

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, August 7, 2015/Sravana 16, 1937 (Saka)*

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(Ministries : Agriculture; 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

#### Group insurance under crop insurance schemes

2081. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current crop insurance schemes run by Government allow group insurance to be taken by Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producing Organisations (FPOs) and Cooperative Societies; and

(b) if so, the data for group insurances taken by each of these groups for the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Including crops damaged due to seeds failure under NAIS

2082. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crops covered under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) at present; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to

include some crops damaged due to seeds failure, under NAIS, if so, the details thereof?

#### Impact of weak monsoon

2083. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that monsoon is expected to be weak this season thereby raising concern about decreased agricultural production and higher agricultural prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

#### Necessity of second green revolution

†2084. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is feeling the necessity of the second Green Revolution;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

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

#### **Implementation of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization**

2085. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the Sub-Mission; and

(c) the funds allocated to various States under the Sub-Mission, State-wise?

#### **Institutional support to livestock sector**

2086. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock sector has received less resources and institutional support as compared to its contribution in the economy;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase resources and institutional support to the livestock sector;

(d) whether the country still lacks adequate facilities and infrastructure for disease diagnosis, reporting epidemiology, surveillance and forecasting; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for breed improvement, enhancing availability of feed and fodder and provision of better health services?

#### **Promotion of kitchen garden**

2087. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve crop productivity and efficiency in the value chains;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether kitchen gardening and newer forms of vertical gardening can be of great help to propagate the cause of environment;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to create awareness among households about the potentials of kitchen as well as organic gardening; and

(e) whether Government has received any proposal from State Governments including Government of Kerala for promotion of kitchen garden or urban farms, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of NDP in Maharashtra**

2088. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the National Diary Plan (NDP) in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the present status of implementation of the NDP in Maharashtra?

#### **Suicide by farmers in Karnataka**

2089. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who

committed suicide in Karnataka during the last three months, month-wise;

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

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

(d) whether Government is considering to announce any immediate relief measures like special packages/debt waivers etc. for debt ridden farmers of Karnataka in this alarming situation, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Study to ascertain financial burden on farmers**

†2090. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is paying special attention towards reasons compelling farmers to commit suicide day by day as such incidents are rising constantly;

(b) whether Government is conducting any study to ascertain the financial burden on farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor as constant rise in the farmers' suicides is an extremely shocking and complicated issue?

#### **Providing new dimension to agriculture**

†2091. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to give new dimension to the

condition and direction of agriculture in the country; and

(b) the details thereof?

#### **Compensation to agriculturists**

2092. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) on account of unfair climatic condition, how much loss occurred to agriculturists from January, 2015 till date, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) how much compensation was given to agriculturists from Government Natural Calamity Fund and by insurance companies, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Inclusion of Jharkhand under NDP-1**

2093. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for inclusion of Jharkhand in the list of States to be covered under the National Dairy Plan-1;

(b) whether it is envisaged that the very outputs of NDP-1 as planned would be substantially achieved within the period of NDP1 having been extended upto 2018-19;

(c) whether inclusion of Jharkhand under NDP-1 will create employment opportunities and minimise migration of its people to other States in search of jobs; and

(d) the other objectives Government is contemplating from the project?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Impact of climate change in agriculture sector**

2094. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any assessment regarding non-irrigation areas in order to make them cultivable, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative for climate smart agriculture to reduce the impact of global climate change in agriculture sector in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding impact of climatic change on small scale agricultural system in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Crisis in agriculture sector**

†2095. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture sector of the country is in crisis for the last several years and the development in the field of agriculture is almost nil in the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a number of steps have been taken by the Central Government during the last one year to take the agriculture sector out of the crisis and to ensure development of agriculture as per the expectations, if so, the details thereof?

**Ca'ulation of MSP/FRP of agricultural produces**

2096. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which various inputs have

been taken into account while calculating the MSP/FRP of various agricultural produce by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) during the year 2013-14; and

(b) the details thereof, input-wise?

**Promoting contract farming**

2097. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to promote contract farming in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether financial assistance has been given to States or directly to farmers to promote contract farming; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year along with the guidelines issued by the Central Government to the States for this purpose?

**Adverse effect of chemical fertilizes**

†2098. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large portion of the arable land in the country has been adversely affected because of the excessive usage of chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Resources made available to States for development of agriculture**

†2099. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether resources are made available by the Ministry for development of agriculture in the States;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the items and the forms in which these are made available;

(c) whether the resources being made available to States have been slashed since the Financial Year 2013-14 and 2014-15, the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the details of resources made available to States till the Financial Years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15?

#### **Making agriculture a remunerative profession**

2100. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of debt ridden farmers have given up agriculture profession;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in Haryana and Punjab;

(c) whether these farmers were forced to sell their land etc. to repay the debts taken from moneylenders;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken by Government to make agriculture a remunerative profession?

#### **Allocation of funds for micro irrigation**

†2101. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by Government to various States including Madhya Pradesh for micro irrigation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of funds sanctioned and released so far?

#### **Production cost of crops**

†2102. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the production of rabi and kharif crops this year, if so, how much, the details of crops production, State-wise;

(b) whether Government assesses the cost of crop production, if so, the systems adopted to estimate the cost of production, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the crop production during the last two years including estimated cost of crop production, State-wise?

