

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Insurance cover for irrigated and non-irrigated crops**

1600. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per acre premium in rupees for crop insurance of irrigated and non-irrigated crops and the per acre amount assured separately;

(b) the details of sum assured for crop damage upto 25 per cent, 50 per cent, 75 per cent and 100 per cent, separately; and

(c) whether Government would insure both irrigated and non-irrigated crops on the basis of production cost per acre and would ensure at least 1.5 times insurance of cost of production in case of full or more than 75 per cent damage of crops, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Field trial of GM crops**

1601. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken for conducting field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Universities and other universities, State-wise; and

(b) the steps are being taken to reduce the time lag between an application for conducting field trials and its subsequent approval or disapproval?

#### **Improving the health of soil**

1602. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been emphasizing on improving the health of soil by integrated nutrient management, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had announced a programme of collection of soil samples, conduct analysis and issuance of soil health card in a time-bound manner and if so, the details thereof?

### **Implementation of Crop Insurance Schemes**

†1603. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have got their crops insured under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the details of areas on an average which have been got insured under the two schemes, season-wise details thereof?

### **Production of pulses and edible oil**

1604. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India imports huge quantity of pulses and edible oil from global markets;

(b) if so, could the same quantity be produced domestically, if appropriate policy measures are put in place; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government during last two years till date to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds to meet the demand?

### **Recommendations of CIFA**

†1605. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers' groups, agricultural experts and the Consortium of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA) have requested the Government to provide loan upto five lakh rupees to all the farmers at the interest rate of 4 per cent to pay more support prices for crops, to expand the coverage of crop insurance and to formulate tenable export policy;

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

(c) by when necessary steps are likely to be taken in this direction?

### **Decrease in production of wheat**

1606. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of wheat in Maharashtra and other parts of the country is decreasing, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to know the reasons for this trend, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

### **Damage of crops by Nilgai**

†1607. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers of various States including Poorvanchal in Uttar Pradesh are distressed as their crops are damaged by Nilgai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and for how many years this problem has been continuing;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any concrete and effective step to resolve this problem, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Ill effects of excessive use of urea and other fertilizers**

†1608. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware that due to the excessive use of urea and other fertilizers and chemicals, not only the land of farmers is becoming infertile but incurable diseases like cancer are also spreading on large scale;

(b) if so, whether Government has made a concrete plan to deal with this problem, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has formulated any concrete policy or action plan for increasing the production of biofertilizers and chemicals in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Use of banned pesticides**

1609. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that pesticides which have been banned globally are still in use in the country, if so, the details of such pesticides;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study to establish the adverse impact of banned pesticides on human health as well as on livestock, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to educate farmers regarding the harm in using these banned pesticides?

#### **Production of pulses and oilseeds**

†1610. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of pulses and oilseeds is

comparatively less than their demand in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that many special steps have been taken by Central Government recently to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Recommendation of expert committee on pesticides**

1611. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee constituted in 2015 on pesticides has submitted its report; and

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

#### **Pan-Indian trading portal market for agricultural produce**

1612. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Pan-Indian trading portal market in the field of agriculture;

(b) how far will this help farmers in the country to get a good price for their crops; and

(c) whether this has since been launched, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Adopting organic methods in cultivation**

1613. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

adopting organic methods in cultivation; and

(b) how many soil testing laboratories are working in the country, as on date, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Action plan for Bundelkhand**

†1614. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Bundelkhand are forced to commit suicide as they are unable to sow their crops due to scarcity of water and if they somehow manage to sow their crops, they are not able to get them irrigated;

(b) if so, the reasons for not formulating any special action plan, so far, for famine struck Bundelkhand; and

(c) if not, the facts behind suicide of farmers in Bundelkhand?

#### **Launching of National e-market**

1615. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch the National e-market under the National Agriculture Market scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as many as twenty States have expressed interest in linking their markets; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that 200 mandis will be connected by September, 2016 and another 200 mandis will be connected by March, 2017, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Promoting bio-fertilizers**

1616. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any concrete steps to promote bio-fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details about the present production and distribution mechanism of bio-fertilizers in the country State-wise; and

(c) the State-wise details of institutions who are involved in R & D related to bio-fertilizers in the country?

#### **Setting up of Price Stabilization Fund**

1617. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish Price Stabilization Fund to give reprieve to the farmers and consumers from fluctuating prices of food, agricultural and horticultural product prices, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the plan chalked out by Government to utilize this fund during the coming three years including the agencies authorized for its utilization;

(c) whether various States are also being involved in the process of establishing Price Stabilization Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the Fund is likely to be established?

#### **MSP of cotton**

1618. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the prevailing Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton in the market and whether it is causing problems to the farmers;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to increase the MSP of cotton and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote cultivation of cotton in the country and its export?

**Setting up of Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh**

1619. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a new Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) by when work on the project is likely to be taken up?

**Criteria for classification of marginal, small, medium and big farmers**

†1620. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of agricultural land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of registered marginal, small, medium and big farmers in the country, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for classification of

marginal, small, medium and big farmers, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of agricultural land converted into non-agricultural land during last five years, State-wise and year-wise details thereof?

