

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 9, 2016/Agrahayana 18, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

Merging schemes of fisheries sector

2721. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to merge all existing schemes of fisheries sector;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for increasing production and productivity from aquaculture and fisheries resources both in land and marine?

Creation of separate Ministry for Fisheries

2722. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several times the Central Fisheries Board and the State Fisheries Ministry have recommended for creation of an independent Ministry of Fisheries at the Central Government level; and

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the said recommendation?

Rebate on HSD oil for fishermen

2723. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishermen are not getting the benefit of rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil;

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

(c) whether Government has decided to remove the BPL condition for availing the benefit of the said scheme by fishermen; and

(d) if so, the time by when the said decision is likely to be implemented?

Loss of lives and livelihood due to bird flu

†2724. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of bird flu have come to light in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of States and cities wherein the cases of bird flu have come to light and the steps taken to prevent the same; and

(c) the details of loss of lives and livelihood due to bird flu during the last three years, the details thereof?

Ban on rearing of quails

†2725. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has banned domestication of quails in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that small farmers and other poor people in the country domesticate quails in order to arrange for resources to earn their livelihood; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to revoke the ban on domestication of quails, if not, the reasons therefor?

National Livestock Mission in Jharkhand

2726. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the broad objectives of the National Livestock Mission;

(b) the targets proposed to be achieved under this Mission, State-wise; and

(c) the total allocation and release of funds under the Mission to Jharkhand in 2015-16 and the current financial year?

Compensation under various crop insurance schemes

2727. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the unit taken into consideration for determining crop insurance and scale of compensation provided under various crop insurance schemes;

(b) the extent to which farmers are compensated by insurance companies in the event of damage or loss of crop due to natural calamities;

(c) whether compensation under various crop insurance schemes has been provided to farmers for damage to crops owing to hailstorm, excess rainfall, storms, etc., during the last one year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time-frame drawn for compensating farmers under various crop insurance schemes?

Use of pesticides banned in other countries

†2728. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

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

(a) whether several pesticide, banned in other countries, are being used in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any research has been carried out during last three years to assess their harmful effect; and

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

Infrastructure for testing quality of fertilizers

2729. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer quality testing infrastructure in the country is not adequate and up to the mark, especially in North Eastern Region (NER), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up new laboratories and upgrade the existing infrastructure; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard along with the budgetary allocation and time-frame for completion thereof?

Action Plan for welfare of small farmers

2730. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to ensure stability in the prices of agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed; and

(b) the action plan formulated by Government for the welfare of small and marginal farmers in the country?

Bringing more area under drip and sprinkler irrigation

2731. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the extent of agricultural land under drip and sprinkler irrigation all over the country, including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government has formulated any special scheme to bring more agricultural land under drip and sprinkler irrigation in view of increasing water shortage and depletion of ground water; and

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

Soil infertility

†2732. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that as per soil test reports, about one

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

third of the land of the country has become infertile, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of grains by making the infertile land fertile and to stop the utilization of fertile land for other purposes?

Farmers' inability to buy seeds/ fertilizers due to demonetization

†2733. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether farmers couldn't purchase seeds and fertilizers timely and the experts are expressing apprehensions about low production of crops on account of it;

(b) whether farmers couldn't purchase seeds and fertilizers on time due to demonetization that has affected their crops; and

(c) whether it is a fact that when the farmers were able to purchase seeds from Government seed centres through old currency notes, seeds were not available at those centres and due to that farmers couldn't purchase seeds, the factual position thereof?

Risk cover and PMFBY

2734. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers covered

under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till now, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has considered changing the guidelines to include the coverage of risks associated with damage to crops by wildlife, theft/act of enmity, riots etc.;

(c) whether there is any plan to make the guidelines more specific to suit States that are not affected exclusively by droughts or deficient rain; and

(d) whether the insurance premium to be paid is different for different districts, if so, on what basis this has been done?

Import tariff on edible oil

2735. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import tariffs on edible oils in the last ten years, year-wise and variety-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that severe cuts in import tariffs has brought in flood of cheap imports thereby pushing farmers out of oil seeds cultivation and closing down of shops by processors;

(c) the justification the Ministry has to bring down import duty from bound level of 300 per cent once to almost zero per cent now; and

(d) how the Ministry is planning to address this problem?

Setting up of Kamdhenu Centres

2736. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: 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 Government has identified 50 bull mother farms to strengthen its infrastructure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to establish Kamdhenu Centres across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with their locations planned?

Utilization of agro-forestry for fodder production

2737. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government for agro forestry or agro-sylviculture; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating of utilizing agro-forestry for fodder production since these days fodder is costly and not available during summers, if so, details of the schemes in this regard?

Use of fallow land of forest areas for production of fodder

†2738. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to use the fallow land of forest areas for production of nutritious fodder for cattles, if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(b) whether Government is considering to set up a fodder bank from the fodder available in the forest areas so that this fodder may be provided to feed cattles in situations of famine, floods, droughts and natural calamities; and

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any action/steps in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Utilization of money for mitigation of drought in Telangana

2739. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ₹ 237 crore had been set aside for drought mitigation measures for the State of Telangana during 2015-16 under RKVY;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Telangana has been able to spend only ₹ 8.6 crore out of this amount; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not utilizing the money so set aside for drought?

Implementation of NHM in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2740. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts covered in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under National Horticulture Mission (NHM);

(b) the details of potential horticulture crops focused under the above Mission and the details of forward and backward linkages adopted, State-wise; and

(c) whether any infrastructure units relating to post harvest management have been set up in the above States under this Mission, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Non-functioning of KVKs in Andhra Pradesh

2741. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kirshi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Ministry has assessed the functioning and performance of KVKs in Andhra Pradesh in the recent past;

(c) whether it is a fact that some KVKs are non-functional in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of such KVKs along with the reasons for their non-functioning and the steps taken by the Ministry to make them functional?