#### **Standard for nutrient application**

2103. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Government publications, including the annual economic surveys have been using 4:2:1 ratio of nutrients as the yardstick for assessing imbalance in fertilizer application;

(b) whether ICAR has now acknowledged the mistake of treating 4:2:1 as the standard for nutrient application in its Annual Report 2014-15 and feels the existing norm can not be generalised for the entire country;

(c) whether according to recent ICAR findings the ratio 4:2:1 applies only to wheat-rice crop rotation system in Punjab and Haryana; and

(d) whether ICAR has worked out a more appropriate and rational all India average normative nutrient mix at 2.5:1.4:1?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Funding for National Agriculture Market**

2104. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a central scheme for promotion of National Agriculture Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the aims of the scheme; and

(c) whether Central Government would fully fund various States for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

**Production of foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses**

2105. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average productivity of foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses in 2010-11 and 2014-15;

(b) the productivity of these commodities compared to neighbouring/advanced countries and the average world productivity;

(c) whether over the years, Government has undertaken any measures to increase their productivity; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures taken and the outcome thereof?

**Use of Soil Health Cards for research and planning**

2106. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soil Health Card system envisages building up

a single national database on soil health for future use in research and planning;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a total of 2.53 crore samples will be collected and tested to generate 14 crore Soil Health Cards for farmers once in three years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost is borne by the Centre which has set aside ₹ 568.54 crore for a period of three years, if so, the details thereof?

**Counselling for improvement of productivity**

2107. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the action the Ministry has taken to increase the knowledge and awareness to enhance the production and productivity of crops cultivated by farmers in their fields;

(b) the details of such programme; and

(c) the list of crops for which, counselling for improvement of productivity has been conducted?

**Profit margin over cost of production**

2108. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is becoming unremunerative particularly for small and marginal farmers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken to fix remunerative pricing with 50 per cent profit margin over cost of production for all the 24 crops as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Forty-first Report in the year 2007-08;

(c) whether the National Commission on Farmers had recommended that the MSP

should be atleast 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not accepting the recommendation made by the National Commission on Farmers?

#### **Development of agro-machineries**

2109. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modern/latest farm technologies available to farmers to assist them in cultivation of crops in the country;

(b) whether Government provides subsidy/cash subsidy to farmers for purchasing different farm machineries, seeds, fertilizers and electricity etc.;

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

(d) the details of research and development work undertaken for development of agro-machineries to overcome the shortage of farm labourers in agriculture sector, particularly in the States of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh?

#### **Sale of agricultural produce below the production cost**

†2110. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will bring agricultural produces like paddy, wheat, potato and onion under the minimum support price mechanism;

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

(c) the reasons for which farmers are constrained to sell their produces at prices lower than their production cost and to commit suicide, the details of action plan formulated by Government in this regard, in view of the interest of farmers?

#### **Strengthening agricultural market infrastructure**

†2111. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring the regulated mandis across the country on electronic platform in the coming years and to establish National Agriculture Market in various States through it;

(b) if so, the names of the States and schemes identified, for this purpose during the current financial year, State/Union Territory-wise details thereof, and by when the National Agriculture Market would be established; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to modernize the existing mandis and strengthen the agriculture market infrastructure in the country, including rural areas?

#### **Merging all agricultural schemes into a single scheme**

†2112. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to merge all agricultural schemes into a single scheme; and

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Production of grapes**

2113. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of grape varieties in the country;

(b) if so, the details of grapes' production in Andhra Pradesh and other States in the last five years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) how Central Government is helping farmers to increase grapes' production and productivity;

(d) the details of assistance given during the last five years to farmers, including Andhra Pradesh, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the percentage of grapes exported during the last three years and how the Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Commerce and Industry to increase export of grapes to other countries?

### **Fall in production due to unseasonal summer rain**

2114. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unseasonal rains in the summer and below normal monsoon have affected production of various crops this year; and

(b) if so, the resultant contraction in the area of production of foodgrains and pulses and fall in the production during the year?

### **Demand and supply of pulses**

†2115. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the production, demand and supply of pulses;

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

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to ensure increase in the production of pulses and its adequate supply; and

(d) the details of quantum of export and import of pulses during the last three years, year-wise?

### **Burden of loans on farmers**

†2116. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the report of the National Sample Survey, production has increased by 13 per cent in the agriculture sector in the last one decade, whereas an increase of 24 per cent has been registered in the loans on account of which the farmers are burdened with the payment of the loans; and

(b) whether Government will contemplate to give fair price for the produce of farmers after abolishing all the subsidies being granted to farmers, so that farmers could come out from the web of debt, insurance and subsidy and if so, the details thereof?

### **Development of HYV seeds**

2117. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) the details of the High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of seeds developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last one year, crop-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred for developing such seeds during the year;

(c) whether HYV seeds of wheat and maize are being developed only by the foreign countries;

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

(e) the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to develop research activities to improve the quality of seeds in the country?

#### **Impact of Pulses Technology Mission**

2118. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pulses in the country during last two years in comparison to their consumption;

(b) whether pulses are imported;

(c) if so, the quantity of pulses imported each year during last two years and the value thereof; and

(d) the work, so far, done by the Pulses Technology Mission to raise the production of pulses in the country and also to check its import?

#### **Setting up of National Cattle Development Board**

2119. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up or proposes to set up a National Cattle Development Board for improving the indigenous livestock breeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame set therefor; and

(c) the details of measures taken/ proposed to be taken to reform the cooperative sector laws?

#### **Harmful pesticides in agricultural produces**

2120. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some farmers resort to use of harmful pesticides to protect their produces from insects;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check use of such harmful pesticides;

(c) whether there is any provision to check the use of harmful pesticides in agricultural produces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Fish production in Maharashtra**

2121. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the fish production in Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how it compares with the other coastal States of the country; and

(c) the measures Government proposes to take to increase fish production in the State substantially?

**Marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers**

2122. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of the further action taken by the Ministry on the verdict of the High Court on the matter of paying of marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers to urea producers; and

(b) how much amount of marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers to PSUs and cooperative urea producers of Gujarat is pending till date, the unit-wise details thereof?

**Subsidy on urea/fertilizers**

2123. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizers manufacturing companies have been demanding lowering of urea prices, reducing subsidy on urea and increasing subsidy on phosphate and potash fertilizers if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(b) whether instances of excessive use of urea have come to light, if so, the details thereof?

**Revival of loss making PSUs**

2124. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry along with the number of those making profit and losses, separately, sector-wise;

(b) the action plan formulated to revive the loss making PSUs and make them viable venture;

(c) the details of flagship programmes implemented under the Ministry;

(d) the funds allocated, utilised and un-utilised in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, programme-wise; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken by Government to promote PSUs?

**Shortage and blackmarketing of fertilizers**

2125. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are suffering on account of shortage of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether several cases of supply of substandard/adulterated fertilizers and its black marketing have also come to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against persons involved in such activities?

**Setting up of Jan Aushadhi stores in Telangana**

2126. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 Jan Aushadhi stores have been sanctioned for Telangana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the locations where they are likely to be set up?

**Revival of Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant**

2127. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival of Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant in Telangana by Engineers India Ltd. (EIL);

(b) whether it is a fact that due to fall in the value of dollar, the estimated cost for revival has gone up from ₹ 4,694 crores to ₹ 5,250 crores;

(c) if so, how the struggling EIL is planning to pool the revised resources for this plant; and

(d) who is taking the remaining share of 37 per cent and the status of the financial position and contribution so far made?

**Smuggling and diversion of urea/ fertilizers**

2128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 10-15 per cent of urea is diverted for non-agricultural purposes and urea and other fertilizers are smuggled to Nepal, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, details of measures taken to curb diversion and smuggling of fertilizers to neighbouring countries;

(c) the measures taken to maintain strict vigilance on the borders to check smuggling of fertilizers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish an institutional mechanism in cooperation with State Governments to take notice of smuggling and divergence of

fertilizers for non-agricultural purpose and to ensure stringent punishment for those involved in such activities?

**Review of drug pricing policy**

2129. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the controlled price of some essential medicines fixed by Central Government is four thousand per cent higher than that being provided by some States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons and rationale for the same; and

(c) whether in view of above Government would review its drug pricing policy, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Review of drug pricing policy for essential medicines**

2130. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Drug Pricing Policy for essential medicines is unreasonable as the price of some medicines is around 4000 per cent higher than that fixed by some States;

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Central Government to re-examine the present Drug Pricing Policy for essential medicines;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Central Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

#### **Pricing of drugs**

2131. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has simplified the drug pricing through a notification;

(b) if so, the details of drugs that are going to be available at a lesser price as a result thereof;

(c) whether the prices of life-saving drugs will also come down as a result of this; and

(d) if so, the details of the drugs that are going to be cheaper?

#### **Norms for cell towers radiations**

2132. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of cell towers and the norms for cell towers radiation in the country;

(b) whether cases of violation of the said norms by service providers have come to the notice of Government during each of the last three years and the current year along with the penalty imposed on them, company-wise;

(c) whether Government has doubled

the penalty for violation of such norms in the recent past, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other corrective steps taken by Government to keep a check on the erring service providers?

#### **Internet Telephone Services**

†2133. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government is going to submit its report on net neutrality;

(b) whether internet telephone order is implied in the licence given to telecommunication company by Government;

(c) if so, the names of Indian companies providing internet telephone services;

(d) the reasons why these companies are not providing these services;

(e) since when they have been provided with licence, if any; and

(f) whether TRAI or DOT have ever asked these companies to provide internet telephone service, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Communication system running into losses**

†2134. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the communication system in the country has failed and is running into heavy losses;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that because of giving recognition and promoting private companies, the communication system of the Government is constantly out of order;

(d) if so, the losses being incurred by Government; and

(e) the details of action being taken in this regard?

**Complaints regarding BSNL landline and broadband services during Monsoon**

2135. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that a large number of landline telephones and broadband connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) remain dysfunctional during the Monsoon season in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the services of BSNL?

**Shortage of mobile towers**

2136. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a whopping shortage of towers for cellular phone services in the country;

(b) if so, who is responsible for the situation, Government or the private operators;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian private telecom operators spend hardly fifteen per cent of their outlay on infrastructure as against thirty per cent in China; and

(d) how does Government intend to bring a turnaround in the situation?

**Sharing of spectrum among operators**

2137. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Commission has given its approval for sharing of spectrum among operators, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the regulator has also allowed adding of spectrum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of mobile towers at call drop locations**

2138. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom regulator has asked all mobile service providers to find out details from their customers regarding the locations where they face call drops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telecom regulator has asked the private mobile service providers to set up mobile towers at such locations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Legislation for data protection in web domain**

2139. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will bring any legislation for data protection in the web domain and to control cyber crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Recommendation by Government Committee on Net Neutrality**

2140. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government Committee on Net Neutrality has clarified that its report neither favours any telecom service provider nor does it endorses any tariff plan, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recommendation was given only to regulate domestic internet telephony as they were in direct competition with services that the telecoms offered, if so, the details thereof?

