b) if so, the names of those companies;

(c) whether partnerships by private companies with Chinese companies will not pose a danger to the secrecy of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

Free roaming service

†1497. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that despite instructions of Government the private telecom operator companies are not ready to provide free roaming facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which the consumers would get free roaming facility?

**Greenfield EMC proposal from
Government of Odisha**

1498. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the Greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) proposal of Government of Odisha being pending with Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity) for which the State Government is unable to proceed further in attracting investment under Electronic System Design and Manufacturing; and

(b) by when the above stated proposal will be approved by the Central Government to start the project?

**Concessions by BSNL and MTNL to
senior citizens**

†1499. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concession is granted to the senior citizens by Government companies, MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details of concession being given;

(c) whether concessions being granted by MTNL and BSNL are different, if so, the reasons behind the different concessions of these two companies;

(d) whether Government is planning to formulate any policy in this regard, so that there should be uniformity in concessions being granted by these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Investment in India Post

1500. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Investment Board has approved a ₹ 800 crore proposal of India Post;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Cabinet has approved the said investment and the proposal of the Department of Posts; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Posts has made a presentation on the proposal of its Payments Bank, if so, the details thereof?

Child pornography websites

1501. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to approach the Interpol to gain access to websites that engage in child pornography, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the move to ban 857 pornographic websites was unsuccessful, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Expansion of information technology
in the country**

1502. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country has expanded business in the world under information technology industry on a large scale;
- (b) if so, Government reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that use of information technology is still negligible in some parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor?

BPO promotion scheme

1503. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's BPO promotion scheme has generated interest with more than 1,25,000 Expressions of Interest (EOI) having been received against a capacity of just 48,300 seats across the country confined to tier-II towns;
- (b) whether Government has also launched a similar policy initiative in the North-East region with an outlay of ₹ 50 crore for creating 5000 seats to provide employment for local youths in BPO sector; and
- (c) whether because of lack of response to its scheme meant for North-East, Government has planned to relax the norms for entrepreneurs from the region and if so, the details thereof?

**Gender gap among internet users in
rural and urban areas**

1504. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has carried out a study to quantitatively assess the prevalence of gender gap among internet users in rural and urban areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to address this gender gap among internet users?

**Providing internet access in rural
areas**

†1505. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether one objective of Digital India is to provide internet in rural areas;
- (b) if so, what Government proposes to do for the same;
- (c) whether Government is aware that internet is being used in every village through mobiles;
- (d) whether internet data plan rates have been increased recently by major service providers;
- (e) if so, whether this is in accordance with the objectives of the Digital India programme of the Government; and
- (f) whether Government would take steps to provide mobile internet data plans at lower rates in order to provide internet facility to every home in the rural areas?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Market share of operators in telecom sector

†1506. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of respective share of public and private telecom operators in the market providing mobile telephone services in the country;

(b) whether market share of public sector operators is going down in comparison to private sector;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to provide quality service so that market share of public sector companies remain intact despite competition from private sector?

Delay in implementation of NOFN

1507. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's rural broadband project—National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is facing long delays, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes an alternative plan to implement the rural broadband project in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Number of BSNL subscribers

1508. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of BSNL wireline and wireless subscribers in the last five years;

(b) the number of complaints received in the last five years, State/UT-wise regarding inadequate/poor broadband speed delivered by BSNL; and

(c) the number of subscribers who have ceased using BSNL's services citing low/poor broadband speed delivery as a reason during the last five years, State/UT-wise?

BSNL contractual workers in Karnataka Telecom Circle

* 1509. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL contractual workers in Karnataka Telecom circle;

(b) whether these workers are covered under Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance schemes; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for their regularisation for which a demand has been raised by them and the status of consideration of the demand?

Encrypted messages of a data-sharing App

1510. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how does the Ministry look at the move by Whatsapp which made all its photos, videos, files, voice and group messages sent using Whatsapp encrypted;

(b) whether the move will hamper countries like India which is fighting terror;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

* Question Cancelled as Member resigned from Rajya Sabha w.e.f.4-5-2016

(c) whether switching to 256-bit encryption by Whatsapp accepted by US and Canada is legal in India; and

(d) how the Ministry thinks of containing this encryption in the light of it not having regulation on Over-the-Top Messaging?