Organic farming on the banks of Ganga river

†2742. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has signed any memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to promote organic farming on the banks of river Ganga, if so, by when these clusters will be developed for organic farming under this agreement;

(b) the amount to be spent on development of these clusters and how the funding would be done; and

(c) the increase in areas of organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana?

Production of pulses

2743. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of production of pulses is 3 per cent per year, which is very low to meet the shortfall in availability;

(b) whether Government is considering to increase procurement and MSP of pulses to promote their production; and

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

National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development

2744. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched a National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are not interested in indigenous breeds due to economic non-viability; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to support farmers to go in for indigenous breeds as these are sustainable in the long run; if so, the details thereof?

Breed improvement programme for indigenous cattles

2745. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to shell out more than ₹ 580 crore under Rashtriya Gokul Mission to conserve the indigenous breed which is facing threat of disappearance due to competition from the exotic and crossbreeds;

(b) whether Government has undertaken breed improvement programme

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the indigenous cattle, enhancement of milk production and productivity of native bovines, and upgradation of nondescript breeds using elite indigenous breeds; and

(c) whether Government has taken a decision to distribute disease-free high genetic merit bulls to farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Indian Institute of Pulses Research in Odisha

2746. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team has visited Odisha recently for setting up of a branch of Indian Institute of Pulses Research at Bhubaneswar and recommended to the Government to set up such a centre there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of e-NAM

2747. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether e-NAM has been successful in creating a national market for agricultural produces; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of implementation of the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers who have registered on e-NAM and are receiving direct payments?

Challenges in implementing PMFBY

2748. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) the details of Government's assessment of the challenges in implementing PMFBY; and

(c) the details of the projects that are covered under the localized risk cover of the scheme?

Revitalizing the agriculture sector

2749. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister had in the union Budget 2016-17 highlighted, the need to revitalize the agriculture for transforming India;

(b) whether importance of agriculture was further emphasized by putting agriculture and farmers' welfare first in his nine point agenda; and

(c) if so, the details of achievements made in this regard?

Plans to increase production of spices

2750. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to increase the production, quality and marketing of spices in the country;

(b) the recent initiatives taken up in the sector with details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any insurance scheme for the protection of workers and growers in the sector, if so, the details thereof?

Maintenance of bull mother farms

2751. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 172 bull mother farms in the country run by Central and State Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these are currently in dilapidated condition;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an absence of quality bulls and indigenous cow breeds, as well as lack of basic amenities like sheds of good condition and other equipments required for the maintenance of cattle and farms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen the existing infrastructure?

Facilities provided to farmers

†2752. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a number of important decisions in the interest of farmers;

(b) whether Government arranges to provide new variety of seeds to farmers on time, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the facilities provided to farmers during the last two years, the details thereof?

Public investment in fertilizer sector

2753. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans

to increase public investment in fertilizer sector, if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein; and

(b) whether Government proposes to call/invite private sector/NGOs/SHGs in distribution of fertilizers and if so, the details thereof?

Creation of low cost super absorbent polymer

2754. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian origin teen has won Google Science Fair Prize for successfully creating a low cost super absorbent polymer made out of waste products from the juice manufacturing industry;

(b) whether this polymer is bio-degradable and retains large amount of water, keeps soil moist and improves crop growth without regular water supplements; and

(c) whether this mixture could assist farmers in drought-hit areas, like Marathwada in Maharashtra and Telangana, if so, the details thereof?

Conservation and development of grazing land

†2755. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of grazing land that was available in the country at time of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

independence and the quantum of the same remaining as on date; and

(b) the efforts being made to free these grazing lands, which have been illegally encroached upon, and what is being planned for the conservation and development of the remaining grazing land?

Jan Aushadhi Stores in Chhattisgarh

†2756. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores (JAGDS) are running in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has taken up the issues related to functioning of JAGDS in Chhattisgarh, if so, the result thereof;

(c) the details of the JAGDS which have been set up and are functioning in the ST dominated backward areas of the country, including Chhattisgarh; and

(d) the number of JAGDS proposed to be opened in the above areas, including Balrampur in Chhattisgarh, location-wise?

Government's support to pharma industry

2757. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not giving enough support to the development of pharma industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to

lack of Government's support, the pharma industry is in quandary and several SSIs are closed, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to incentivise the pharma industry to meet its objectives, the details thereof?

Withdrawal of exemption on customs duty on bulk drugs

2758. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether life-saving drugs from treatment of cancer, HIV and cardiac failures are likely to become costlier, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has withdrawn customs duty exemption on certain bulk drugs, the details thereof; and whether pharma industry is unhappy with this move;

(c) whether this withdrawal will impact imported drugs and those manufactured in SEZs, if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether the 'Make in India' strategy will help in solving this problem?

Status of implementation of Katoch Committee recommendations

2759. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost its self reliance in bulk drugs due to increasing imports from

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

China, if so, the details of import of bulk drugs from China for last five years;

(b) the major recommendations of Katoch Committee to promote domestic production of bulk drugs and status of their implementation;

(c) whether work on the proposed National Centre for R&D in Bulk Drugs, Hyderabad has been rather slow due to lack of budgetary support; and

(d) if so, the details of budget allocated and utilization thereof for the last two financial years?

