

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 11, 2015/Agrahayana 20, 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 — 160

Benefits of space technology for farm sector

1441. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farm sector would increasingly reap the benefit of space technology in the coming years through various upcoming projects including the Indus NISAR satellite-4;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is the need of the hour that agricultural scientists join hands with ISRO to extract more benefits for farm sector from space technology; and

(c) if so, whether Government has asked the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to take immediate steps in this regard?

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

1442. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of farmers' suicides in Maharashtra are startling;

(b) the role of the Central Government to tackle this issue; and

(c) whether any short-term and long-term measures have been identified to prevent farmers' suicides in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Dearth of agricultural scientists

†1443. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

field/profession in the country is facing a dearth of agricultural scientists;

(b) whether more than 1000 posts of agricultural scientists against sanctioned posts are lying vacant in the country as well as many posts are lying vacant in the institutions of ICAR also;

(c) whether appointments are not being made even after constitution of ASRB;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government on the aforesaid problem?

Implementation of RKVY

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

(a) the objectives behind the launching of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);

(b) how far these objectives have been achieved;

(c) the details of the recent initiatives taken by Government under RKVY; and

(d) how the agriculture sector in Maharashtra would be benefited by these initiatives?

Role of cooperatives in agriculture sector

1445. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the role played by cooperatives in agriculture sector;

(b) whether Government proposes to strengthen the role of cooperatives in agriculture sector, if so, the steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the performance of cooperatives in milk production, poultry farming and fisheries, especially in Maharashtra?

Setting up of National Agricultural Market

1446. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up a National Agricultural Market; and

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

Reduction in funding meant for farm based programme telecast in DD Kisan Channel

1447. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is not happy with the content telecast of DD's Kisan Channel; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has cut 44 per cent of funding meant for farm-based programmes, if so, the details thereof?

National policy on organic farming

1448. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a switch over to organic agriculture could end the

problems of agrarian distress and groundwater consumption; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to come out with a national policy on organic farming to systematically tackle the adverse consequences of chemical based farming, if so, the details thereof?

Loss to agriculture due to floods and drought

1449. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has been facing alternatively floods and drought and this situation is worsening for future of our agricultural sector;

(b) if so, how much loss was incurred due to floods and drought during the last two years;

(c) how many districts have been affected due to floods and drought situation in the country during this year; and

(d) whether Government is considering to adopt long term strategy to tackle natural calamity like drought and floods in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers due to damage of crops and debt burden

†1450. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of suicides committed by

farmers in the last three years due to damage of crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-payment of loans in time borrowed by farmers from banks and money lenders is also one of the main reasons of suicide by farmers; and

(c) the details of per hectare cost escalation in agriculture due to inflation in the last three years, the details thereof?

Greenhouse rental service under Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project

1451. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Greenhouse rental service under the Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project;

(b) whether the scheme will be expanded to other States, if so, the road-map of the expansion and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other schemes, if any, which are part of the Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project; and

(d) whether there are any other programmes implemented in cooperation with other nations to help the farmers?

Sale of spurious insecticides and fertilizers

1452. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rampant availability, sale and use of spurious insecticides and fertilizers in the country is resulting in heavy losses to farmers due to low production and damage to crops;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of samples of insecticides and fertilizers collected that failed quality tests during last three years, year-wise and State-wise including in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to check the production and sale of spurious insecticides and fertilizers in the country?

Modifying definition of 'farmer'

1453. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if one takes into account the definition of 'farmer' before 2014, the farmers' suicides in the country have actually gone up in 2014;

(b) if so, the reasons for modifying the definition of 'farmer';

(c) how is it helpful to the farmers and farm labourers; and

(d) the details of farmers' suicide during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

Implementation of modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

1454. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a new crop insurance scheme and modified the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme to provide more relief to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether Government has any

proposal to allow select private sector insurance companies to participate in the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated for implementation of the scheme during the last three years; and

(e) the crops which are covered under the scheme and the number of farmers benefited thereunder?

Assistance to farmers in areas receiving less than average rainfall

†1455. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of those States which received less than the average rainfall have not received Government assistance so far despite the announcement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the names of the States which received less than the average rainfall and assistance provided by the Government to them?

Coverage under crop insurance schemes

1456. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only small proportion of farmers have been covered under various crop insurance schemes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts being made to increase this coverage; and

(c) the road-map for this purpose?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in arable land

1457. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of arable land is decreasing, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts being made for arresting this decline?