**Decrease in real prices of agricultural produces**

1621. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real prices of agricultural produces in the country like-paddy, wheat, sugarcane, pulses, oilseeds etc. have decreased since 1970 price levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers distress in the country is due to price issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Simplifying the functioning and banking activities of co-operative societies in Chhattisgarh**

†1622. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to simplify the accounting system and information system of Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies in Chhattisgarh through computerisation;

(b) if so, the action taken to simplify the functioning and banking activities of the above societies; and

(c) whether Central Government would provide 50 per cent amount as assistance for (a) above and if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Standard administrative unit for  
declaration of drought**

1623. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans on introducing a standard administrative unit for declaration of drought and in assessing crop yield, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the amount granted for drought relief under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), State-wise; and

(c) the criteria on which Government increased drought relief and whether the same has been sufficient in meeting the rising input costs of farmers, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor and corrective action taken thereon?

**Drought in Odisha**

1624. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance that the interim memorandum by the Odisha Government for release of ₹ 815 crores for the drought in 2015 has not yet been received by the State Government if so, the details thereof and corrective action taken;

(b) whether Central Government has taken action on the final memorandum for the release of additional funds for 235 drought affected blocks in Odisha, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to expedite the payment of drought relief to State Governments to effectively assist affected farmers?

**Promotion of micro irrigation**

1625. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN:  
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) whether micro irrigation is widely used by farmers in the country as a method of irrigation, if so, the details of the area covered under it, State-wise including West Bengal;

(b) the present status of the National Mission on Micro Irrigation programme in the country, State-wise including West Bengal; and

(c) the various steps taken by Government for promotion of micro irrigation in the country along with the funds allocated and utilised under the scheme during the last and current Five Year Plan period State/UT-wise?

**Schemes to increase production of  
pulses and oilseeds**

1626. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
SHRI K. C. TYAGI:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) the necessary steps taken by Government during the last two years to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country;

(b) the schemes implemented to increase the production of above mentioned crops during the said period; and

(c) the amount spent each year during the said period on implementation of each scheme and the extent to which the production of above mentioned crops increased during each year of the said period?

**Loss of production due to drought**

1627. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts facing drought continuously for last two years *i.e.* 2014-15 and 2015-16, State-wise;

(b) the magnitude of loss of production suffered on this account;

(c) whether Government has identified sectors requiring focus and prompt attention, if so, the details thereof; and

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

**Loss of crops due to drought**

†1628. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the crops of wheat, barley, soyabean etc., have suffered a heavy loss due to change in weather and drought for two consecutive years;

(b) whether action is being taken by Government in the interest of farmers to protect them from misery and steps like suicide due to losses incurred in crops, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Reforming implementation of RKVY**

1629. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to reform the planning and implementation of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) following the CAG performance audit report of May, 2015;

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

(c) whether steps have been to improve the monitoring system in place within the scheme of RKVY; and

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

**Farm credit and insurance cover for tenant farmers**

1630. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that informal tenancy is one of the main reasons for the tenant farmers not getting low interest farm credit and crop insurance scheme benefits, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to extend these benefits to the tenant farmers?

**Incentives to farmers for producing variety of wheat**

1631. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab is a large producer of wheat;

(b) whether Central Government has organized any buyer-seller meet on procurement of wheat from farms in Punjab, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is providing any incentives to farmers of Punjab for research and development in the field of producing large varieties of wheat and if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Medicines through Jan Aushadhi Stores**

1632. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores and the number of medicines selling from such stores across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to ensure that enough stocks of medicines are kept in such stores?

**Reducing dependence on import of bulk drugs from China**

†1633. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has been constituted by the Government to suggest measures to reduce the dependence on import of bulk drugs from China;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions/recommendations made by the committee in this regard;

(c) whether Government is considering to implement the suggestions/recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) if so, the details of time-limit set for the implementation of the above recommendations?

**Revival of Gorakhpur and Sindri fertilizer factories**

1634. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after pronouncement of the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on 15 August, 2015, the Ministry has initiated a move to float quotation for revival of closed Gorakhpur and Sindri Units of Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) whether there has been just one bidder each—Matix Fertilizers for Gorakhpur and Adani for Sindri unit;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a lukewarm response; and

(d) whether Government itself will come forward to revive these units through public sector funding, if not, what will be the future of these factories?

**Closed urea plants**

†1635. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of urea plants are either lying closed or are on the verge of closure, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government proposes to revive these urea plants; and

(c) the number of plants lying closed in the country and those in Bihar along with the locations and districts thereof?

**Production of Urea**

1636. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closure of various fertilizer units in the Public Sector has made serious dent in the production of Urea, which is at present 22 million tonnes whereas the domestic requirement of Urea is 30 million tonnes; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to restart the closed Urea manufacturing PSUs in order to fill up the gap of 8 million tonnes so that import of Urea can be reduced?

**Over-utilization of subsidized fertilizers**

1637. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed during the last five years, year-wise, fertilizer-wise;

(b) the amount saved by Government in subsidy in recent years due to fall in prices of naphtha and gas;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check over utilization of subsidized fertilizers and maintain soil quality along with money allocated for this;

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve domestic production of fertilizers; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to move towards deregulation of prices of urea?

**Production of hazardous chemicals**

1638. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of the hazardous chemicals which should not be produced in the country; and

(b) the number of industries found producing such kind of chemicals in Gujarat, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

**Cost of revival of fertilizer companies and fertilizer imports**

†1639. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some public sector fertilizer companies are running into losses;

(b) if so, the names and details of these companies, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has any special plan to make these companies profit making;

(d) whether Government is considering to appoint an outside expert agency to turn these companies into profit-making companies; and

(e) if so, the details of the action plan thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

**Cost of revival of closed fertilizer plants**

†1640. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer plants lying closed in the country at present;

(b) by when these plants are to be restarted and the total expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the total annual expenditure being incurred by Government on the import of fertilizers along with the expenditure incurred on the subsidy being given on fertilizers?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Reasonable pricing of medicines**

1641. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:  
KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) whether pharmaceutical companies charge exorbitant prices for their drugs and formulations without any control/check;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to monitor prices of drugs; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure availability of life-saving drugs in sufficient quantity at reasonable prices?