Digital India targets

1511. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets of Digital India would be achieved uniformly in all regions of the country keeping in view the topography, logistics, funds and management constraints;

(b) whether it will be preferable to confine optical fibre connectivity upto the Block level and satellite coverage through spectrum, and Wi-Fi across the lower echelons like Panchayats and villages; and

(c) the prevailing international preferences for the above options in countries abroad?

Call drops

1512. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drops in mobile telephony is a serious problem in Delhi and other places, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the provisions in this regard;

(c) whether any penalty has been imposed on service providers for deficiency in service; and

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

Legal challenges faced by TRAI

1513. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken steps to address the lack of capacity in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to ensure that the regulator is able to tackle the challenges of a fast evolving, disruptive technology and innovation landscape;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the legal challenges faced by TRAI in regulating issues of consumer interest/ protection and taken steps to amend the legislation to give more powers to TRAI to ensure consumer protection; and

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

Making Hindi language mandatory for mobile phones

1514. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is likely to come out with regulations that will make it mandatory for mobile phones to support Hindi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is also considering similar

move for other regional languages, if so, the details thereof?

Disparity between rural and urban areas for quality telecom services

1515. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great disparity between rural and urban areas in respect of quality telecom services;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative to cover the entire rural areas of the country with basic telecom facilities like internet, wi-fi, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present share of penetration of BSNL in comparison to private players in providing telecom services in rural areas of the country?

Graded penalty system for telecoms

1516. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of graded penalty system proposed by Government for telecoms;

(b) the existing penalty mechanism on telecoms for any wrongdoing;

(c) whether it is a fact that DoT has so far served notices of penalty of nearly ₹ 10,000 crore against telecoms;

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and the amount realized so far; and

(e) to what extent the graded penalty system help in quickly realizing penalties from telecoms?

Internet connectivity in the country

1517. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to provide total internet connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated for rural areas, State-wise, including Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the funds released and spent by each of the States particularly Chhattisgarh, for the purpose?

Feedback of communication facilities

1518. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any review to know the feedback of communication facilities such as landline and mobile services being provided to the customers;

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

(c) whether communication network has reached every nook and corner of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-

wise, including remotest areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the percentage of communication network in the State of Maharashtra?

e-Governance

1519. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a scheme for comprehensive e-governance;

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

(c) the action taken by Government to create awareness among rural population regarding use of information technology; and

(d) whether Government proposes to introduce a legislation for preventing misuse of information technology and if so, the details thereof?

Issue of smart phone encryption

1520. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the dispute between the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and Apple, Inc; and

(b) whether Government believes that smart phone encryptions should have a backdoor or a key which should be made available to the Government?

Internet subscribers in the country

1521. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of internet subscribers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that very less number of persons belonging to SC/ST community have access to internet services;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government during the last two years in this regard and the outcome thereof to reduce the digital divide in the country?

Implementation of NFSA

1522. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in letter and spirit by creating networking with the retail outlets on real time basis; and

(b) if so, whether States like Tamil Nadu are also connected in such system even though they have not opted for the NFSA implementation?

Digitization of ration cards for DBT scheme

1523. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has attained 100 per cent digitization of ration cards for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as per the National Food Security Act;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the mandatory installation of e-Point of Sale machines has been done for the distribution of subsidy grains in all the States implementing DBT?

the Government import pulses on its own, either through MMTS or other agency;

(d) the import of various kinds of pulses, during the last five years, year-wise, variety-wise and country-wise; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to stop cartelization of Indian pulses importers abroad to maintain price stability in the country?