Promoting Greenhouse technology

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Greenhouse facility gives farmers cheap access to seeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to promote Greenhouse technology in the country in a big way; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide financial assistance for setting up of Greenhouses, if so, the details thereof?

Recommendations of Task Force on Agriculture

1459. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Ayog's Task Force on Agriculture has recommended reforms to address the sensitive issue of frequent spurt in crop prices, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these recommendations include guaranteed prices for at least half of the key crops, setting up of a unified

national agriculture market, changing land lease laws etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these recommendations will make agriculture more efficient so that the country can produce enough with lesser land as the country is working for another Green Revolution, if so, the details thereof?

Benefits of subsidy to farmers

†1460. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy and the respective heads under which subsidy was provided by Government to farmers in the preceding financial year, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government is aware that the full benefit of the subsidy does not reach to farmers, if so, whether Government is contemplating any measures for it, the details thereof?

Effect of climate change on agriculture

1461. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the effect of climate change on agriculture;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to develop sustainable agriculture technology; and

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

Horticulture revolution

1462. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring in a horticulture revolution;

(b) the layout proposed by Government for development of horticulture in the country;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from various State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to achieve the objectives and targets set under the scheme?

Remunerative price to farmers for their produces

1463. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for certain crops;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produces?

Implementation of 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India' programme

1464. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government under the programme 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India' during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the allocation and utilization of funds under the programme during last three years, State-wise and district-wise, including West Bengal;

(c) whether Government intends to expand the coverage of the programme to crops other than wheat and rice;

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

(e) the details of targets set and achieved under this programme during last three years, State-wise?

Area sown under pulses

1465. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of pulses, State-wise and pulses-wise, since January, 2012 till November, 2015;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the area sown under pulses during the above period, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the area sown under pulses; and

(d) the estimated production of pulses this Kharif season?

Central share for infrastructural development in fisheries sector

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

(a) whether Government is considering to increase the Central share for infrastructure development in fisheries sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to make it 75 per cent as it used to be earlier; and

(c) if so, whether Government has received any proposal in this regard from various States and if so, the details thereof?

Fish Farmers Development Agencies

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

(a) the number of Fish Farmers Development Agencies working in the country;

(b) the work undertaken by such agencies for the development of fisheries during the last three years; and

(c) the Central assistance sanctioned during the said period for the Fish Farmers Development Agencies of the country?

Distress suicide by farmers in rural Bengal

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

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of distress suicide among farmers in rural

Bengal have been increasing during the last four years;

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

(c) whether any action has been taken to stop the distress suicides?

Cultivation of oilseeds

1469. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives proposed to encourage farmers for cultivating oilseeds; and

(b) whether Government proposes to adopt any land pooling to encourage cultivators of oilseeds, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of National Agriculture Market Project

1470. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide guidance and issue directives to the respective State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) to implement the envisaged National Agriculture Market Project;

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

(c) whether Government is planning to work in coordination with State Governments to formulate a strong facilitating framework which will enable transparent exchange between the consumer and the producer; and

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

Fake pesticides

1471. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards media reports regarding selling of fake pesticides in Punjab and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken in the matter?

Relief package for drought affected States

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

(a) whether Government has any scheme to give relief package to drought affected States;

(b) if so, the details of the packages given during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to create drought relief fund to provide sufficient financial grant matching the loss of farmers, State-wise?

Procurement of cotton by CCI and NAFED

1473. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and NAFED are not procuring hundred per cent of the cotton crop that come to the market;

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

(c) the revenue earned during the current year by such procurement?

Increase in area under Kharif crops

1474. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under Kharif crops is higher this season than in the previous year by 13.51 lakh hectares owing to higher sowing of pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Kharif crops have been planted on 103137 lakh hectares this year as against 101786 lakh hectares last year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the overall sowing has improved despite a 14 per cent deficit in rainfall during the south-west monsoon, if so, the details thereof?

Production of foodgrains

1475. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of major foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years, foodgrain-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to enhance agricultural production?

Implementation of Swaminathan Commission Report

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

(a) whether Government has announced to constitute Farmers' Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of reference;

(c) whether Government disagree with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons for non-implementation of the report of the Swaminathan Commission inspite of assurance by the Prime Minister?

Plan to boost production of pulses

1477. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent crisis of pulses was due to the absence of timely planning to import them; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government will fix responsibility for the muddle and draw up a comprehensive plan to boost production of pulses in the country?

Impact of deficit rainfall on agricultural production

1478. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the south-west monsoon season has registered an overall rainfall deficit of 14.3 per cent relative to the normal long period average for June-September; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the agricultural production?