Price fixation of important medicines by NPPA

2760. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutice Pricing Authority (NPPA) had asked major pharmaceutical companies that have raised grievances against the proposed price fixation of approximately 35 important medicines to either submit complete data or accept its calculations on the price caps as final;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all these cases involve drug firms not having submitted complete data to NPPA to support their stand; and

(c) if so, whether NPPA has received the desired information from these companies?

Delinking of NLEM from DPCO

2761. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has recommended that National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) be delinked from Drugs (Prices Control) Order DPCO, if so, the reasons therefor, if not, whether the Ministry is considering such a proposal;

(b) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, an autonomous body, will be brought under Department of Pharmaceuticals if so, the reasons therefor, if not, whether the Ministry is considering such a proposal; and

(c) by when the next DPCO will be brought out and how many drugs will be covered thereunder, the details thereof?

Use of bio-fertilizers

2762. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government's fertilizer subsidy is skewed towards chemical fertilizers, if so, the measures taken by Government to bring a balanced fertilizer subsidy policy?

Subsidized and timely supply of fertilizers

2763. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to make fertilizers available to the farmers of Kerala on time at reasonable and subsidized rates?

Steps to check carbon footprint of fertilizer sector

2764. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether the Ministry is taking steps to reduce

carbon footprint of fertilizer sector and promote energy efficient operations, if so, the details thereof?

Turnover of BSNL

†2765. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present financial condition of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which was in loss a few years ago;

(b) the turnover of BSNL during the years 2014-2016; and

(c) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the turnover of BSNL during the years 2014-2016, the details thereof?

Auction of airwaves in 2016

2766. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue anticipated from airwaves auction in 2016;

(b) the total revenue Government raised from the sale of airwaves in 2016;

(c) the total percentage of airwaves, which was put on the block, remained unsold;

(d) the reasons of premium 700 MHz (4G) band remaining unsold in the spectrum auction; and

(e) whether Government would assure that after this airwaves auction, there will be no problem of call drops?

Sale of products of other insurance companies in rural areas

†2767. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Posts proposes to sell the products of other insurance companies, particularly in rural areas, besides sale of its own policies, in view of very little coverage of insurance in rural India and its immense possibilities there, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Department of Posts is considering the sale of policy products like crop insurance, accident insurance, farm equipment insurance besides postal life insurance; and

(c) the number of post offices in Maharashtra linked under this scheme?

Under-reporting of revenue by telecom operators

2768. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG had reported that some of the mobile operators had under-reported their revenue between 2006-07 and 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss incurred by Government due to above under-reporting;

(c) whether notices have been issued to the mobile operators indicated by the CAG;

(d) if so, the details thereon, circle-wise; and

(e) the definition of 'adjusted gross revenue' and why there is dispute between

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government and operators on the definition?

Digital Finance

2769. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing US\$ 2 billion annually simply because of time it takes travelling to and from bank;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Digital Finance is an important opportunity to address the above and similar other issues; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to adopt Digital Finance totally in all sectors?

Poor internet connectivity

2770. SHRI K.G. KENYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor internet connectivity, the country is facing problems in different sectors of business and services, particularly by North-East and Jammu and Kashmir hill areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for many countries, telecom agreement between the countries has lapsed for a long period of time and thus, BSNL/MTNL international roaming is not working abroad therefor; and

(c) if so, for both cases, action plan of Government to upgrade/develop the mechanism and for renewal of agreements?

Spectrum sale

2771. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had fetched the exchequer ₹ 3.60 lakh crore in spectrum sale from the six auctions held during the last six years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that in all the auctions, Government could not realize the target it had fixed, if so, the reasons therefor?

Issuing debit cards to holders of savings account in post offices

2772. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices have also started issuing debit cards to those who are holding savings account with them, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether arrangements have been made for setting up adequate ATM machines, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Wastage of foodgrains

2773. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity in metric tonnes of foodgrains, which have got rotten and wasted, in the previous three years;

(b) whether the Ministry has surplus stock of foodgrains to meet the demand, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking any steps to improve storage facilities to keep the foodgrains safe?

Demand of foodgrains by States under PDS

†2774. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries along with the quantum of foodgrains/ commodities being provided, State-wise, in the country, under the Public Distribution System; and

(b) the details of quantities demanded and the number of beneficiaries proposed by States, State-wise?

Supply of foodgrains to States

2775. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: DR. K.V.P. RAMA-CHANDRA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to allocate and supply foodgrains, particularly wheat, to the States as per their demand under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the allocations and off-take during current year under TPDS and OWS, State-wise?

Subsidy arrears Government owes to FCI

2776. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the amount of subsidy arrears that Government owes to Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last three years;

(b) whether loan arrangement is being made with National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) in favor of FCI, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost Government is likely to bear on annual basis for the proposed loan from NSSF and at what rate of interest; and

(d) whether any institutional financial mechanism has been found to tide over the subsidy arrears to be paid to FCI by Government, if so, the details thereof?

Gap between wholesale and retail prices

2777. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any norms to minimize the vast gap between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to bridge the Mandi-retail price gap and also to keep it under control by holding talks with all stakeholders?

Misleading advertisements

†2778. 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 Government is seriously contemplating taking strict action against those issuing misleading advertisements;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

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

Increasing limit of purchase under MSP

†2779. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the purchase to be made under MSP gets already fixed that is far less than the total production of the country, if so, whether Government proposes to increase the limit of purchase to be made under MSP, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the basis of price fixation of crops in the country is not the production cost of farmers but the demand and supply and import and export, if so, whether Government intends to make changes in it, the details thereof?