Introduction of e-warranty system

1524. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce e-warranty system to protect consumers for cases where they misplace warranties/guarantees in physical forms;

(b) if so, the details of the progress on the same and whether a deadline has been proposed for the functioning of such a set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Providing pulses through PDS

1525. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to provide pulses through PDS;

(b) how can Government do this when production of pulses is inadequate;

(c) to achieve (a) above, why cannot

Procurement of wheat by FCI

†1526. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI approaches farmers in their villages in Haryana and Punjab for procurement of wheat at minimum support price;

(b) whether farmers in States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc. have to go to the procurement centres of FCI for selling their wheat and have to bring it back in case of non-procurement;

(c) if so, whether Government will introduce a similar procurement process in such States in the interest of small farmers on the lines of Haryana and Punjab; and

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

Eradication of hunger under MDG

1527. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hunger level in Asia,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

including India, is not decreasing as projected in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto along with the number of hunger/starvation deaths reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Jharkhand;

(c) whether India is projected to miss the Millennium Development Goal for eradication of hunger; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto along with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Identification of beneficiaries under NFSA

1528. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries identified for PDS rations under National Food Security Act, State/UT-wise and social category-wise;

(b) the number of people for whom Aadhaar-seeding is complete, for whom Aadhaar biometric authentication has failed and where machine malfunction has disallowed distribution of rations;

(c) whether those who do not have Aadhaar number are getting their rations regularly;

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons and remedial steps therefor; and

(e) the specific steps being taken by Government to address the problems of

biometric authentication failures during grain disbursements to entitled beneficiaries?

Monitoring of sharp variation in prices of essential commodities

1529. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a body for monitoring and intervening in case of sharp variation in the prices of commodities;

(b) whether the entity is going to engage in proper crop estimation to detect any possible shortfall and mapping of imports;

(c) if so, the terms of reference of this entity; and

(d) whether it is a continuous entity or any time-frame has been fixed for it to come up with recommendations?

Starvation deaths

†1530. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite production of foodgrains in excess of requirement in the country, a lot of incidents of deaths due to starvation are coming to light;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any steps to prevent such deaths; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Supply of poor quality wheat and rice under PDS

1531. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received several complaints and representations regarding supply of poor quality wheat and rice under PDS, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the quality of wheat and rice under PDS?

Purchasing of colour changed rice

1532. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has purchased/ any proposal to purchase the colour changed rice due to rains and other reasons from farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rise in food prices

1533. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sharp rise in food prices remained a major worry for families fretting

over rising household budgets despite plunging inflation figures, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps Government is taking to control food prices?

Implementation of NFSA

1534. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) the norms and procedure followed to identify the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the action plan formulated by Government to ensure proper and impartial implementation of the Act; and

(c) whether any improvement in the standard of nutrition of the poor people, particularly the children and women, have been noticed after implementation of the Act, if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of foodgrains etc. to drought affected States under PDS

1535. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether keeping in view the life taking drought situation in various parts of the country, the drought affected States were allocated and supplied foodgrains, sugar and kerosene under Public Distribution System (PDS) as per their demand/requirement, particularly for the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity of aforesaid items allocated and lifted during the said period, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the criteria adopted for finalizing the per-capita and total allocation of various items under PDS for the States along with the basis for formulating the criteria?

Growth potential of Food Processing sector

1536. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has assessed the growth and potential of Food Processing sector of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Ministry to encourage the start-ups in this sector?

Vacancies of Judges and disposal of pending Court cases

†1537. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts would be filled up;

(b) the differences between the Supreme Court and the Government over their appointment;

(c) the initiatives taken, so far, by Government for speedy disposal of cases lying pending in the Courts; and

(d) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the lower Courts of the country, the State-wise details thereof?

Renaming Madras High Court

1538. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to rename the Madras High Court as Chennai High Court;

(b) whether Government has received many recommendations from various quarters in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Disposal of pending cases of High Court of Kerala

1539. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases lying pending in the High Court of Kerala which are more than five years old and cases in Subordinate Courts as well; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to clear the pendency of cases at an early date?