Suicide by farmers due to increasing cost of production

1479. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production cost in agriculture sector has increased during the last years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether farmers have committed suicide due to this reason, if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance to cotton growing farmers in Vidarbha

1480. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will provide any financial assistance to the cotton growing farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicide in large number; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to farmers under Crop Insurance Scheme

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

(a) whether farmers do not get compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme when crops fail due to drought or cyclone;

(b) if not, how many farmers received compensation for failure of crops due to such natural calamities in the last one year, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is a common complaint of farmers that they do not get compensation under the crop insurance scheme, if so, the remedial steps Government is taking to assuage the feelings of farmers and prevent them from committing suicide ?

Subsidy to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements

1482. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme, if any, for granting soft loans and subsidy to farmers for purchasing various agricultural implements;

(b) whether Government has identified the agricultural equipments which result in saving water and ensuring better agriculture produce and which cannot be afforded by the marginal farmers and need to be subsidised;

(c) the various ways of promoting and encouraging farmers for using these implements, which result in increase of production; and

(d) the total subsidy, if any, given to farmers of Punjab for purchase of such equipments?

Suicide by farmers

1483. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who committed suicide due to agrarian crisis in the last five years;

(b) whether Government has made any

analysis of the pending debt liability of farmers;

(c) the number of small and marginal farmers who are under stress and debt ridden; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating a scheme for loan waiver or payment in instalments for farmers?

Import and testing of fertilizers

1484. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for import of fertilizers;

(b) the quantum and value of fertilizers imported along with the names of importing companies and the countries from which these fertilizers were imported during each of the last three years and current year, fertilizer-wise;

(c) whether appropriate testing facilities are available for testing these fertilizers as per international standards, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the monitoring mechanism put in place to check quality of fertilizers being imported by the said companies; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

Pricing of drugs/medicines

1485. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a clear policy regarding pricing of medicines;

(b) whether it is weighed in favour of pharmaceutical companies or in favour of patients from ordinary/poor families; and

(c) whether Government has ensured that life saving drugs are made available at reasonable cost to them by producing them in public sector companies?

Review of Drug Pricing Policy

†1486. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to review and re-evaluate Drug Pricing Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Drug Pricing Regulator is fixing the prices of life saving drugs and other medicines at present; and

(c) if not, the number and details of medicines whose prices are fixed by pharmaceutical companies themselves and whether these prices are reasonable?

Subsidy on fertilizers

1487. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are getting requisite benefit of subsidy on fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some companies resort to the tactics of indicating lower production capacity and on the basis of percentage production obtain huge subsidy;

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

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the

poor and marginal farmers get the maximum benefit of subsidy?

SC judgement on Sections 66A and 69 of IT Act

1488. SHRI PALAVI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the fallout of Supreme Court (SC) judgement in declaring Section 66A of the Information Technology Act ultra vires of the Constitution and declaring Section 69 to be intra vires; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take thereon?

Revival of fertilizers plants

1489. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has declined to provide guarantee of the continuation of the current urea investment policy beyond 2019 to the investors desiring to take part in the bidding process for revival of Gorakhpur and Sindri plants of FCIL and Barauni plant of HFCL;

(b) whether there is no assurance that gas will necessarily flow from domestic sources and of compensation for the units in case Jagadishpur-Haldia pipeline is delayed; and

(c) the number and names of the investors who have shown interest in taking part in the revival activities even after such conditionality?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Supply of low cost generic medicines and production of APIs

1490. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start more Pharmaceutical companies to provide generic and cheap medicines and drugs to the needy poor people, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken up the issue with the drug manufacturers and pharmaceutical industries to produce and use Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) indigenously than to depend heavily on China; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof along with the further steps taken by Government in this regard?

Unauthorized sale of fertilizers

1491. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to conduct inspection on the quality of fertilizers being sold in the market and their price, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and whether cases of unauthorized sale of fertilizers have been encountered by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the quantity and net worth of fertilizers stocked for sale without prior permissions?

Supply of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh

†1492. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards paucity of urea and other chemicals fertilizers in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government is formulating any scheme to meet the demand of fertilizers and chemicals fertilizers so that the problems of farmers could be resolved?

Revival of urea plants and protection of employees

1493. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of urea plants in the country are facing closure;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken for revival of these urea plants and to protect their employees?