**Price control mechanism for life saving drugs**

1642. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether prices of life saving drugs/ medicines have increased during recent months, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has set up or proposes to set up any high powered committee for review of price control mechanism of drugs along with their availability in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government till date to keep the prices of life saving drugs/ medicines under control?

**Speedy implementation of Bharat Net**

1643. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the National Broadband project, Bharat Net is very slow and is repeatedly falling short of its desired objective, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is planning to speed up Bharat Net by increasing the participation of private players under Public-Private-Partnership mode, if so, the details thereof?

**Shortage of pulses**

1644. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of Government to reduce shortage of pulses;

(b) the reason that the production of pulses has not increased in the last decades *vis-a-vis* demand for this;

(c) the steps taken by Government to motivate the farmers for increasing the production of pulses;

(d) why cannot the Food Corporation of India (FCI) be asked to procure pulses after announcing suitable MSP, so that, the farmers have assured marketing for their produce; and

(e) the extent of foreign exchange utilized during last five years for importing pulses along with quantity of pulses imported during this period?

**Domestic manufacturing of telecom equipments**

1645. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that inspite of availability of skilled manpower in the country, domestic manufacturing of telecom equipments is not satisfactory considering the fact that the total import of telecom equipments by India in 2013-14 was ₹ 74,115 crore; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote domestic manufacturing of telecom equipments under Make in India programme?

#### **Fool-proof biometric identification**

1646. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not possible to have a fool-proof biometric identification beyond a particular age; and

(b) if so, whether this aspect will be factored in working towards the universal operationalisation of the Aadhaar card project?

#### **Participating PSUs for NOFN projects**

1647. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the participating public sector units for the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project and their respective areas of coverage; and

(b) whether there is a proposal under consideration for creating a holding company and region-wise subsidiaries for the present Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL)?

#### **Delay of international posts by customs**

1648. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts for International addresses are being delayed by Customs, causing delay in delivery of packages to consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

#### **Delay in postal operations due to lack of internet services**

1649. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal operations are delayed due to lack of effective internet services, causing thereby difficulties to the citizens; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken to resolve the same?

#### **Audit of CAFs by TERM Cell**

1650. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Customer Application Forms (CAFs) audited by the Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cell in the last four years;

(b) the details of the number of non-compliant forms found during these audit processes, year-wise;

(c) the details of the number of non-compliant forms in the last four year, operator-wise;

(d) the number of cases where connections were found to be obtained *via* forged documents; and

(e) the details of other violations registered by the TERM Cell during their audit process?

**Unearthing of illegal telecom operations by TERM Cell**

1651. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cell has unearthed illegal telecom operation across the country which were being operated in contravention of Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885;

(b) if so, the details of operators and the action taken against the illegal operators; and

(c) whether Government has assessed the loss to the exchequer due to illegal telecom operations, if so, the details thereof?

**Internet network of BSNL in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1652. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has extended its

internet network to rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) if not, whether there is any time-frame to achieve the target?

**BSNL connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1653. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has achieved last mile connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Dismal service of BSNL in Himachal Pradesh**

†1654. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has only 1.75 lakh landline customers in Himachal Pradesh at present, whereas it had the largest customer base of seven lakh till 2005;

(b) if so, the concrete measures being taken by Government to sustain the operations of BSNL efficiently, as it is on the verge of closing down in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as compared to BSNL, private operators are providing better services and the services of BSNL are deteriorating day-by-day?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**VRS for employees of MTNL and BSNL**

1655. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to announce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees of MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the eligibility criteria fixed for the purpose; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to improve the financial condition of BSNL and MTNL that has posted massive losses during the last several years?

**Transfer of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account from Post Office to Bank**

1656. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for transfer of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account from Post Office to Bank and change in the guardianship and the documents required therefor;

(b) the period in which such process is completed;

(c) whether Post Offices/Banks are aware of such procedure of transfer of accounts from Post Office to Bank and change in the guardianship; and

(d) the options available if a Post Office/ Bank does not entertain such request and within stipulated period along with the number of requests received so far in this regard, by Post Offices in Delhi region?

**Consultation Paper on Net Neutrality**

1657. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued any Consultation Paper to the public on introduction of Net Neutrality in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether TRAI has ascertained the response from the public on the implementation of Net Neutrality, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of Government in this regard?

**Agreement for linking video/voice enabled call with Aadhaar**

1658. SHRIDILIPKUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is set to enter into an agreement with an American multinational company linking up a video and voice enabled call application with Aadhaar; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a move, and the details thereof?

**Securing data ecosystem created under Digital India**

1659. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enact a data privacy legislation with a view to ensure that the vast data ecosystem created through Digital India is secured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that personal data of over 3,00,000 Aadhaar applicants in Maharashtra was leaked in 2013 due to inadequate privacy and data protection guidelines; and

(d) if so, the specific time-line by which Government intends to ensure that Digital India is bolstered by a robust privacy architecture?