**Adopting mobile number as social security number**

2141. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry will forward the proposal to the Ministry of Home

Affairs for considering to adopt the mobile number as social security number, if the portability of mobile numbers across the States will hold their unique identity without any duplicacy;

(b) if so, by when the proposal would be forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Sports quota in recruitment**

†2142. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five per cent quota in recruitments has been provided for the sportspersons in the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the number of sportspersons recruited in Department of Posts under sports quota, the details thereof, during the last five years; and

(c) the norms adopted for such recruitment in case the number of applications is higher than the existing quota?

**Probe into 2G spectrum deal**

2143. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ordered any probe into the alleged loss suffered in the 2G spectrum deal *vis-a-vis* the market value thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the estimated extent of loss so incurred; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future?

#### **Stand on Net Neutrality**

2144. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the recent debate on Net Neutrality;

(b) if so, what is Government's stand on the issue;

(c) whether Government plans to take any step to ensure Net Neutrality in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Bill payment gateways of MTNL**

2145. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bill payment sites or gateways of MTNL are very slow, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the remedial measures being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

#### **Availability of high speed internet services in rural areas**

2146. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS

AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households in rural areas that currently have access to internet services;

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

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

#### **4G facilities by MTNL/BSNL**

2147. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 4G facilities will be provided by BSNL and MTNL on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when it will be launched by MTNL/BSNL in the country?

#### **Complaints regarding local and STD telephone services in Maharashtra**

†2148. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local and STD telephone services are not working properly in Maharashtra, especially in the underdeveloped districts;

(b) whether the local telecom officers have received complaints in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Regulating local and national calls over VoIP apps**

2149. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT Committee on Net Neutrality has recommended for an open and unregulated regime for several services but proposed regulating local and national calls over Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) apps;

(b) whether such move would result in consumers paying for them, possibly making them as expensive as calls made through mobile;

(c) whether the Committee has found that local and national calls made over internet could be six times cheaper than that made over regular mobile networks and has accepted a major demand of the telecoms for a level playing field with OTT voice apps; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

**Decline in the number of landline connections**

†2150. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of landline telephone connections is declining continuously since the last few years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to take steps afresh to promote and publicise landline connections under the Digital India Programme, if so, the details thereof?

**Investment by private sector in Digital India Programme**

†2151. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector has given an investment assurance of ₹ 4.72 lakh crore during the launch of Digital India week, if so, by when these investment proposals would materialise;

(b) the number of youth likely to be employed under this Programme; and

(c) the scheme of Government to increase export in the field of telecommunication and the manner in which India could become a leading country in the field of hardware?

**Harassment of consumers by telecom companies**

2152. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the harassment of consumers by telecom companies through extra billing or false billing for dropped calls or unintended Value Added Services (VAS);

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to protect the consumers in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any action against telecom companies found guilty for such fraud, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government plans to set up an ombudsman for telecom sector to

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



ensure consumer rights and resolve consumer complaints, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Improvement in services of BSNL**

2153. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL will improve its services with most affordable call rates compared to other private service providers;

(b) the new measures taken to better rural and remote area connectivity;

(c) whether 2G and 3G services would be enhanced all over the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether BSNL could manufacture good mobile phones indigenously to reduce cost of mobile handsets; and

(e) if so, whether there is any plan for such manufacturing of mobile phones in the future?

#### **Acceptance of Kamath Committee recommendations**

2154. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted K.V. Kamath Committee recommendations on the possibility of new role to be played by post offices based on the concept of Post Bank and Post Insurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Guidelines to counter cyber attacks**

2155. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued guidelines to counter cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for Indian carriers, if so, the details of such guidelines and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by when such guidelines are likely to be issued;

(b) whether incidents of cyber attacks and hacking of Indian websites from foreign countries, particularly China and Pakistan, are on the rise during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, country-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Report on Net Neutrality**

2156. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry believes that the recommendation of the A.K. Bhargava Committee on Net Neutrality to levy charges on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or voice calls is in the interest of customers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the report has attempted to corroborate with quantitative evidence the claim of telecom service providers (TSPs) that VoIP leads to a loss of evidence, or if it has accepted the TSPs assertion on face value;

(c) if so, the details and statistics thereon; and;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Encouraging electronic manufacturing**

2157. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the proposal of consortium of Indian and foreign companies for chip fabrication;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the incentives to encourage electronic manufacturing in the country; and

(c) the proposed steps to develop dedicated electronic manufacturing clusters to reduce dependence on imports and the progress registered in this regard?

**Making mobile telephone services fully functional**

†2158. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken/being taken by Government to make mobile telephone services fully functional in the country;

(b) the number of mobile telephone connections provided by the BSNL during the period from the year 2005 to 2015, year-wise; and

(c) the estimated number of mobile telephone connections, as on date, provided by other companies/institutions besides the BSNL, including the names of such companies/institutions?

**Production of sugar**

2159. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in production of sugar;

(b) the total production of sugar, State-wise; and

(c) whether India is exporting sugar to other countries, if so, the quantity and country-wise details thereof?

**Payment of dues to sugarcane growers in Bihar**

2160. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills in Bihar, including HPCL Biofuels Limited (HBL), which operates Sugauli Sugar Mill, owe a huge amount to farmers as arrears for procurement of their sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, indicating the total amount due to farmers during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure payment of dues to farmers at the earliest and check any further pendency during the ensuing season?