Releasing of extra foodgrains to States affected by natural calamities

2780. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for releasing additional foodgrains to States affected by natural calamities;

(b) whether Government has received any request from various State Governments for releasing additional foodgrains to them for distribution among

the families in the areas affected by recent floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of foodgrains made available to the States;

(d) whether foodgrains were supplied free of cost by way of Central assistance; and

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

Production of sugar

2781. 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) if so, the total production of sugar, State-wise; and

(c) whether the country is exporting sugar to other countries, if so, the details thereof?

Burden on sugar industry

2782. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry is demanding for restructuring their loans, which shot up to ₹ 40,300 crore as of March, 2015;

(b) whether it is also a fact that debt burden on sugar industry has gone up to ₹ 55,000 crore;

(c) if so, how the Ministry looks at this and whether any consultations have been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

held with Ministry of Finance to restructure sugar loans; and

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

Procurement of foodgrains by FCI in Punjab

2783. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procurement and lifting of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last two years and the current year in Punjab;

(b) whether FCI has failed to achieve its target in procurement and lifting of foodgrains, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure procurement of the entire produce of farmers in future?

Fall in stocks of FMCG

2784. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed a steep fall in stocks of Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) following demonetization;

(b) if so, how does Government intend to make this up;

(c) whether Government intends to leave it as a passing phenomenon; and

(d) the long term solution Government proposes for this ailment?

Cases of bogus Aadhaar cards

†2785. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bogus Aadhaar card recovered from Pakistani diplomat has put a question mark on UID scheme itself, if so, whether any new precautions are being taken, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of Aadhaar cards issued so far, the number of cards that are due and by when they would be issued; and

(c) the number of cases of bogus Aadhaar cards that have come to light so far and the action taken in this regard, the details thereof for last three years?

Use of social media for grievance redressal

2786. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more and more people are using social media to publicise their grievances and Governments have finally taken cognizance of it;

(b) whether as a part of this initiative, some State Governments have organized training programmes for their officials on how to use the platform to communicate with the people; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry would make it mandatory for its employees to use this platform?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Density of laid fibre optic cables

2787. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the density of laid fibre optic cables is grossly inadequate when compared to international standards;

(b) the details regarding the target set for achieving in terms of fibre optic cable density and the time-frame set by Government to achieve the same;

(c) whether there are any plans in place for connecting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as part of this project, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated, disbursed and spent on this project over the last three years?

Software Technology Parks

2788. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up Software Technology Parks in rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for the purpose, State/ location-wise, including Haryana?

Law on data security breach

2789. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to introduce a legislation on data security

breach in the light of recent security breach of around 6 lakh ATM cards, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there is any mechanism in place that mandates public disclosure when such security breach occurs, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Privacy and data protection laws related to Aadhaar card

2790. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to initiate broad-ranging privacy and data protection laws that can address systematic concerns relating to breach of privacy of citizens while implementing the Aadhaar Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any measures to ensure absolute safety of biometric authentication and if so, the details thereof?

Programme to develop IT and computer education in rural areas

2791. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes launched by Government to develop Information Technology (IT) and computer education in rural areas of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose in the current year?

Misuse of Aadhaar cards and data collected under UID scheme

2792. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani spy, caught in New Delhi in October, carried an Aadhaar card issued in his name;

(b) if so, whether the system of issuing Aadhaar cards is faulty or lacks proper supervision; and

(c) whether Government is assessing the possibility of misuse of Aadhaar cards and the data collected under the UID scheme?

Common Service Centres

2793. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued a framework where all Government departments and bodies, belonging to both—Centre and State, should make their payments in a cashless manner, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the State-wise data regarding the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) that have been set up; and

(c) whether CSCs are being made internet hubs in villages across the country, if so, the details thereof?

Rumour-mongering through internet technology

2794. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent

past, rumour-mongering through the use of internet technology has emerged as a major challenge for law and order enforcing authorities across the country;

(b) if so, the action Government has taken to ensure that no rumour-mongering can be done by the misuse of internet technology?

Digital Literacy Mission

2795. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to launch Digital Literacy Mission for 60 million rural Indians with a view to digitally literate them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Availability of cold storages

†2796. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that food products of the value of ₹ 92,600 crore get wasted every year in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor handling of these products by farmers and traders, non-availability of cold storages in nearby villages and old cold storage are the main reasons for wastage of food products; and

(c) whether Government will provide help of experts to the farmers and traders to check wastage of food products and to improve the economical conditions of the farmers, if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries/Zones

2797. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quality and standard of packed foods and food products in the country;

(b) whether Government has any plans to start Food Processing Industries and Special Food Processing Zones in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has provided any funds, logistic support to various States/Union Territories in the country to start such Food Parks and Food Processing Zones, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Lack of cold storages

†2798. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 6.7 crore tonnes of food products costing ₹ 96,600 crore get ruined every year in the country, including Maharashtra, while reaching to market from the fields or due to lack of good storage facilities;

(b) whether Government proposes to impart training of modern and affordable methods to farmers in place of old methods for prevention of such a large scale wastage; and

(c) the total number of cold storages in the country, including Maharashtra, alongwith the number of new cold storages proposed to be constructed in the coming three years?

Setting up training centres/quality testing labs

2799. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned for establishment and promotion of Food Processing Industries in the country and the number of Food Processing Units closed in the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to make this sector more profitable and attractive by setting up of training centres/quality testing labs, etc.?

Use of Electronic Voting Machines

2800. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to use Electronic Voting Machines in the Assembly Elections of Goa in 2017, with facility to show printed slip with respect to the votes recorded;

(b) whether voters will be able to carry the slip while going out of the booth;

(c) the number of such machines required by the Chief Electoral Officer of Goa for the purpose;

(d) whether extra machines will be kept in each booth in case of technical defects being discovered after the voting process starts; and

(e) the total cost of each of these machines, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Legal glossary in regional languages

2801. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether any legal glossary has been published in regional languages, if so, the details thereof?