#### **Specific legislation to protect Net Neutrality**

1660. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry recognizes the need for a specific legislation to protect Net Neutrality in the country with a view to ensure a free, fair and open internet of consumers and fair competition on the internet;

(b) whether Government acknowledges that the TRAI Act needs to be reviewed and strengthened in order to ensure that it is able to effectively regulate and penalize violations of Net Neutrality; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Consultation paper on differential pricing for data services**

1661. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering differential pricing for data services, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has issued a consultation paper on differential pricing for data services; and

(c) whether differential pricing for data services has been opposed by all concerned, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Cyber attacks and hacking**

1662. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Ministry conducts awareness campaign for organisations, including Government departments about possibilities of cyber attack, hacking and how to respond in such situation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is in touch with foreign Governments on coordinated efforts in case of cyber espionage and cyber attacks, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many major cyber attacks and hackings had taken place in the last three years in respect of various public websites in the country and the time taken for restoration, the details thereof?

#### **Increase in call drops**

1663. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:  
SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in call drops in mobile network since July, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by TRAI in this regard; and

(d) the details of the action Government proposes to take to stop call drops?

**Progress under Digital India campaign**

1664. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the progress made so far in achieving the objectives envisaged under the 'Digital India' campaign;

(b) the number of companies within the country as well as abroad which have entered into an agreement with Government under the 'Digital India' campaign;

(c) the investment made and the employment likely to be generated as a result thereof;

(d) the details of funds disbursed under the project in the current fiscal till January, 2016; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure coordination among different agencies involved in this scheme?

**Expansion of communication system in Uttarakhand**

†1665. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the programme for expansion of communications is getting hampered due to non-availability of apparatus in the State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to ensure smooth running of the expansion programme; and

(c) the details of the amount provided to the State for expansion of communications from year 2013 to 2016?

**Report of World Economic Forum on 'Future of Jobs'**

1666. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a research report from World Economic Forum (WEF) released recently, jobs in India's IT sector are likely to remain stable at least upto 2020;

(b) whether the report suggests that demand for traditional IT work might decline with strong recruitment trends expected for data analytics and cloud computing; and

(c) the other salient points made out in the WEF report titled 'Future of Jobs' that relate to Indian scenario?

**Famine like condition in Bundelkhand**

1667. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rapid survey found

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

evidence of famine-like conditions developing in Bundelkhand;

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

(c) why has the Government failed to implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in time?

#### **Shortage of pulses**

†1668. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of buffer stock available to put a check on the prices of pulses;

(b) whether prices of pulses could not be controlled for want of adequate quantity of import thereof;

(c) the quantity of pulses imported in tonnes in last one year; and

(d) whether lack of coordination between the Ministries is creating problem in overcoming the shortage of pulses?

#### **Officials of North Eastern Railway in Agreed and Secret Lists of CBI and CVC**

†1669. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such officers/employees of North Eastern Railway who are in Agreed List of CBI and Secret List of CVC and whether they have been deployed as per CVC guidelines;

(b) since when are the posts of Chief Commercial Manager, Passenger Service and Marketing and Chief Commercial

Manager, Freight Services in Marketing Department of North Eastern Railway lying vacant;

(c) whether suitable officers are not available for deployment at these posts; and

(d) whether officers have been deployed on these posts after downgrading?

#### **Implementation of the National Food Security Act**

†1670. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court had recently commented on the non-implementation of the National Food Security Act by all States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether special efforts are being made by Central Government to ensure early implementation of the Act by all States after the said comment of the Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Rise in prices of pulses and vegetables**

1671. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last six months the commodity prices have soared around 25 per cent high from last year;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this spike; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) the proposal of Government to control the prices of pulses and other vegetable commodities?

**Rise in prices of essential commodities**

1672. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the rise in prices of various essential commodities like foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables in the country during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the cases of hoarding and blackmarketing detected/reported along with the action taken against those held responsible, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and to check recurrence of such cases?

**Subsidised community kitchens**

1673. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a Food Security Bill which proposes to feed the homeless and needy through subsidised community kitchens, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that, if implemented, it will benefit crores of people in the country who are homeless, if so, the details thereof?

**Wheat stock available with FCI**

1674. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as on 1 January, 2016 the FCI's wheat stock was 74 per cent, up at 240 lakh tonnes as against the 138 lakh tonnes required as per buffer stocking norms;

(b) whether there would not be any shortage of wheat even if the FCI goes ahead with its plan to sell wheat in the open market; and

(c) whether with the sale of wheat by FCI there will be enough wheat in the market enabling the prices to remain under check, if so, the details thereof?

**Non-purchasing of farmers' crops in Bihar**

1675. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for purchasing of crops by the FCI, especially in case the State Government fails to do so, the details thereof; and

(b) what the Central Government will do to get farmers of Bihar out of distress in view of their crops not being purchased by any entity?

**Outstanding dues of sugarcane growers**

1676. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues of sugarcane growers against the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, as on date, together with the dues pertaining to the previous year;

(b) the number of private, co-operative and Government sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh together with the number of mills which are in operation;

(c) the rate of sugarcane being paid to farmers and the facilities provided by Government to sugar mills;

(d) whether Government has received complaints regarding non-purchasing of the entire sugarcane; and

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

#### **Rise in prices of pulses and vegetables**

1677. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the rising prices of pulses and vegetables in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to increase the production of pulses and vegetables in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and how does Government plan to control the prices of these items?

