

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 11, 2016/Phalgun 21, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Installing ePoS devices at FPSs

†*151. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) by when electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices will be installed at all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country;

(b) whether Central Government is extending any financial assistance to State Governments for installing this device;

(c) whether there is any scheme to connect all ration cards with Aadhaar and by when Direct Benefit Transfer scheme will be introduced therein; and

(d) the amount getting wasted annually in PDS due to corruption?

Legislative sanction for Aadhaar

*152. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister

of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar programme is world's single largest biometric database and is operational without legislative sanction and, therefore, without legislative safeguards for individual data privacy and protection;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to review and re-introduce the UIDAI Bill in Parliament to ensure that the programme is subject to adequate Parliamentary scrutiny with legislative sanction; and

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

Productivity of crops

*153. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that globally,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

India lags behind in productivity of most of the crops cultivated in the country;

(b) whether Government is giving utmost importance to raise the productivity per hectare to pull out the farmers from poverty, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the only solution to prevent farmers from committing suicide is to increase the productivity of crops?

Profit making fertilizer PSUs turning loss making

*154. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual consumption of fertilizers in the country during the last three years;

(b) how much of it is imported and how much produced indigenously;

(c) why are some public sector fertilizer companies, which were profit making earlier, are incurring losses in recent years; and

(d) whether it is mainly due to Government's tariff policy, if so, whether Government would amend the same, if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilisation of USO Fund

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has collected ₹ 52,722.64 crore under

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) since its inception in 2002-03 to boost connectivity in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much amount has been utilized by the Ministry from this Fund during the last ten years; and

(c) the infrastructure facilities created for the benefit of rural connectivity during the last ten years?

Steps taken to boost wheat production

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

(a) whether there is a substantial decline in output of wheat this year from a high of 95 million tonnes two years back, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps, the Ministry is taking to boost the production of wheat and to encourage farmers through MSP and insurance schemes?

Appointment of staff at NIPER, Mohali

*157. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not appointing adequate staff for National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research at Mohali; and

(b) whether it is a fact that while the Director of NIPER at Mohali is having additional charge for the last two years, Government has not been able to find suitable officer for this post?

Problem of call drops in rural areas

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

(a) whether call drop problem is metro-centric or extends to rural areas of the country also;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to address the issue; and

(c) how does BSNL fare *vis-a-vis* private cellular operators in respect of call drop problem and in addressing the issue particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

Damage to crops in Jharkhand due to drought

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team recently visited Jharkhand to assess the extent of crop damage on account of drought, if so, the findings thereof; and

(b) the total amount proposed to be released by Government in this regard?

Encouraging domestic production of bulk drugs

*160. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to restrict import of bulk drugs and encourage

domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers to make in India; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to encourage the domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing sector for the purpose?

Distress sale of crops by farmers

*161. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) directly purchases rice, wheat, etc., from the farmers of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that farmers of many States are compelled to sell their crops at the rate below the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(c) if so, the steps being considered by FCI in such a situation; and

(d) whether such a distress sale of crops is the main cause of suicide by farmers?

Promotion of Food Processing sector in Jharkhand

*162. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of micro, small and medium food processing units functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the contribution of such units in the Food Processing sector in the country;

(c) the details of employment opportunities created by these units in the country during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) whether Government proposes to promote Food Processing sector in Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on fertilizers

*163. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fertilizer subsidy provided by Government during the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;

(b) the steps taken by Government to rationalise the fertilizer subsidy; and

(c) the outcome of these measures?

Hindrances in controlling food inflation

†*164. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rate of inflation of wholesale and the retail prices of essential food commodities during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Arhar dal, imported last year and made available to the consumers, was banned for some time in the country; and

(c) the details of hindrances being faced in controlling the rate of inflation of retail prices of essential food items?

Doubling the income of farmers by 2022

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister, during his address on 19 February, 2016, has stated that the income of farmers would be doubled by 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of measures to be taken therefor;

(c) whether the income would be doubled in 2022 on the basis of existing income of farmers or MSP would be increased to double the cost of production; and

(d) the efforts Government would make to make MSP of crops higher than their cost of production?

NEW DELHI;
The 05th March, 2016
Phalgun 15, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 153, 156, 159, 165,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 154, 157, 160, 163,
Communications and Information Technology	: 152, 155, 158,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 151, 161, 164,
Food Processing Industries	: 162.
Law and Justice	: —
Railways	: —
Textiles	: —