Investment in fertilizer sector

1494. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual demand and indigenous production of fertilizers in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the domestic requirement of fertilizers;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase/expand public/private investment in fertilizer sector; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Secure network to thwart spying activities

1495. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's vulnerability to spying activities of unfriendly nations in the internet era has forced Government to chalk out a ₹ 450 crore plan to develop and deploy a pan-India secure network and network-based services, such as e-mail and internet-telephony, thus providing a foolproof infrastructure for telecom and internet communication exclusively for Government use; and

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

Outstanding dues against MTNL and BSNL Subscribers

1496. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sizeable amount of dues are outstanding presently against mobile and landline subscribers of MTNL and BSNL in various telecom circles in the country, if so, the details thereof, circle-wise;

(b) the details of dues recovered during the previous year and the current year, circle and State-wise;

(c) the measures taken/being taken by Government for recovery of dues and fixing

the responsibility for non-recovery, so far; and

(d) the action taken against the defaulters by MTNL and BSNL in their respective service areas?

Payments Bank

1497. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Post has been granted licence for Payments Bank, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India Post proposes to set up a 100 per cent subsidiary company to operate as Payments Bank, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken in this regard and the time by which Payments Bank services are to be started by India Post?

Irregularity in allocation of 2G spectrum

1498. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come to know about some serious instances of irregularity in the allocation of 2G spectrum;

(b) whether the spectrum was distributed in an arbitrary manner to favour a set of players; and

(c) whether Government has also found clear instances of irregularities in the way the Ministry changed the goal post allegedly to favour a set of players?

Under-valuation of 2G spectrum

1499. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has accused the Telecom Ministry of undervaluing 2G spectrum sold to new players in 2008;

(b) if so, whether the allotment price was not realistic and the policy failed to address the issue of price discovery of spectrum; and

(c) if so, the responsibility fixed by Government in this regard and corrective steps now proposed to be taken to fix the wrinkles of spectrum allocation?

Spread of hate and extremist views on social media

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

(a) how Government looks at the spread of hate and extremist views on social media;

(b) whether complaints regarding such messages on social media have been lodged with Government, if so, the details thereof along with the nature of action, if any, taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to strengthen laws to govern such social media platforms for monitoring and checking hate content thereon?

Central Monitoring System

1501. DR. K. KESHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of operationalising the Central Monitoring System (CMS) and who will have access to this data and restrictions on its use;

(b) whether the information gained through such surveillance would be a parallel database;

(c) whether CMS will have any parliamentary or judicial oversight; and

(d) the safeguards built into CMS?

Installation of additional mobile towers to curb call drops

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to curb the mobile call drop problem;

(b) whether Government has instructed the Mobile Service Providers to install more mobile towers for effective performance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Action against telecom operators for call drops

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

(a) whether Government has imposed fine or initiated any stern action against any mobile service providing companies on the call drop issue, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Under-utilisation of funds

1504. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has spent less than 35 per cent of the funds allocated to it in 2015-16;

(b) the percentage of funds allocated in 2014-15 and 2015-16 that is yet unused; and

(c) the reasons for low utilisation of funds?

Compensation for call drops

1505. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the compensation to be given to consumers by telecom operators on the occurrence of call drops;

(b) whether Government has consulted telecom operators on the compensation issue, if so, their views thereon; and

(c) whether tariffs for consumers will increase if telecom operators are to compensate for call drops?

Project Loon

†1506. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are technical glitches in according approval to 'Project Loon', if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when internet access will be made available through 'Project Loon' and the amount of money subscribers will have to pay for such facility?

4G services by BSNL

1507. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL plans to launch 4G services on 2600 MHz band in a couple of cities by March-end, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has taken various customer-centric initiatives, such as free night calling, free roaming and is providing a minimum broadband speed of 2 Mbps to build trust, if so, the details thereof?

Profit and investment by BSNL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has reported an operating profit of ₹ 672 crore in 2014-15;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL aims to achieve a net profit by 2018-19; and

(c) whether BSNL will invest ₹ 7700 crore in the current financial year to expand network, if so, the details thereof?

Policy to protect misuse of personal data of mobile customers

†1509. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by year 2015, 9 billion mobile applications shall be downloaded in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that mobile applications can be downloaded only after receiving details and obtaining permission to bring into use the mobile directory of the customer by the application provider; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to bring any policy, or rule to prevent misuse of personal data of customers, if so, the details thereof?

Increase in number of internet users

†1510. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the number of internet users has increased rapidly during the years 2014 and 2015 as compared to the year 2013, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the quantum of expansion of 'fixed broadband' *vis-a-vis* the increasing number of internet users?