#### **Holding of old stock of foodgrains by FCI**

1678. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) holds more than five years old stock of foodgrains in its godowns across the country; and

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

#### **Payment of outstanding dues to sugarcane growers**

†1679. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of dues of farmers is outstanding with sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of outstanding dues to farmers in last year and the current year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh are in pitiable condition due to non-payment of their dues and are facing acute crisis of supporting their families; and

(d) the essential steps being taken for making payment to farmers and whether Government has any concrete and effective plan for making timely payment to farmers in future?

#### **Use of regional language in consumer related documents**

1680. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to form a rule to use regional languages for all the documents which are related to the consumers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any rule to use English language on the said documents; and

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

#### **Updation of beneficiary database of PDS**

1681. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households-rural and urban, that have purchased subsidised foodgrains from Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System (PDS), State-wise and year-wise, during the last five years;

(b) the number of ration cards issued each year, since 2010;

(c) the steps taken by Government to update beneficiary database of PDS since implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013; and

(d) the number of Fair Price Shops in rural and urban areas, State-wise and year-wise, since 2010?

#### **Unentitled people getting the benefit of BPL families**

†1682. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BPL families in Mayurbhanj area of Odisha are being provided rice at ₹ one or two per kg;

(b) if so, whether Central Government is taking any measures for those poor

families which are in thousands and are not getting this subsidised rice; and

(c) whether any action would be taken against those who are not entitled to the benefits of this scheme but are getting rice at ₹ one or two per kg.?

#### **Monitoring of foodgrains and eatables to prevent irregular inflation**

1683. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made/is making any list of essential foodgrains, fruits and daily routine essential eatables which need special monitoring to avoid any irregular inflation almost every year;

(b) if so, the details of those products, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the assessment on reasons identified for rise in price of each product under frequent inflation; and

(d) the Government's plan for future course of action?

#### **New scheme to boost sugar export**

1684. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt/dues sugar mills owe to farmers as of 2014-15;

(b) whether Government is working on a new scheme to boost export of surplus sugar; and

(c) if so, the details of such a scheme and how this scheme will be different from the previous such scheme and the projected

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

boost to sugar shipments with the new scheme?

#### **Rise in prices of pulses**

1685. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors responsible for sharp increase in the prices of pulses in the country recently;

(b) whether the situation was not anticipated by the authorities;

(c) the details of measures taken to stabilize the prices of pulses; and

(d) the prices of pulses before and after taking of various measures to stabilize their prices?

#### **Inflation in food prices**

1686. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

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

(a) whether there is inflation in food prices;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to control the same;

(c) whether any step has been taken to strengthen the Public Distribution System to control the inflation in food prices; and

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

#### **Prevention of hoarding of essential commodities**

1687. KUMARI SELJA:  
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether provisions of the Essential Commodities Act are adequate to enable States to prevent hoarding of essential commodities such as pulses, etc., thereby checking undue price rise;

(b) if so, how many traders have been booked for crossing the limits imposed by State Governments during the last two years when powers under this Act were invoked and renewed every six months till now, State-wise; and

(c) the other steps being taken to prevent any further price rise of foodgrains?

#### **Selling of excess stock by FCI**

1688. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) aims to realize more than ₹ 10,400 crore by the end of the current fiscal year by selling its excess stock in the open market, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that FCI has so far sold close to 41 lakh tonnes of wheat in 2015, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Providing foodgrains and other essential commodities free-of-cost**

1689. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide foodgrains and essential

commodities free-of-cost across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide financial support to States/Union Territories to provide free foodgrains and essential commodities to the poor; and

(c) whether Government has taken any new initiatives to provide foodgrains and essential commodities to the people below poverty line as well as to the old persons, disabled people, destitute and orphaned women, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Cash transfer of Food Subsidy rules**

1690. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of consultations carried out by Government for the formulation of Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy rules notified on 21 August, 2015;

(b) the steps Government will take to ensure that those who choose not to enrol under Aadhaar will be able to access their food subsidy, as ordered by the Supreme Court; and

(c) the steps Government will take to ensure that the cash transfer quantum is increased regularly in line with inflation rates?

#### **Paste and powder formulation of onions and potatoes**

1691. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering promoting consumption of onions and potatoes in processed form after taking cognizance of the extreme price fluctuations of these two vegetables;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to promote this idea to benefit the average consumer, and the funds Government proposes to set aside to incentivize farmers to convert the vegetables to flake, paste and powder form; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Status of Mega Food Parks**

1692. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed status of the Mega Food Parks sanctioned by Government, State-wise;

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the completion of these Parks; and

(c) the number of Mega Food Parks that have become operational so far?

#### **Development of Mega Food Parks in the country**

1693. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost the Food Processing Industries, Government is considering a ₹ 1,500 crore subsidy scheme for development of Mega Food Parks across the country;

(b) if so, whether as per the proposal, the Food Parks would be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), jointly by Central Government, State Governments and the private sector; and

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

### **Operationalizing Mega Food Parks**

1694. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the Mega Food Parks, which were conceived during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, are still non-starter, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is taking any pro-active steps to make all of them operational during the current financial year, if so, the details thereof?

### **Investment in Food Processing Industry**

1695. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of public and private investment made in the Food Processing Industry during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, year-wise; and

(b) the measures Government proposes to take to increase this investment?