Filling up of vacant posts of Judges

1540. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 1056 posts of Judges sanctioned in the country out of which only 591 Judges have been appointed so far resulting in pendency of huge number of cases in the Courts across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the necessary steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies to fully meet the aspirations of countrymen for speedy and affordable justice?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Setting up of Morning/Evening/
Special Courts**

1541. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various types of Judicial Magistrate Courts, particularly of Morning/Evening and Special Courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the total number of cases disposed of by these Courts during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has issued any direction to State Governments for setting up of more such Courts in their respective State, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Government's action plan post
quashing of NJAC Act by
Supreme Court**

1542. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) in the light of Five Judge Supreme Court Bench quashing the NJAC Act, what the Government is thinking about the same; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring in a Constitutional Amendment to set aside the judgement of the Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Admission of degree holders from
Open Universities in Law Courses**

1543. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind Bar Council refusing to accept candidates to take

admission in law courses who pursued graduation or PG through Open University recognized by UGC;

(b) how the Ministry looks at the justification of Bar Council that 15 years of regular education (10+2+3) cannot be equated with degree from Open University and such candidate cannot be expected to have a mature understanding when compared to 15 years of learner;

(c) whether it is not a violation of equality to education and earn livelihood; and

(d) the efforts Ministry will make to ensure that all graduates are entitled to study law?

**Vetting of Rules/Regulations
of Central PSUs/Autonomous
Bodies**

1544. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Central PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, etc. are required to get their Regulations vetted by the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether all of them are following this procedure; and

(c) whether the Regulations should come through the respective Ministry?

**Disposal of vetting work of Rules/
Regulations of Ministries/
Departments**

1545. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enormous pressure of vetting of Rules/Regulations of various Ministries/Departments and other Bodies on the Ministry;

(b) if so, how is this work prioritized and disposed of;

(c) the current pendency at vetting work; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the manpower for doing this work effectively?

Vacant posts of Judges and pending Court cases

1546. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Judges in the country per million population;

(b) the no of posts of Judges lying vacant now in Supreme Court, High Courts and lower Courts;

(c) the no. of cases pending in all Courts in the country;

(d) the latest recommendation of the Law Commission with regard to the number of Judges as a whole; and

(e) the steps Government intends to take in this regard?

Appointment of new Judges after annulment of NJAC

1547. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and position-wise details of existing vacancies of Judges in High Courts along with District Court-wise details for West Bengal; and

(b) the details of new Judges appointed after the annulment of NJAC Act High Court-wise along with similar details for the Supreme Court?

Pending cases in District Courts of Tamil Nadu

1548. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the District Courts in Tamil Nadu, district-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the final settlement of these cases?

Age of voting right

1549. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether citizens become eligible for voting rights on completion of 18 years of age;

(b) whether there is a flaw in the relevant provision of the RP Act which compels all who complete 18 years of age in a particular year, barring those who were born on 1st January, to wait for one more year to become eligible for voting; and

(c) if so, whether an amendment will be legislated to cure this flaw in the Act?

Criteria for selecting cases and Judges of Fast Track Courts

1550. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided upon the criteria for selecting cases that will receive the benefit of being fast tracked, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has decided

upon the criteria or the mechanism through which Judges for Fast Track Courts would be selected, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Law Commission's Reports

1551. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has considered only 106 Reports of the Law Commission out of 256 Reports submitted so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for very slow pace of considering Reports of the Law Commission; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to take decision on the recommendations of the Law Commission in a time-bound manner and also to make the Law Commission a permanent statutory body?

Family Courts

1552. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Family Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in these Courts, State-wise; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of in these Courts in the last three years *viz.*, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, State-wise?

Simultaneous elections at Centre and State level

1553. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to undertake a feasibility study on holding simultaneous elections at the Centre and State level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time line by which such a study is proposed to be conducted?

Fast Track Courts

1554. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts set up during 2014 and 2015, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the total number of vacancies in the Fast Track Courts in the country; and

(c) by when these vacancies would be filled up?

Steps to fill up vacant posts of Judges and clear pending cases

†1555. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases in the country's Courts are continuously on the rise;

(b) the details of shortage of Judges, Magistrates and other employees in hearing of pending cases in the country;

(c) whether victims who go to Courts seeking justice get justice in true sense given excessive delay in hearing of cases; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of steps taken to fill the vacant posts in judiciary so that much time is not taken in disposal of cases?