**Allocation of foodgrains to Tamil Nadu**

2161. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is providing adequate supply and necessary support to Tamil Nadu for distribution of foodgrains and essential commodities, including edible oils, through PDS;

(b) if so, details thereof and quantity of foodgrains, essential commodities supplied to Tamil Nadu during last five years;

(c) the measures taken by Government to provide rice/wheat at subsidized price to BPL people in the country and the quota allocated for Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government has reduced the quota and supply of foodgrains to Tamil Nadu and other States under PDS; and

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

#### **Coverage of beneficiaries under AAY**

2162. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/guidelines adopted for identification of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries covered under the AAY, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any request from the States for increasing the number of beneficiaries under AAY; and

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

#### **Providing food subsidy directly to beneficiaries**

†2163. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy for food items and distribution given by Central Government to Rajasthan for the beneficiaries;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to provide food subsidy directly to the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether cases of payment regarding food and public distribution from Government of Rajasthan are pending with Central Government, if so, by when the payment thereof would be made?

#### **Rottening of foodgrains**

2164. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains that rotted and was declared unfit for human consumption in the last two years; and

(b) whether Government is planning to incentivise setting of silos in the country to prevent such wastage, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of NFSA**

2165. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) how many States have implemented the National Food Security Act, 2013, so far, and how many States have agreed to implement it in the near future; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to make it compulsory to implement this Act in every State, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Outstanding dues of sugarcane growers**

†2166. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of the sugarcane growers on the sugar mills at present;

(b) whether Government has lent an interest-free loan of ₹ 6,000 crore to the sugar mills recently;

(c) the amount of loan/interest-free loan lent to sugar mills earlier; and

(d) the provision made to provide the outstanding amount soon to the farmers?

#### **Distribution of foodgrains under National Food Security Act**

2167. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains distributed under the National Food Security Act during the year 2014-15, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the number of beneficiary households that belonged to the SC and ST category?

#### **BPL families in Kerala getting subsidized foodgrains**

2168. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families registered in Kerala getting subsidized foodgrains;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual number of BPL families in Kerala is much more than registered; and

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

#### **Exclusion of people from PDS in West Bengal**

2169. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent people have been excluded from the PDS in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Import of wheat**

2170. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:  
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to import wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the price and quantity of the proposed imports;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether some quantity of wheat has already been imported during the last four months; and

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

**Foodgrains' stock available in the country**

2171. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the total stock of foodgrains in the country during 2013-14, along with the quantity of foodgrains that should have been in the stock for maintaining balance in the Indian market;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains' stock during 2014-15;

(c) the foodgrains' stock required to keep hold on Indian market and to what extent it is short of that;

(d) the reasons for shortfall in foodgrains' stock and whether Government would import foodgrains to meet this shortage; and

(e) if so, the quantum thereof?

**Promotion of FPIs**

2172. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to promote establishment of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) by Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, Cooperative Societies and Non-Governmental Organisations, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of FPIs currently being operated by Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, Cooperative Societies and Non-Governmental Organisations, the details thereof, State-wise, for each category; and

(c) the number of FPIs currently being operated by MSMEs, private industry and public sector undertakings, the details thereof, State-wise, for each category?

**Development of FPIs in rural areas**

2173. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special policy packages announced by Government to give further boost to the Food Processing Industry (FPI) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve the prospects of FPIs in rural areas; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to provide food processing training to prospective entrepreneurs as well as processors, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of Food Parks**

2174. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Parks set up in different States of the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up any new Food Parks in any State; and

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

### **FPIs in Tamil Nadu**

2175. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) set up after 2009 in Tamil Nadu and the number out of them functional;

(b) the number of industries run by Central/State Governments, respectively, and the number of private players involved in this industry;

(c) whether PPP model would be encouraged for promotion of FPIs;

(d) the entities involved in this business without social concerns; and

(e) how many employ under-privileged and disabled persons in such industries?

### **Boost to agro-based organic Food Processing Industries**

2176. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:  
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes run by Government to set up organic Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

(b) whether Government plans to develop special organic food processing zones in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken/being taken by Government to boost agro-based organic Food Processing Industry in the country?

### **Setting up of All India Judicial Service**

2177. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to set up an All India Judicial Service to recruit judicial officers in lower courts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had set up an Advisory Council for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to give its recommendations?

### **Drafting of Private Members' legislations**

2178. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:•

(a) whether the Ministry is of the opinion that law making process will be strengthened by supporting Private Members' legislations by way of lending the expertise of its drafting personnel;

(b) whether currently, the Legislative Department of the Ministry extends support or expertise of its personnel for drafting of legislation by Private Members of Parliament on request; and

(c) if so, the details and past instances thereof and if not, whether there are any plans in this regard?

### **Reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures**

2179. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has restarted consultation with various political parties and stakeholders to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures; and

(b) if not, when Government will restart consultations and arrive at a decision as women in the country are deprived of their rightful political representation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies?

#### **Entry of foreign law firms**

2180. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling over to allow foreign law firms to enter India on reciprocal basis, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Bar Council of India is against this; and

(c) if a foreign law firm is allowed how would it fulfil the qualification of being enrolled as Advocates under the Advocates Act, 1961?

#### **Charging the passengers for drinking water**

2181. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed Railways to charge the passengers to get drinking water at railway stations;

(b) if so, why Railways have decided to charge for even a glass of water; and

(c) what expenditure will be incurred by Government if it provides drinking water free of charge to passengers?

#### **Fast Track Courts**

2182. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute more Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for speedy disposal of sensitive cases, if so, details thereof;

(b) the number of FTCs constituted and number of cases disposed of by them, State-wise;

(c) whether these FTCs are running through existing judges or new judges have been appointed to share work, details thereof;

(d) whether some States have been providing support to FTCs from their own resources ever since Central support was discontinued, if so, details thereof, State-wise, including Karnataka; and

(e) whether Government proposes to reimburse states in this regard, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Vacant posts of judges**

2183. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of judges in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the reasons for vacancies of judges being kept vacant for years together; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Ministry of provide sufficient number of judges in all the States?