Judges appointment mechanism

2802. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how soon the country can expect a Judges appointment mechanism which is neither executive-centric nor judiciary-centric and is transparent and efficient, in view of NJAC having been struck down by the Supreme Court;

(b) the number of vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(c) the number of recommendations made by the Collegium to fill such vacancies and reasons for delay on part of Government in appointment of these Judges; and

(d) whether Government has come up with an interim mechanism to deal with overload of cases and filling of vacancies, pending a solution to Judges' appointment?

Vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts

†2803. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of Judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant for more than one year out of those posts;

(c) whether the judicial process in High

Courts and the Supreme Court is getting delayed due to these vacancies;

(d) whether Government is mulling over any scheme to expeditiously dispose the cases of serious nature; and

(e) the difficulties being faced in making appointments against the vacant posts in High Courts and the Supreme Court and by when appointments would be made against these posts?

Court cases involving Government

2804. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, of all the cases pending before Courts, 43 per cent relate to Government sector;

(b) if so, whether most of these cases relate to Income Tax, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken to reduce this proportion substantially?

Consensus between Government and judiciary on appointment of Judges

2805. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether issues related to appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts have been resolved;

(b) whether any new rules have been framed or being worked out;

(c) whether any consensus has been arrived at between judiciary and the executive on this issue;

(d) whether Government is insisting on

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the principle of committed judiciary with respect to interpretation of basic structure of the Constitution; and

(e) whether Government has sought the advice of any association or organisation other than Government bodies, in this regard, the details thereof?

Unique IDs for lower Court Judges

2806. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued Unique IDs to lower Court Judges to monitor their performance, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how Government is expecting improvement in performance of Judges by issuing unique IDs; and

(c) the facilities provided/being provided to lower Courts to improve their performance?

Outdated judicial system and procedures

2807. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and the Supreme Court are still negotiating over the text of Memorandum of Procedure;

(b) whether more than the shortage of Judges, the judicial system is weighed down by outdated, archaic and inefficient procedures;

(c) whether Supreme Court itself chooses to add to its workload by taking up quite a high percentage of appeals and Special Leave Petitions; and

(d) whether, in contrast to barely one

per cent of appeals filed with it, which come up for hearing, the Supreme Court accepts around 12 per cent of appeals filed?

National Litigation Policy

2808. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether the National Litigation Policy has been widely publicized, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether National Consultative Committee on Litigation (NCCL) has been constituted to look into litigations pending in various Courts involving Government and its agencies, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether number of Government litigations have come down, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when NCCL will be constituted to bring down the number of litigations pending in various Courts?

Process of delimitation of Constituencies

2809. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the process for delimitation of Parliamentary, State Assembly and Municipal Constituencies, separately, including exercising authority, frequency of such delimitations, etc., as prescribed by law;

(b) the details of Constituencies that were changed after the Delimitation Act, 2002 with allocation of seats, year of redistricting, population and boundary before and after such redistricting, State-wise and Constituency-wise;

(c) whether the Delimitation Act, 2002 allows *ad hoc* redistricting of electoral Constituencies;

(d) if so, the number of such cases and the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, whether Government is considering such a change and the reasons therefor?

E-Courts

2810. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of e-Courts in High Courts as well as in District/ Subordinate Courts;

(b) the current status of the mandated activities of Phase I and Phase II of the project; and

(c) the details of the funds approved and released therefor, State-wise?

Appointment of Judges

2811. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to increase the number of Judges in the country;

(b) the reasons for the delay in appointment of Judges;

(c) whether there is any time-frame in place by which Government commits to appoint certain number of Judges; and

(d) if so, by when and what will be the minimum number of appointments Government is looking at, if not, the reasons therefor?

Change of names of four High Courts

2812. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to change the names of four High Courts in the country following new nomenclature of the cities where they are located, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals to change the names of Bombay, Calcutta and Guwahati High Courts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard along with the present status thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in the matter?

Speedy justice in cases related to crime against women

2813. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the inordinate delay in trying culprits in cases of molestation of women/girls;

(b) whether it is a fact that delay in dispensing justice in such cases act as an indirect encouragement to such culprits; and

(c) whether, in such a context, Government will speed up establishing Fast Track Courts to deal with such cases or Government has any other way to ensure justice faster, the details thereof?

Fast Track Courts

2814. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the progress of setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for specified categories of cases pending in courts, consequent upon the Fourteenth Finance Commission;

(b) the number of FTCs in each State and in how many States they are active, the details thereof;

(c) whether, in view of additional expenditure, any special grants are disbursed to the States by the Centre for FTCs, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Judges will be permanently posted in FTCs so that the cases are disposed of on fast track basis and in a time-bound manner?

Assistance for infrastructure facilities for Judiciary

2815. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire Central assistance relating to development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary has not been released within the stipulated time-frame, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of funds allocated and released to various States for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year along with utilisation status thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(c) by when the balance amount is likely to be released?

Uniform Civil Code

2816. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof along with steps taken therefor? and

(b) whether Government has initiated any discussion with the stakeholders and planners to implement Uniform Civil Code, if so, the details thereof?

Assistance by National Legal Services Authority

2817. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to create awareness about the assistance being provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)?

Railway zonal office at Ranchi

2818. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Jharkhand has requested Railways for setting up of Railway zonal office at Ranchi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have taken any decision in the matter, if so, the details thereof?

Mega cable-stayed railway bridge

2819. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways

have decided to build country's first mega cable-stayed railway bridge, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the final decision on the above mega cable-stayed railway bridge was taken on the basis of the recommendation of the Sreedharan Committee, if so, the details thereof?