Scheme to bring IT to poor farmers

1556. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to bring Information Technology to poor farmers in their own languages to help them keep in tune with market, weather forecast and new techniques of farming; and

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard, including apps, distribution of such devices, cost and numbers, if not, the reasons for keeping a large segment out of IT and whether there is any plan to do so in future?

Future network growth of Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor

1557. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether feasibility studies have been completed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, if so, the details thereof, including time-line for undertaking construction and expected time of completion;

(b) whether the financial viability and operation cost of the train has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the future network growth of the corridor has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

MoU with ISRO

1558. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sought ISRO's help for apps, aiming at effective use of space technology in remote sensing and graphic information system based applications, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have entered into an MoU with ISRO in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

MoU with foreign countries

1559. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have signed MoU with any foreign country on developing high speed corridors in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have also sought technical assistance for certain station redevelopment projects from some foreign countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to set up Railway University in collaboration with technical institutions for introducing railway-oriented subjects for graduation and skill development?

Formation of a company to fast-track pending projects in Maharashtra

1560. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to form a company which will enable it to fast-track pending projects in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the pending railway projects to be covered by the said company;

(c) whether Railways have fixed any target for their completion; and

(d) how Railways propose to arrange finance for completion of the projects, the details thereof?

Proposed railway station to reduce burden on Dehradun railway station

1561. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of railway projects in Uttarakhand, including laying new line upto Karnprayag and surveys for new rail lines; and

(b) whether there is any plan to have a satellite railway station to reduce burden on Dehradun station, which is a heritage station and unable to bear the increasing railway traffic, if so, the details thereof along with the cost and timeline?

Fire accidents in Railways

1562. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss of human lives in fire accidents in passenger coaches has steeply increased;

(b) if so, the number of human lives lost in fire accidents in Railways during the last three years;

(c) whether Audit and Railway officials have conducted any joint survey of railway stations, etc., to ascertain fire prone activities and if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(d) the norms for providing fire extinguishers in sleeper coaches and whether those norms are being followed by Railways; and

(e) the measures taken to check fire accidents by Railways?

HOR quota

1563. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would post all berths confirmed under HOR quota along with the details of requisitions, against which berths are being confirmed, online, on daily basis for each train in view of alleged rampant corruption and irregularities in release of HOR quota and to ensure transparency; and

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

Executive Lounges for 1st class passengers

1564. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to set up Executive Lounges at railway stations for 1st class passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the facilities Railways would provide at those lounges and the cost of using them by passengers?

Replacement of old coaches

1565. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old coaches

that have outlived their utility, are widely deployed in Express trains across the country, posing a major safety issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of coaches which are more than twenty years old and are still being deployed in trains, Zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in replacement of old coaches; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Railways in this regard?

Flash strike by railway employees

1566. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have chargesheeted many of its employees for going on flash strike, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have taken steps to address the concerns of the said employees, if so, the details thereof?

Damage to railway property

1567. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of damages caused to railway properties during the last five years;

(b) the details of loss incurred to Railways due to damages of railway properties during this period;

(c) whether human factor is also involved in causing damage to railway properties; and

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

Solar panels atop roofs of railway platforms

1568. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway stations may be able to save considerable amount of electricity by switching to powering themselves by installing solar panels atop roofs of platforms;

(b) the amount of money that can be saved by Railways annually by implementing such a scheme and the cost of installing the panels; and

(c) if no such proposal is being considered, the reasons therefor?

JV between Railways and State Governments

1569. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have signed MoUs with some State Governments, including Odisha, for undertaking railway projects in the respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move;

(c) the details of the projects taken up/identified for development in the States under Joint Venture (JV);

(d) the details of the fund sharing pattern between Railways and the State Governments under the JV; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to Railways and the States as a result thereof?

Survey for new railway route from Solapur to Jalgaon

1570. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for a new railway line from Solapur to Jalgaon (454 Kms.) covering Tuljapur, Osmanabad, Kunthalgiri, Beed, Paithan, Aurangabad, Verul, Sillod and Ajanta caves has been completed, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether Railways are seriously considering this project for better connectivity between western Maharashtra and Marathwada region; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the time-frame set for implementation of the said project, and if not, the reasons therefor?