**Release of funds for court and residential buildings for judges in Chhattisgarh**

†2184. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds had been allocated by the Centre for construction of court buildings and residential buildings of judges and officers of Chhattisgarh but more funds are needed for the purpose; and

(b) by when the above mentioned funds demanded by the State Government will be released by the Centre?

**Second phase of e-Courts Mission Mode Project**

2185. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given approval to the second phase of e-Courts Mission Mode Project, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all cases—old, pending and disposed of have been updated in the National Data Grid in the phase-I of the project, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all States are connected to this grid, if so, the details thereof?

**Repeal of laws**

2186. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to repeal certain laws, including Marriage Act which are discriminatory against leprosy affected people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government keeping in view that the leprosy is now completely curable disease?

**Sanctioned *vis-a-vis* filled in posts of judges and pendency of cases in SC and HCs**

2187. DR. CHANDAN MITRA:  
SHRI RAJ BABBAR:

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

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court, as on date, and the number of vacant posts of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether pendency of cases is increasing in higher courts due to vacant posts of judges;

(c) if so, the details of pending cases in each High Court and the Supreme Court as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacant posts so as to bring down the number of pending cases along with reasons for the delay in the said process?

**Cases pending in courts**

2188. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:  
SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:

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

(a) the measures taken, so far, to clear the huge number of cases pending in High Courts in the country;

(b) the details of cases pending in courts,

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



including High Court of Karnataka till 1 August, 2015; and

(c) whether Government proposes to consider amendments to the existing laws to ensure justice in time and if so, the details thereof?

**MoU for skill development and entrepreneurship**

2189. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to use the railway space and technical manpower to conduct skill development programmes;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the said MoU;

(c) the extent to which shortage of technical manpower will be fulfilled on implementation of said MoU;

(d) whether it is a fact that Railways have already been facing shortage of technical manpower; and

(e) if so, how Railways will spare its technical manpower to conduct skill development?

**Change in the timings of New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express**

†2190. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering

to change the timings of the New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express train No. 12055/12056 from October to March (winter period) in view of convenience of the common passengers;

(b) whether it has been considered to increase the speed of the train and make the departure time of Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express at 3.00 p.m. and Dehradun-Delhi Janshatabdi Express at 5.30 a.m., so that the passengers residing in the rural areas of Dehradun may avail this facility; and

(c) if so, by when it will be implemented, the details thereof?

**Allowing private companies for catering services at stations and in trains**

2191. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the decision of IRCTC to introduce drinking water on payment basis at all railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways are planning to introduce private companies for catering services at stations and in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Stoppage of all trains running from Dehradun at Raiwala**

†2192. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains are only available at Dehradun or Haridwar for laksh of pilgrims,

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

tourists and other travellers doing Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether Government is considering a one minute stoppage of all trains running from Dehradun at Raiwala railway station, between Haridwar and Rishikesh for the convenience of lakhs of pilgrims, tourists and other travellers for the Ardha Kumbh Mela next year and also for the Char Dham Yatra to start from April-May, 2016; and

(c) if so, by when the passenger will get stoppage facility at Raiwala railway station, the details thereof?

**Study report on running bullet train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad**

†2193. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received a study report for running bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, if so, the details thereof and Ministry's approach on the study report;

(b) whether the Ministry will find a way for deciding an affordable fare of bullet train for all the citizens of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Special leave and passes to employees for learning yoga**

†2194. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to provide separate special leaves and passes to railway employees for learning yoga;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken

any steps in this regard so far and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Illegal encroachment on Railways' land**

†2195. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise details of illegal encroachment on Railways' land at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the steps being taken by the Railways to remove the encroachment on its land are not sufficient; and

(c) the present commercial value of encroached land of Railways?

**Accidents at level crossings**

2196. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seventy per cent of trains accidents happen at level crossings/unmanned railway crossings in Telangana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise during the last three years and the steps taken/being taken to avoid such accidents in future and the compensation paid to the victim families, so far?

**Proposal to run trains at 200 kmph**

2197. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a proposal to run Rajdhani, Shatabdi and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Duronto at the speed of 200 kmph, in some select corridors, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any consultancy firm has been engaged to make a feasibility study and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Connectivity with NE region**

2198. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked both the Centre and the States to make a blue print ready for second round of connectivity with the seven States of North East (NE) region for flow of grains and goods, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the main problems coming up in the way of fast movement of essential commodities to NE region; and

(c) the status of stranded railway projects in NE region with an action plan for fast completion of such projects?

#### **Representations for gauge conversions in Gujarat**

2199. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received representations for gauge conversion of railway tracks from various organizations/road users as well as from Government of Gujarat, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the work is likely to start along with the probable time-frame for completion of each project?

#### **Loss incurred by Railways due to rain, fire etc.**

†2200. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss of crores of rupees is incurred every-year by Railways on account of rain, fire and other reasons;

(b) if so, the quantam of loss incurred; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid losses in such situations?

#### **Survey of new railway lines in KBK region of Odisha**

2201. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new railway lines surveyed in KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) region of Odisha; and

(b) the status of allocation of funds to these new lines and probable date of their execution?