Cost of Mumbai - Ahmedabad Bullet train project

2820. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which other sections, apart from Mumbai-Ahmedabad section, have been identified by Railways for Bullet trains, the details along with the current status thereof;

(b) the details of the estimated cost per kilometre for Mumbai-Ahmedabad section, total cost of the project, present status and time-line for its completion;

(c) the proposed/estimated passenger fare for this section after completion and its comparison with other trains/air fare, the details thereof; and

(d) the details about who will run this service when completed along with the time of recovery of total investment?

Increasing non-fare revenues

2821. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a move to increase non-fare revenues, Railways are in talks with e-commerce companies for on-board sales of their merchandise in reserved compartments;

(b) whether this move will help in

curbing the presence and movement of unauthorised and illegal vendors/hawkers on board; and

(c) whether Railways are also keen to invite bids from private cab aggregators to tap the train passenger market and use space outside the railway stations, if so, the details thereof?

Land under encroachment for Sengottai-Punalur gauge conversion project

2822. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land required for Sengottai-Punalur gauge conversion project is still under encroachment, due to which, this project is still pending, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that instead of fully retrieving the railway land under encroachment and pursuing the project, Government is heading with the project with the available land, if so, the details thereof?

Train accident at Kanpur

2823. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the major accident that took place in Kanpur on 20 November, 2016;

(b) the findings of the high level probe ordered by the Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that old coaches is one of the reasons behind this accident;

(d) how the Ministry looks at this accident and the steps taken/proposed to

be taken to avoid such accidents in future;
and

(e) the details of compensation paid to the next of kin?

Joint venture projects with Tamil Nadu

2824. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has undertaken many projects as joint ventures with State Governments, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details and status of joint venture projects which have been proposed in the State of Tamil Nadu?

Misbehaviour by railway employees

†2825. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint regarding misbehaviour by railway employees (TTE/station master) with passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any steps are being taken by Government for imparting training to railway employees for treating the passengers in a decent way; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Running of daily trains

2826. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to run a number of existing weekly/bi-weekly/alternate day trains as daily trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with

the names of the trains selected for the purpose?

Inflated bill by private telecom companies

†2827. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding customers being given inflated bills by private telecom companies have been received, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government has made arrangements for verification of these inflated bills, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken action against such companies, if so, the details thereof?

Delay in railway projects for lack of forest and wildlife clearances

2828. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 15 projects, worth ₹ 10,000 crore, involving gauge conversion, doubling and tripling of railway lines are getting delayed for forest and wildlife clearances; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to clear the bottlenecks?

Providing state-of-the-art facilities at railway stations

†2829. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

single announcement that Government had made for transforming railway stations with state-of-the-art facilities, similar to airports, has been fulfilled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of stations provided with state-of-the-art facilities by Government so, far?

Foreign Tourist Quota

2830. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Varanasi attracts a lot of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, why new trains like Suhaildev and Mahamana Express do not have Foreign Tourist Quota (FTQ);

(c) the logic behind having FTQ in sleeper class and not in higher classes of certain trains; and

(d) whether such quota in all classes of above said trains would be considered?

Halts of Shatabdi trains

†2831. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shatabdi trains are taking more time to reach their destinations because of halts at various small stations; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to increase the speed of Shatabdi trains or to run alternative trains so as to reach destinations on time?

Preliminary enquiry of accident of Indore-Patna Express train

2832. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent accident of Indore-Patna Express train;

(b) the findings of the preliminary enquiry;

(c) whether it is a fact that casualties increased due to absence of modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches and anti-collision device system;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the engine was carrying more than 14 coaches at high speed, violating the safety norms, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far the Kakodkar Committee Report on safety has been implemented, the progress details thereof?

EMU services between Durgapur and Howrah

2833. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Eastern Railway to introduce EMU services between Durgapur and Howrah;

(b) whether it is a fact that survey for EMU shed at Durgapur has also been done; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Improvement in quality of catering in trains

†2834. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for relatively less improvement in the quality of catering in trains despite newer efforts made and new decisions taken thereon;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether the implementation of decisions taken by Government is going in vain due to negligence and dodgery attitude of the concerned employees or there are other reasons for it?

Progress in running of high-speed and ultra high-speed trains

†2835. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no progress, so far, has been made on running of high-speed and ultra high-speed trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the progress made on running of high-speed and ultra high-speed trains?

Expansion of railway lines in Uttarakhand

†2836. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan is being formulated for expansion of railway lines in bordering State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the name of railway lines where expansion is proposed in next financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Survey for new railway route from Agra to Ramganj Mandi

†2837. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which surveys of the new railway route from Ujjain-Agra-Jhalawar to Ramganj Mandi have been done in the past and the details regarding the status of possibilities for construction of this railway route; and

(b) the action taken on the proposals for conversion of Ujjain-Fatehabad (Western Railway) meter gauge route to broad gauge, which will make the Ujjain-Fatehabad-Indore railway route length shorter than the Indore-Dewas-Ujjain route?

Ex-gratia and compensation for victims/kin of victims in Pukhrayan train accident

2838. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons died and injured due to recent train accident at Pukhrayan near Kanpur;

(b) the details of ex-gratia and compensation announced and paid so far for victims/kin of victims;

(c) the reasons for the accident; and

(d) the reasons for failure of Railways to ensure passengers' safety?

Removing trolleys/stalls from railway platforms

†2839. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether any orders have been issued by the Ministry for removing of trolleys/stalls from railway platforms in pursuance of Catering Policy, 2010;

(b) if so, when these orders were issued;

(c) if not, whether Agra Division of North Central Railway has issued and implemented the order of shutting down the trolleys/stalls of all the contractors in October, 2016; and

(d) if so, the person/authority responsible therefor, the details thereof?