### **Appointing quality lawyers under Legal Aid Scheme**

1696. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of quality lawyers under the Legal Aid Scheme has resulted in increasing conviction and undertrial population of the poor people, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has taken any measures to appoint widely experienced and educated lawyers for the poor under

the Legal Aid Scheme if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Pending civil and criminal cases in High Courts**

1697. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending in various High Courts of the country, particularly in the High Court of Orissa and Allahabad; and

(b) whether Government has taken any initiatives to expedite the final settlement of these cases, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Lawyers with fake degrees**

1698. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than 2000 practicing advocates registered with the Delhi Bar Council have degrees from the same college and university which are reported to have been fake; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry either by the Delhi Bar Council or by Government has been conducted, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Reintroduction of Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill**

1699. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to re-introduce the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to include 'irretrievable

breakdown of marriage' as a ground for divorce, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government intends to introduce any legislation in this light to provide for sufficient compensation to the wife and children from the husband's immovable property in case of a divorce, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Bogus Voter Identity Cards**

1700. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the presence of a large number of bogus Voter Identity Cards in the country which not only has adverse impact on our transparent democratic election process but also pose threat to national security as foreign nationals of neighbouring countries easily access them to establish Indian identity;

(b) if so, updated status of action taken by Central Government, in coordination with State Governments, to abolish bogus Voter Identity Cards; and

(c) the State-wise number of cases of bogus Voter Identity Cards coming to light during last three years till date and the action taken thereon?

#### **Promotion of Law as a career for women**

1701. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women judges, judicial officers and lawyers registered with various Bar Councils in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote Law as a career option for women in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide reservation for women in various Bar Councils in the country; and

(d) if so, the details along with the present status thereof?

#### **Special Courts to deal with cases pertaining to atrocities on SCs/STs**

1702. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Courts set up to examine the cases pertaining to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) the number of cases decided during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 in the above Courts, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the cases pending as on 31 March, 2015 in the above States, State-wise?

#### **Fake and unqualified lawyers**

1703. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, nowadays, a large number of fake and unqualified lawyers are found moving in court corridors across the country;

(b) whether the Apex Court has taken a serious note of this and directed the apex regulatory body for lawyers, Bar Council of India (BCI) and all State Bar Councils to "continue with the new rules" for verifying the advocates and do extra checks to weed out fake lawyers; and

(c) if so, a factual report along with Government's reaction thereon?

#### **Assistance for opening of new courts**

1704. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given to the State Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra for opening of new courts; and

(b) the details of total number of judges in the High Courts of Gujarat and Rajasthan as on 31 March, 2015?

#### **Rail Neer Plants in North-Eastern States**

1705. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government proposal to set up Rail Neer (packaged drinking water) plants in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government has carried out any survey to set up such water bottling plants in the North-East, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Setting fire to Ratnachel Express**

1706. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have incurred more than ₹ 25 crore loss recently due to fire set up by unknown miscreants to

Ratnachel Express and other trains in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have given only 17 bogies to Ratnachel Express after this incident instead of having complete 24 bogies, if so, the details thereof and reasons for giving less bogies to this train so far; and

(c) whether Railways are facing shortage of bogies, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

#### **Irregularities in VRS appointments**

†1707. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General's report of January 2011 to March 2014 has brought to the fore several irregularities in VRS appointments in Railways;

(b) whether Railway Board changed its own rule repeatedly for VRS appointments, thereby clearing the way for such appointments;

(c) the irregularities due to which jobs were given against the rules and at what levels irregularities have been exposed; and

(d) the actual status thereof?

#### **Stoppage of Express trains**

1708. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways would consider stoppage of Rourkela-Koraput Express and Nagavali-Nanded Express trains at Narla

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Road and Chatikona (Bissamcuttack) railway stations?

#### **Railway Development Authority**

1709. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Debroy Committee has recently recommended for setting up of Railway Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government proposes to set up such an Authority?

#### **Introduction of new Passenger trains in Kerala**

1710. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are inclined to have more long distance Express trains while denying more short distance Passenger trains;

(b) whether more Passenger trains are denied to Kerala while people want them; and

(c) whether Government would instruct the Railway Board to introduce advanced communication system there to facilitate introduction of new Passenger trains?

#### **Setting up of Rail Coach Factory in Telangana**

1711. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to

set up Rail Coach Factory in Telangana, as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act; and

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

#### **Construction of Dehradun-Vikasnagar-Uttarkashi Railway line**

†1712. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry will consider to send a team of railway experts to ascertain the possibility of construction of a new railway line from Dehradun to Uttarkashi *via* Vikasnagar in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, by when the team is likely to be sent there; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **E-catering services in Railways**

1713. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and railway zone-wise details of revenue earned through e-catering services during the last one year, including district-wise details for West Bengal;

(b) the State-wise and station-wise details of existing set of catering service providers along with the details of subsidies provided/expenditure incurred in relation to e-catering, if any; and

(c) whether Railways intend to expand the services provided to other stations and include more Indian brands for providing e-catering services to passengers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Extension of railway line from  
Lohardaga to Korba**

†1714. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of work done on the extension of railway line from Lohardaga to Korba, till date, which was announced by the former Minister of Railways?

**Letter from Chief Minister of Odisha**

1715. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Railways has received two letters, one on 2 December, 2015 and the second on 4 February, 2016, from the Chief Minister of Odisha; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far, the details thereof?

**Galvanization of rail tracks**

1716. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have considered galvanization of rail tracks to decrease corrosion and hence, reduce losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated towards the same; and

(c) the estimate of losses Railways are suffering due to corrosion and lack of maintenance of railway tracks?

**Punctuality of trains**

1717. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that punctuality of trains has deteriorated and has come down to just 79 per cent in March, 2015, as compared to 84.4 per cent in March, 2014;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to improve the deteriorating punctuality of trains; and

(c) whether any monitoring system is presently being used to monitor train movement to track and prevent delays and whether any improvement has been proposed therefor?