New railway zone at Vizag

1571. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Ministry has been drawn to the growing demand for a Railway Zone with Vizag as headquarters and a local political leader even sitting on fast unto death; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand?

Mishaps at railway stations

1572. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths caused by mishaps at railway platforms are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of deaths caused

by such mishaps during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to contain the number of mishaps on railway stations?

Linking the capitals of North Eastern States by railway

1573. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to link all the capitals of NE States by railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is proposed to be executed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time-frame within which it is proposed to be initiated and completed?

Death of animals in train accidents

1574. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of wild and other animals, especially elephants, that get killed in train accidents, has increased enormously;

(b) if so, the details of such animals killed during the last three years;

(c) whether officials of both Railways and Environment Ministries have worked out some effective action plan to control this loss;

(d) the status of this loss under the North East Frontier Railway in the country; and

(e) how far has it been controlled?

Trains announced during Railway Budgets

1575. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new trains announced during the last four Railway budgets and not introduced so far;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the same are likely to be introduced?

Introduction of High Speed train between Bengaluru and Mysuru

* 1576. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has under its consideration, introduction of High Speed train service between Bengaluru city and Mysuru city in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any feasibility survey in this case has been conducted by Government, if so, the findings of such survey?

Introduction of dynamic and special fares by Railways

1577. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce dynamic fares in all trains or special fares for tickets booked closer to the departure date;

(b) if so, the rationale and reason behind such measures; and

(c) the revenue that Railways expect to

generate through any of the above proposals?

RO water dispensing booths at railway stations of Maharashtra

1578. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to install RO water dispensing booths at all railway stations of Maharashtra within a time-frame; and

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

Doubling of railway lines in Bihar

†1579. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to soon start the work on doubling of railway lines in Bihar, which are lying incomplete for years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount provided in the 2016-17 Budget for the projects—Hajipur to Muzaffarpur, Hajipur to Barauni *via* Bachhwara, Smastipur to Darbhanga, Darbhanga to Jaynagar and from Sakri to Kosi Mahasetu *via* Nirmali, project-wise;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete all these projects; and

(d) the details of amount provided for all the incomplete railway projects in Bihar?

Investment in additional routes

1580. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

looking to invest in additional routes in the coming months; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that priority would be given to some short routes where the viability is already established, if so, the details thereof?

Cross-subsidising passenger fares

1581. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways incur a loss of ₹ 30,000 crore every year in cross-subsidising passenger fares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on an average, Railways bear 43 per cent cost of travel, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision not to increase the passenger fare has prevented the transporter from tinkering with tariffs over the years, if so, the details thereof?

Surveillance for avoiding malpractices

1582. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have stepped up surveillance to ensure that touts do not lure away passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways are trying to ensure that a sufficient number of its Vigilance Inspectors and Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed at reservation offices to crack down on any fraud, including those involving travel on transfer tickets; and

(c) whether squads of commercial and

ticket checking inspectors will also be formed to conduct surprise checks?

Projects on cost sharing basis with Maharashtra

1583. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has been implementing three projects on cost sharing basis with Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the provision for these projects in the Railway Budget 2016-17 and whether these funds are adequate;

(c) whether the Ministry has received three more proposals from Government of Maharashtra for development on cost sharing basis; and

(d) if so, the stand of the Ministry on the same and if the Ministry has not taken a stand yet, by when it is likely to do so?

Survey for new railway lines

†1584. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending railway line surveys for laying new railway lines in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, during the last year and current year, State-wise/ Zone-wise;

(b) the amount spent so far on the pending railway line surveys;

(c) whether Railways have fixed any time-limit for completing the pending surveys; and

(d) if so, the details of time-limit and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways in this regard?

Increasing incidents of thefts in trains

1585. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing incidents of thefts in trains in recent days, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of thefts that took place during last two years;

(c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by Railways in mitigating such incidents in future;

(d) whether Railways are putting all the responsibilities on State Governments in this matter;

(e) whether Railways have any plan for combating this menace, collectively, in collaboration with State Governments; and

(f) the stand of Railways in this regard?