#### **Unmanned level crossings in Telangana**

2202. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in Telangana, at present, and the number of accidents that took place at these crossings during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to convert these unmanned level crossings in

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Telangana as manned ones to prevent accidents and create employment opportunities; and

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

#### **Introduction of superfast trains**

2203. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce superfast Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Patiala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the new superfast trains likely to be introduced between Delhi and major cities of Punjab like Chandigarh, Patiala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar?

#### **Implementation of dynamic fare system**

2204. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the dynamic fares being implemented by Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the main objective of dynamic fares is to fleece travellers, as the rates prescribed are exorbitant when compared to the same class in other trains;

(c) the details of premium trains identified for dynamic fares;

(d) whether it is also a fact that sometimes dynamic fare is as much as ninety per cent of the tatkal fare; and

(e) if so, the reasons for introducing such

fares which are detrimental to the interest of travellers?

#### **Introducing solar powered trains**

2205. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce solar powered trains in the country;

(b) if so, whether Railways have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any private company for the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Lack of basic amenities at railway stations in Maharashtra**

†2206. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway stations falling within Maharashtra are very filthy and severely face lack of basic amenities;

(b) if so, the reaction of Railways thereon; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways towards providing basic amenities at these stations and keeping them clean?

#### **Development of railway stations**

2207. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to approach the Indian diaspora to finance schemes for development of railway stations across the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the response received so far;

(c) the details of guidelines, if framed, for improving stations through such assistance;

(d) whether railway stations have been identified for development through assistance from Indian diaspora; and

(e) if so, the names of the stations including those located in Odisha?

**Status of World Class Railway stations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**

2208. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of World Class Railway stations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, State-wise; and

(b) whether any alternatives are being considered in this regard, if so, the progress made in respect of such proposals and their implementation?

**Redevelopment of railway stations**

2209. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal for redevelopment of four hundred railway stations under A1 and A category across the country using Swiss Challenge method, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether A1 and A category stations are generally located in metros, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations across the country; and

(c) the other plans of Railways to encourage innovative ideas from interested parties at no cost to Railways?

**Increasing train connectivity to Bhiwandi**

2210. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding more connectivity of Bhiwandi, an industrial hub of Maharashtra, by Rajdhani/Mail/Express/Passenger trains with other parts of the country, is pending for consideration;

(b) whether all the trains passing through Bhiwandi have a stoppage there to facilitate the outward and inward flow of passengers, as also the loading and unloading of goods and other products; and

(c) whether any proposal for introduction of new train(s) to and from Bhiwandi or gauge conversion work is under consideration?

**Train connectivity for North-Eastern States**

2211. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of train connectivity and distance covered in kilometers in the whole of North-Eastern States;

(b) how does it compare with the all India average in terms of kilometer-wise and fund-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to connect all State capitals of North-Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds required therefor; and

(e) the efforts made for timely completion of projects to prevent cost and time over-runs?

#### **Railway projects in Jharkhand**

2212. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plan for taking up any pending railway projects in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated and released so far, project-wise and district-wise?

#### **Railway land under encroachment**

2213. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the area of Railways' land under encroachment, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to remove the encroachment; and

(c) the revenue loss incurred to Government due to these encroachments?

#### **Redevelopment of railway stations through Swiss Challenge approach**

2214. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to redevelop four hundred railway stations across the country through a new PPP route called Swiss Challenge, offering flexibility of execution to interested parties in terms of design and business ideas, including permitting commercial development of real estate by the zonal railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified railway stations for redevelopment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increasing frequency of local trains between Ghaziabad and New Delhi**

2215. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal to increase the frequency of local/ EMU/DMU trains between Ghaziabad and New Delhi in the interest of daily passengers;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of action taken by Railways to check the late running of trains, specially local trains?

#### **Improving the working of Railways**

2216. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to improve the working of Railways in more effective manner without involving the content of privatization;

(b) whether Railways have undertaken several measures to revamp its health and raise the level of investment to modernise the network;

(c) whether the State-run agencies have pledged funds to revamp Railways while Government is exploring ways to attract funds from global pension funds and other entities to fast-track projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Centrally managed 'Railway Display Network'**

2217. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will pilot the launch of centrally managed 'Railway Display Network' at ten major stations by October, 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the network will provide real time information on train arrivals/departure, reservations, general and emergency messages, and if so, the details thereof?

**Making railway stations more accessible for senior citizens and the disabled**

2218. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have asked its zonal divisions to put escalators and elevators at all important stations falling under their jurisdiction, in order to make railway stations more accessible to senior citizens and the disabled, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have reviewed the action taken by the zonal railways in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Starting Durgam Cheruvu Express on Delhi-Goa route**

2219. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start Durgam Cheruvu Express on Delhi-Goa route;

(b) whether any survey has been made in this regard;

(c) by when will the train running commence on the route;

(d) the number and classes of bogies

proposed to be attached and the number of days it would run on this route; and

(e) whether there is going to be any improvement in the ambience and/or substantial changes in the bogies, the details thereof?

**Helpline to report incidents of crime in trains**

2220. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a helpline has been launched to report incidents of crime in the trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how far it has helped to control crime in the running trains and at station premises;

(c) whether it is also proposed to deploy police personnel in the local trains, especially in the country-side to prevent eve-teasing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Upgradation of Nuapada Railway Station**

2221. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuapada Railway Station was upgraded to Category 'B' for being a link to three important tourism places of Western Odisha and also being the headquarter of Nuapada district which is infested with maoist activities;

(b) if so, whether minimum passenger facilities for a grade 'B' railway station have been provided; and

(c) by when the Puri-Surat Super Fast Express and Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin

Samata Express, which provide direct connectivity for passengers of this region to Ahmedabad and Delhi will have stoppage at the Nuapada Railway Station?