Electrification of railway routes in Rajasthan

†2840. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan to develop railway routes in Rajasthan important from the strategic point of view;

(b) whether those railway routes will be electrified, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan has given assurance of power supply to Railways, if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of trackmen

†2841. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway lines in kilometers which has to be taken care of by a trackman;

(b) the details of engineering codes for maintenance of railway lines and whether

the Engineering department is following these codes;

(c) the number of trackmen deployed in Railways at present, their sanctioned strength and the number of posts lying vacant; and

(d) whether it is a fact that acute shortage of trackmen and other staff in Railways leads to improper maintenance of rail tracks which increases the possibility of a rail accident?

Investment in railways

†2842. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount invested in railways during the past two years and the places where this amount has been invested;

(b) the amount spent to upgrade railway tracks during the past two years and the details of the percentage of railway tracks been upgraded; and

(c) the details of funds demanded and received by the Ministry for upgradation of railway tracks and for new technology?

Details of train accidents

†2843. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents taken place during the current year and the last two years;

(b) the number of persons died and injured in these incidents;

(c) the results of the investigation of these incidents and the action taken thereon; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the measures being taken by Government to prevent train accidents?

Pending railway projects in Himachal Pradesh

2844. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many on-going railway projects in Himachal Pradesh are more than 10 years old, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the broad reasons for the abysmal delay in implementation of these projects and the fresh time-line fixed for their completion; and

(c) whether any mechanism exist to prioritize the pending projects, if so, the details thereof?

Optional travel insurance

2845. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very few train passengers opt for optional travel insurance while booking a train ticket, if so, the details of the same since introduction of this scheme; and

(b) whether Railways are also considering to make travel insurance mandatory for all train ticket bookings?

Collapse of Najibabad bridge

†2846. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Garhwal Express and Mussoorie

Express, which run from Delhi to Kotdwar, have not been running for last four months due to the collapse of a bridge ahead of Najibabad as a result of which, people and traders of Uttarakhand are facing a lot of problems; and

(b) if so, by when this bridge would be made operational and the reasons for slow pace of work on this bridge, and the details of the action taken against concerned officials?

Trackmen employed by Railways

2847. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trackmen employed by Railways to check the rail defects from 2010 to 2016;

(b) the number of trackmen who died on the site due to lack of proper signalling and warning during the said period; and

(c) the weight of toolkits carried by trackmen on the site and whether any steps have been taken to make the toolkits lighter and easier to carry, if so, the details thereof?

Accidents due to rail fractures

2848. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which have occurred due to rail fractures in the country during 2006-2016, State/UT-wise;

(b) the measures taken by Government to reduce rail fractures in the country; and

(c) whether the Track Monitoring System has been launched and implemented, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Upgradation of railway stations

2849. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations upgraded by Railways during the last two years and the current financial year;

(b) whether Railways have received any proposal in this regard from various State Governments including Haryana, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to look after the work of upgradation of railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the progress of the project and the expected time-limit for upgradation of the stations?

Survey for upgradation of railway line from Deoria to Lucknow

2850. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted a survey for upgradation of railway line from Deoria to Lucknow, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not taking up the upgradation work on above railway line so far?

Time-frame to replace existing toilets in trains

2851. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning some alternate arrangement to replace the

present toilets in trains which is an example of open defecation and cause several health-related problems to people living near the railway tracks;

(b) the alternate models Government is planning to try, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is a time-frame to replace the present toilets in the trains, if so, the details thereof?

Surveys of rail linkage projects on DMIC in Gujarat

2852. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many surveys were proposed for projects of rail linkages on Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in Gujarat during the last five years, *i.e.*, 2011-12 to 2015-16;

(b) how many surveys for projects of rail linkages on DMIC line were started and completed;

(c) when the surveys of remaining projects are likely to be started and completed; and

(d) how many construction projects of rail linkages on DMIC line have been started?

Levitation trains

2853. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are mulling over to have levitation trains, if so, on which sectors or corridors of Railways;

(b) whether they are eco-friendly and no fuel is used; and

(c) if so, whether any feasibility report has been prepared, if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of tracks

2854. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to electrify around 24,000 kilometer of its tracks in the next five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that to achieve this goal, it aims to generate 1000 MW of solar power and 200 MW of wind energy by 2020 to reduce carbon footprint in its operations; and

(c) whether Railways propose to rope in some PSUs to accelerate the pace of electrification, which may reduce its fuel bill to a great extent, if so, the details of those PSUs?

Antyodaya trains

2855. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are contemplating introduction of Antyodaya trains, which have all general coaches, keeping in view the problems of unreserved general passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the sectors in which these trains are going to be introduced, the details thereof?

Pukhrayan train accident

2856. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patna-Indore Express train derailed near Pukhrayan recently wherein more than hundred of people got killed and several others injured;

(b) if so, whether Railways have identified the reasons for the said tragedy;

(c) the action taken by Railways to punish the culprits who are responsible for this mishap;

(d) whether Railways are planning to work on safety in rail operations to avert this kind of major mishap in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the targets?

Major pending railway projects

†2857. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the major pending railway projects on which work has resumed during the last two years; and

(b) the total number of projects completed, pending and on which work is in progress, the details thereof?

Accidental deaths during boarding and deboarding Express trains

2858. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR
SWAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in accidental deaths while boarding and deboarding Express trains as well as local trains in recent months;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of such deaths during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(c) the proposed plan of the Ministry to minimize such accidental deaths in future, the details thereof?