**Railways as an essential service**

1718. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers Railways as an essential service for people or as a business concern for profit making;

(b) if former is the case, why Government is not mobilizing long term loans for new lines and production of rakes;

(c) why are workers and employees not assured fair wages and service conditions; and

(d) why private capital is being encouraged into Railways?

**Safety of women passengers**

1719. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of safety and security provided to women passengers in Railways;

(b) whether closed circuit televisions are provided in Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any additional measures are contemplated to ensure absolute safety of women passengers, if so, the details thereof?

**Gate Mitras on unmanned level crossings**

1720. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gate Mitras appointed so far in the country on unmanned level crossings, the details thereof, Zone-wise;

(b) whether the Gate Mitras have been given training etc., if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of salary/remuneration given to them and facilities provided to them, the details thereof;

(d) whether an appropriate place—a room shed, hut etc.—to sit, have been provided to all of them; and

(e) whether these Gate Mitras are covered under labour laws, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Setting up of modern railway laundry at Tirupati**

1721. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up a modern railway laundry at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far?

**Establishment of medical college in West Bengal**

1722. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have established a medical college in West Bengal, as declared by the then Railway Minister in her Rail Budget speech during UPA-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Improving facilities in general compartments**

†1723. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the trains, more passengers travel in the general compartments than in any other compartment and the Railways' income from these compartments is as much as from sleeper and 3rd AC compartments;

(b) if so, whether it should not be contemplated giving more facilities to the passengers travelling in the general compartments and increasing the number of general compartments; and

(c) if not, the ratio of the number of passengers travelling in the general compartment, 3rd AC and other classes and the income earned through them?

**Independent Authority for regulating Railways**

1724. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of an independent authority for regulating the affairs of Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the likely or proposed scope of activity of the said authority; and

(c) the time-frame contemplated for setting up the said authority and the present status of the proposal?

#### **Railway projects in Himachal Pradesh**

1725. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects undergoing/proposed to be started soon in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether some of these projects have been delayed and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of new railway lines announced in the last two Railway Budgets for Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the details of projects on which work has been started and the quantum of work having been completed; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the work on new railway line projects undergoing/proposed to be started in Himachal Pradesh?

#### **Setting up wagon factory at Kazipet**

1726. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Minister in 2008-09 Budget speech announced that a wagon factory would be set up in Kazipet on PPP mode;

(b) whether there was another announcement in 2010-11 for setting up of wagon factory at Kazipet and land was identified at Ayodhyapuram and in principle, agreed to start the work with a Patna-based company; and

(c) if so, the reasons that Railways have now decided to suspend its idea of setting up of the wagon factory at Kazipet when the Government of Telangana has written a letter to transfer 54 acres of land to Railways?

#### **Proposal for Bullet train in Eastern States**

1727. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to introduce Bullet train in the railway route of Eastern States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Connecting Himachal Pradesh with Leh**

1728. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from Government of Himachal Pradesh to connect Himachal Pradesh with Leh through a railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereon along with the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

### **High-speed trains for North-Eastern States**

1729. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways have ignored North-Eastern States by not providing high-speed trains connected with the National Capital and other parts of the country as its priority in the initial phase, the details in this regard?

### **Train to connect Patiala and Chandigarh**

1730. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from public for starting a train to connect Patiala and Chandigarh;

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

(c) the time-line to connect Patiala and Chandigarh *via* train?

### **Fast Track Implementation of Projects scheme**

1731. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have prioritized certain projects under its Fast Track Implementation of Projects Scheme;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to reduce the gap between project conceptualization and commissioning in order to decongest choked networks and to enhance speed and punctuality of trains?

### **Railway Development Fund**

1732. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank and Railways have decided to work together to create a Railway Development Fund, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the proposed fund will partly finance the US \$ 142 billion investment plan for the core infrastructure sector announced by Government, if so, the details thereof?

### **Railway connectivity of rural areas of Haryana**

1733. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural areas of Haryana are still not on railway map, while there has been a persistent demand for that; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that these areas have been found to be commercially viable, if so, the details thereof?

### **Shortage of coaches in Southern Railway**

1734. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern Railway zone, especially related to Kerala, is facing acute shortage of coaches and the projected demand of coaches is hardly met;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the remedial action being taken in the matter;

(c) whether Railways have received any proposal(s) for implementation of various schemes/projects in Kerala during the last two years and the current year, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways in this regard, including the details of projects sanctioned along with status thereof?

**Doubling and electrification of  
Konkan Railway**

1735. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take up doubling and electrification of the Konkan railway route, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any blue print has been drawn in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of implementation of these projects and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Survey for railway line from Manwal  
to Bhaderwah in J&K**

1736. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is conducting survey for expansion of railway line from Manwal to Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); and

(b) if so, when would the work on this project is going to start and what will be the duration of time for its completion?

**Expansion of railway line from  
Udhampur to Banihal in J&K**

1737. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to expand the railway line from Udhampur to Banihal in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); and

(b) if so, the completion period of expansion of this railway line and the reasons for the delay?

**Redevelopment of railway stations  
under East Coast Railway**

1738. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to redevelop around 400 railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating those stations that are proposed to be redeveloped under the East Coast Railway; and

(c) the time-frame within which the above stations under the East Coast Railway would be redeveloped?