**Survey for Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line project**

2222. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for proposed Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line project has been completed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the current status of the project; and

(c) by when the construction work of Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line is likely to be started?

**Investment of more funds for railway projects**

2223. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is keen in investing more funds for development of railway projects based on their potentiality, necessity and revenue generation;

(b) the list of ongoing projects in Tamil Nadu along with the details of funds allocated for their execution;

(c) whether implementation of ongoing railway projects would require more funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government for investments in Railways, including to attract investment with the help of Public Private Partnership (PPP), and the targets set for the purpose in 2016-17?

**Accommodation facility at Amritsar Railway Station**

2224. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to construct Yatri Niwas type accommodation at Amritsar Railway Station for use by pilgrims, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether adequate accommodation facility at Amritsar Railway Station is not available to tourists/pilgrims at present; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to construct low-cost accommodation facility at Amritsar?

**Increase in incidents of crime in long distance trains**

2225. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of robbery, dacoity, theft and other crimes against passengers, including crimes against women, in the long distance trains during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last one year, zone-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by Railways to prevent such incidents and to ensure safe journey for passengers?

**Toilet facilities at all platforms of important stations**

2226. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have asked its zonal railways to put up



toilets at all platforms of all important stations falling under their jurisdiction for the convenience of passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the zonal railways in this regard, as on date?

#### **Crime against women passengers**

2227. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime against women passengers in trains has witnessed a sharp rise in the recent past, the latest figures in this regard, zone-wise; and

(b) whether to ensure women passengers' safety in trains, Government will consider reserving one sleeper coach for women in all the Express and Mail trains on the lines of the local trains and the Delhi Metro?

#### **Damage to signalling control room system at Itarsi**

2228. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are unable to restore normalcy in the functioning of signalling control room system at Itarsi railway station, which was damaged due to fire accident, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether damage to the signalling control system has severely affected train services since 17 July, 2015, the day on which fire accident took place;

(c) the details of trains that were cancelled due to this fire accident and for how many days the trains were cancelled;

(d) the details of revenue loss incurred due to this accident; and

(e) the current status thereof?

#### **Modernising railway stations**

2229. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared the decision to modernize railway stations by inviting open bids from interested parties, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has also decided to allow FDI in different segments of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Accident prone unmanned railway crossings**

2230. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have identified certain unmanned railway crossings as highly accident prone;

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

(c) the steps initiated by Railways for either manning these crossings or divert traffic to bring down deaths caused at such inter-sections?

#### **Redevelopment of four hundred railway stations**

2231. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to redevelop four hundred railway stations of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the details of facilities that would be provided at such stations; and

(c) the details of stations selected for the same, State-wise?

#### **Settlement of accident claims**

2232. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25000 people have died and 3882 injured during 2014 in train accidents, if so, details thereof, State/Zone-wise;

(b) the details of compensation announced and actually paid by Railways to the victims/dependents of train accidents during last three years and current year, year-wise;

(c) the details of amount and number of accident claims submitted at Railway Claims Tribunal during last three years, along with the decree awarded, zone-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of such claims denied and pending as on date, zone-wise and year-wise along with the reasons therefor?

#### **Experts Panel reports on Railways**

2233. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different railway Experts Panel reports are in dumping conditions;

(b) if so, the names of Experts Panel reports that have been made during last six years; and

(c) the updated status of these Panel reports?

#### **Projects under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana**

2234. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) projects sanctioned since inception of the Yojana till date along with the name of projects and the beneficiary organisations, State-wise;

(b) the details of AHVY projects completed successfully, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects discontinued and the reasons therefor;

(d) the total money sanctioned, project-wise to all completed and discontinued projects;

(e) whether Government has any mechanism to assess the impact of AHVY projects; and

(f) if so, the details of the report of such impact studies done?

#### **Setting up textile hubs for employment generation**

2235. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide financial assistance and raw material to handicraft units/textile industry in order to make textile industry internationally competitive;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up textile hubs to generate employment opportunities in the textile industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the relaxations and incentives being provided by Government for the said purpose, State-wise; and

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

**Updating handloom units with powerloom units**

2236. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to update handloom units with powerloom units;

(b) if so, whether Government has asked any foreign country for micro technology support towards rural development in this regard; and

(c) if so, State-wise details of the handloom units and proposals thereof?

**Re-starting closed textile mills**

2237. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closed textile mills in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the actions being taken by the Ministry to re-start the closed mills; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry to help workers of the closed mills?

**Modernisation of textile industry and upliftment of traditional weavers**

2238. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:  
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated

any National Action Plan for modernisation of textile industry during current year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective measures being taken by Government for modernisation of textile industry and upliftment of traditional weavers in the handicraft, powerloom and handloom sector in Karnataka?

**Workshed for SC/ST weavers**

†2239. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government for construction of workshed for the weavers of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is under consideration of Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a quick decision is to be taken on the proposal and proposed amount is to be released and if so, the details thereof?

**Training to youth in textile trade**

2240. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than three lakh youth had been given training by Government in textile trade; and

(b) if so, how many of them belong to Tamil Nadu?

NEW DELHI;  
The 1st August, 2015  
*Sravana, 10, 1937 (Saka)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

## INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

<b>Agriculture</b>	:	2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	:	2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131,
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	:	2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	:	2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	:	2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176,
<b>Law and Justice</b>	:	2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188
<b>Railways</b>	:	2181, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233,
<b>Textiles</b>	:	2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240.