Pilgrim/tourist places linked by new railway lines

2859. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pilgrim/tourist places linked by new railway lines in the last two years;

(b) how many pilgrim/tourist places have been identified to be linked with the new railway lines, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these pilgrim/tourist places will be connected by new trains?

Complaint against Masjid Bunder Station Master

2860. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the Central Railway Suburban Network of Mumbai, some complaints have been received from senior citizens regarding misbehaviour of the Masjid Bunder Suburban Station Master; and

(b) if so, the action Railways propose to take against the Station Master for misbehaviour with railway commuters?

Menace of beggars on Mumbai Suburban Railway network

2861. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the Mumbai Suburban Railway network, there is a menace of beggars, who beg in the EMU rakes and on the railway premises; and

(b) if so, the permanent steps Railways have proposed to end this menace in the interest of suburban railway commuters?

Trivandrum-New Delhi route

2862. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete steps are being considered to reduce the running time of superfast trains on longest routes, such as Trivandrum-New Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this route is being considered for any new faster trains like the Gatimaan Express?

Providing protection to manual scavengers

2863. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that station safai karamcharies/sweepers are not provided with proper dress and anti-infection supports;

(b) if so, whether Government has any budgetary provision towards protection of manual scavengers of Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, proposal of Government to protect the safai karamcharies in this regard?

(d) whether all the classes and trains would be included under this insurance cover, if so, the details thereof?

Measures to prevent railway accidents as announced in Budget

†2864. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures announced in Railway Budget to prevent accidents and ensure safety in last two financial years and the work done on the ground level to curb rail accidents;

(b) the amount spent on preventing accidents and ensuring safety in last five years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways have not been able to fulfill announcements made in Railway Budget, the details thereof?

Insurance scheme for railway passengers

†2865. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched an insurance scheme for train passengers, if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(b) whether Government has entered into any partnership with insurance companies for this purpose, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the *ex-gratia* amount granted to passengers in case of any accident/incident or any untoward incident; and

Train accident near Kanpur

†2866. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers who were travelling in the 14 coaches of the train that met with an accident near Kanpur;

(b) the number of passengers, with reserved tickets, who were killed and those who survived out of the total number of passengers;

(c) the State-wise details of passengers travelling in the train and the number of passengers from Bihar out of them, the details thereof, including the mobile numbers of the passengers; and

(d) whether the compensation provided by Government has reached the family members of the passengers who lost their lives, the details thereof?

Rail Radio service in trains

2867. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to introduce Rail Radio service in trains, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the uses of this system in coordinating the Railways with the passengers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railway projects in Bihar and Jharkhand

†2868. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the on-going railway projects in Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the total number of on-going overbridges/underbridges projects compared to manned/unmanned railway level crossing projects in these States;

(c) whether these projects are running as per schedule, if not, the project-wise reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the work of all pending projects and by when the work of these projects would be completed, project-wise?

Assistance to carpet industry

2869. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of carpets exported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether export of carpets has registered a decline, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to assist the carpet industry in the country?

Release of grants under IPDS

†2870. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities of Rajasthan included under the Integrated Processing

Development Scheme (IPDS) scheme by the Central Government and the details of financial assistance provided to them; and

(b) by when the approval of financial grant would be accorded to the rest common effluent treatment plants in Rajasthan under the IPDS scheme?

Development of Textile city

†2871. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to develop a Textile city;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this direction, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider to develop the city in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the name of the place and by when it would be developed and if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial assistance for Craft Village and census of artisans in Odisha

2872. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would provide financial assistance for establishment of a Craft Village in Sukhuapada-Lalitgiri of Odisha; and

(b) whether the Ministry would provide financial support to Government of Odisha for conducting census of handicraft artisans in Odisha Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Schemes for self employment in
Textile industry**

2873. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of Government to encourage people to avail self employment opportunities in Textile industries;

(b) whether there is any buy back policy of the finished goods attached with such schemes; and

(c) whether there is any special schemes for financial or raw material assistance for the single women availing the self employment opportunity in the Textile industry?

Import of cotton by spinning mills

2874. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether spinning mills in the country are importing cotton from international market;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to promote domestic cotton to protect the Indian farmers; and

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

**Special package for textiles and
garments industry**

2875. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State-wise disbursal of funds under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, so far;

(b) the details of special package for the

textiles and garments industry announced this year with State-wise details of funds to be disbursed and the expected benefits;

(c) the additional steps that would be taken to ensure that share of India's Textile sector in the global export increases, especially going beyond US and European markets; and

(d) the steps that would be taken to create more and better jobs in this industry considering that it's a labour intensive industry?

**Setting up of mini Urban Handloom
Haats in Andhra Pradesh**

2876. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up mini Urban Handloom Haats in Andhra Pradesh in accordance with the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of funds sanctioned and released so far for this purpose, the details thereof?

Special package for Textile sector

2877. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced special package for Textile sector recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken up any projects in Jharkhand with these special package funds, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds released so far for taking up technology upgradation and providing incentives to the apparel sector, the details thereof?

Skill development programmes

2878. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds, to conduct skill development programmes related to handicrafts or handlooms, were sanctioned to NGOs or any other agencies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of recipient organisations of such funds, State-wise; and

(c) the number of people who underwent skill training in the programmes along with the details of skills imparted?

Assistance for raw material banks for crafts in Odisha

2879. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES

be pleased to state whether the Ministry provides financial assistance for establishment of raw material banks for Stone, Tassar and Palm Leaf crafts in Odisha?

Financial assistance/package for handloom sector

2880. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided any financial assistance/package to the Handloom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of funds allocated and released for the schemes of the sector during the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd December, 2016
Agrahayana 12, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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