Making railway infrastructure accessible to specially-abled people

1586. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway stations and railway bogies are inaccessible to the specially-abled people;

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

(c) whether steps have been taken by Railways to make railway infrastructure accessible to the specially-abled people, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of trains and railway stations presently having infrastructure to suit the needs of the specially-abled people?

Commercial viability of Gatimaan Express

1587. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways, in an attempt to project its technological prowess, has put on track Gatimaan, its prototype version of bullet train between Delhi and Agra, covering the distance in flat 100 minutes;

(b) whether, with two superfast trains, Taj Express and Shatabdi Express already catering to the tourist traffic on this route, Gatimaan Express will turn out to be commercially viable; and

(c) whether during the last two years, the prestigious Palace on Wheels train, catering to international tourists, is running with much less occupancy, if so, the details thereof?

Absorption of Volunteer TCs in East Central Railway

†1588. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal have issued any direction to absorb Volunteer Ticket Collectors (TCs) who had worked for eight hours a day for 240 days, in East Central Railway;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard till date;

(c) whether correspondence has also been made by public representative

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha) on many occasions for examination of the said matter and for absorbing Volunteer TCs; and

(d) by when rest of the TCs will be appointed?

New Catering Policy

1589. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized new Catering Policy for Railway trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether meals provided in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains will be made optional, if so, the details thereof, including overall passenger fare; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that hygienic and quality food is served in running trains at reasonable price?

Construction of flyover at Gar Ali, Jorhat in Assam

1590. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for construction of a flyover at Gar Ali in Jorhat town to ease traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard, so far?

Bypass at Mariani near Jorhat

1591. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for construction of a bypass at Mariani near Jorhat to enable important trains like Rajdhani Express to come upto Jorhat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard, so far?

Procurement of EMU train sets

1592. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to procure Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train sets for use in its network;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the procurement process;

(c) the specialities of these train sets when compared to the present ones;

(d) how much funds would be required for procuring these train sets; and

(e) the time by which the same would be procured and put into operation?

Improving condition of railway stations under PPP mode

†1593. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had taken a decision to improve the condition of railway stations through PPP mode;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations in the country being improved through PPP mode; and

(c) if not, the plan Government is

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

working on to provide security, cleanliness and other facilities at railway stations?

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

Railway land under encroachment

1594. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway land which is under encroachment; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Railways to remove encroachment from railway land and retain its ownership without any encumbrances?

Electrification of railway route

1595. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karaikal Port-Thiruvarur-Thanjavur-Tiruchirapalli and Nagapattinam-Velankkani route has been identified for electrification;

(b) if so, the progress made so far on the above line; and

(c) the amount that has been allocated since its identification, year-wise and by when it is likely to be completed?

Financial support for conduct of census of artisans

1596. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would provide financial support to Government of Odisha for conducting census of handicraft artisans of Odisha in Handloom, Textile and Handicraft Sectors and also to all other States in the country; and

Imparting training to weavers

1597. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of training imparted to weavers to upgrade their skill and increase productivity in the Handloom sector in various States, including Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of funds spent for undertaking various training programmes in the Handloom sector during the last five years?

Production of wool and promotion of textile industry

†1598. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wool produced in the country during last year and places of production thereof along with names of animals from which wool is produced in the country;

(b) whether Indian wool is exported abroad, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has chalked out any scheme during the last two years for promotion of textile industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the countries to which clothes made in the country are exported, along with the details of export made during last year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Venture Capital Fund to boost
Powerloom sector**

1599. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating upon development of Powerloom sector in the country by setting up a Venture Capital Fund under the administration of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any other incentives are being given to Powerloom sector for

production and marketing Powerloom clothes in the country?

**Export of Jute seeds and revival of
closed Jute mills**

†1600. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jute seeds are available in plenty in the country at present;

(b) the quantum of Jute seeds exported by the country annually; and

(c) the future plan of the Ministry to promote Jute industry and the number of Jute Mills closed in the last two years?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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