**Muslim/Sufi circuit for tourism**

1739. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1940 given in Rajya Sabha on 25 July, 2014 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in introducing Muslim/Sufi circuit for railway tourism;

(b) by when it will become functional; and

(c) the places proposed to be included in the circuit?

**Letter from Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**

†1740. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of issues raised by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in his letter addressed to the Minister of Railways on 24 January, 2015 and the action taken so far on each of those issues?

**Bomb disposal and detection squad for Delhi unit of RPF**

1741. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for six years now, the Delhi Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been waiting to get its own bomb disposal and detection squad;

(b) whether RPF could not get it because of some procedural delays; and

(c) whether Government is going to clear the procedural delays and ensure that RPF Delhi Unit gets its own bomb disposal squad as early as possible, the factual report thereon?

**Vacant RPF posts in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh**

1742. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of Railway

Protection Force (RPF) posts vacant in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether incidents of crime in trains have increased substantially and there is no proper monitoring of the same; and

(c) if so, the steps Railways are taking to fill up these posts immediately?

**Damage to railway property in Haryana**

†1743. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in Haryana which were damaged in arson by people demanding reservation and the details of different kinds of damage caused to the Railways in Haryana;

(b) whether it is a fact that laxity in timely prevention of loss to railway property by the Railway Protection Force and the State administration in Haryana has come to light; and

(c) the factual position in this regard?

**Mechanized railway level crossings**

1744. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unmanned railway level crossings in the country as a whole, as on date;

(b) the details of accidents on railway level crossings, State-wise, during the last

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

two years, indicating the lives lost and persons injured;

(c) the number of manned railway level crossings mechanized during these years; and

(d) the reasons for slow pace of work carried out in this regard?

#### **E-tendering portal**

1745. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched e-tendering portal to bring transparency in the execution of work contracts and make it cost-effective for the bidders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Losses in passenger segment**

1746. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated losses in passenger segment of Railways have ballooned from ₹ 6159 crore in 2004-05 to provisional estimate of over ₹ 30,000 crore in 2015-16;

(b) whether this is primarily due to sharp increase in input costs and no proportionate increase in fares over the same period; and

(c) whether Railways had increased Tatkal ticket booking charges by up to 33 per cent for travel in all classes, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train**

1747. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Abandoned buildings and unserviceable materials available with Railways**

1748. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any account of abandoned buildings and unserviceable materials is maintained in Railways, if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise;

(b) the procedure followed in dismantling the abandoned buildings and the time required to dismantle all the abandoned buildings; and

(c) the total value of unserviceable materials available with Railways and the details of their disposal?

#### **Insurance facility for passengers and Railway's assets**

†1749. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have suffered heavy losses due to various rail accidents in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have any insurance facility for the railway passengers and assets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount paid by the insurance companies during the last three years to Railways while settling the claims?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Textile Parks in Telangana**

1750. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approved three Integrated Textile Parks in Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy and Medak districts of Telangana under PPP mode;

(b) if so, the progress of those Textile Parks; and

(c) by when they are likely to start production?

### **Measures to propel India's share in global apparel trade**

1751. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's success in Textile sector and grab of 40 per cent of world textile market is primarily due to India's cotton yarn and fibre supplies to it;

(b) whether one kg. yarn, if processed and sold as finished garments, generates four to five times more revenue;

(c) whether India is indirectly facilitating China to earn US \$ 24 billions a year through its garment exports; and

(d) whether the Ministry contemplates building cost-effective large scale fabric mills and unleash labour reforms to propel a 10 per cent share in global apparel trade, and if so, the details thereof?

### **Protection of domestic Sericulture industry**

1752. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to cut in customs duty on silk imports,

Chinese silk has swamped the South Indian Sericulture industry, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to protect the domestic Sericulture industry and push it to compete with the Chinese silk; and

(c) the efforts made to produce bivoltaine silk in the country instead of multivoltaine silk?

### **Revival of Parvathy Mills under NTC**

1753. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any steps to revive the Parvathy Mills under National Textile Corporation situated in Kollam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the present position of the revival package of Parvathy Mills; and

(c) by when the mill will restart its functioning?

### **Financial support to Textiles and Ready-made garments sector**

1754. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to provide financial support for new technologies in Textiles and Ready-made garments sector across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide financial support for the Textile and Ready-made garments industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether Government has taken initiatives to induce weavers community to take up job continuously and to update

the technology to suit the present situation, particularly the weavers community living in villages and small towns, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Supply of cotton to Textile sector**

1755. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken measures to ensure adequate supply of cotton to the Textile sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total increase registered in the export of cotton textiles during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the target fixed and achievements made for the export of readymade garments during the said period; and

(d) the reasons for non-achievement of targets, if any, and the steps being taken by Government thereon?

#### **Steps for welfare of weavers**

1756. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of the relief and facilities given to weavers during 2014 and 2015, State-wise?

#### **Schemes of National Handloom Development Programme**

1757. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of the National Handloom Development Programme which have been implemented in the country;

(b) the number of them that have been implemented in Odisha; and

(c) the manner in which the handloom weavers of Odisha have been benefited from such schemes?

#### **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

1758. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be allocated by Government to the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) for Textile sector, with details for apparel, garment etc.;

(b) the details of total investments expected in the next two years; and

(c) the details of the job opportunities expected to be generated in the next two years as compared to the last five years?

#### **Textile Clusters**

1759. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Textile Clusters presently operational in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of Textile Clusters proposed to be set up or re-operationalised in 2016, State-wise?

NEW DELHI;  
The 5th March, 2016  
Phalgun 15, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
Secretary-General.

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