Making electronic industry and IT sector at par with foreign counterparts

1511. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken and new scheme of plans devised and implemented by Government to make electronic industries and IT sector at par with foreign electronics and IT companies;

(b) whether Government is keen in utilizing the services of various electronic arms of Department of Electronics for multi-tasking activities of Government than to outsource very important and essential activities to private players, if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the domestic use of electronics and IT sector is a multi-crore business, if so, the details thereof?

National guidelines for telecom towers

1512. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to issue National guidelines for setting up of telecom towers, if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(b) the reasons that Government's policies are not able to address the issue efficiently; and

(c) the concerns that have been raised by the telecom service providers with regard to Government's policy on this issue?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Verification of cellphone users

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that over five crore cellphone users in the country have not been verified as per the KYC norms which is posing a serious threat to the security of the nation:

(b) if so, the list of unverified cellphone users in the country, State-wise;

(c) the preventive steps being taken by the Ministry to curb the alarming number of unverified users in the country; and

(d) the expected time limit by which the verification of the cellphone users, as per KYC norms, will be completed?

Postage stamp on Dhumketu

1514. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1295 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 2011 and state:

(a) whether the commemorative postage stamp on Dhumketu of Gujarat, for his remarkable contribution in literature, particularly his great story named 'Post Office', has been issued;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the updated status on the issue and the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(c) by when the said commemorative postage stamp on Dhumketu would be issued?

Penalty on companies for call drops

†1515. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is determined upon its decision to impose penalty on companies for call drops and whether companies have approached Government to change its decision;

(b) the details of profits being accrued to telecom operators from call drops; and

(c) the details of Government's plan to expand network of BSNL and MTNL?

Problem of call drops

1516. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the problem of call drops faced by citizens of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the reasons have been identified on the issue of call drops; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to solve this problem and the result thereof?

Digital lockers

1517. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of users of digital lockers in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the funds allocated towards this scheme; and

(c) how Government is planning to increase the number of users of digital lockers?

Free roaming service by BSNL

1518. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has proposed nationwide free roaming service in the country;

(b) if so, whether TRAI has objected to the said proposal;

(c) if so, whether TRAI can overrule the decision of an organization which gives benefits to its customers; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government in this regard?

Call drop problem

†1519. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by the mobile users because of call drops during the recent past;

(b) the reasons for the call drops;

(c) whether Government has tried to find a solution to this problem by taking up the issue with mobile service provider companies; and

(d) whether the relief has percolated down to mobile customers and the quantum of relief provided?

Call drop parameters

1520. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that none of the telecom service providers are meeting the call drop parameters, which are prescribed as 2 per cent by TRAI;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the call drop problem; and

(c) the details of compliance measures taken by various service providers across the country?

Call drop cases in MTNL

1521. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that call drop cases under Government-owned MTNL mobile services have increased manifold, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps Government is taking to stop call drop cases and to make it competitive with private companies?

Payment of overdues to sugarcane producers

†1522. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2166 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 2015 and state:

(a) the amount paid to sugarcane producers so far out of their total overdues of ₹ 17,301 crore and by when the full amount would be paid;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the effect of soft loan provided to sugar mills through banks by Government and other steps taken, on the economic condition of sugar mills;

(c) the details of the other steps taken by Government in view of the incidents of suicide committed by financially struggling farmers so that the cane growers get their dues early;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is affecting sugarcane and sugar productions in the country?

Rise in prices of onion and daily use agricultural produces

1523. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government faces rise in prices of onion and some daily use agricultural produces almost every year;

(b) if so, the reasons identified for rise in their prices; and

(c) the strategy prepared by Government to address the inflation related to onions in future?

Payment of arrears to sugarcane growers

†1524. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government in view of the payments of arrears to the sugarcane growers by sugar mills and

whether this would be fruitful in the interest of the sugarcane growers in the future;

(b) the name of products being manufactured by sugar mills by using sugarcane at present; and

(c) whether sugarcane is being used/being proposed to be used to produce ethanol which can be utilized by mixing it in fuel, if so, the details thereof?

Hoarding of pulses

†1525. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of hoarding of pulses have come to light in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders till date; and

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

Scarcity of pulses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that extreme scarcity of pulses is being felt in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to increase the stock of pulses in view of its scarcity; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Storage facilities for foodgrains

1527. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of foodgrains in the country are wasted due to lack of storage facilities, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to avoid wasting of foodgrains due to lack of storage facility; and

(c) the details of hired, acquired and built storage facilities for storage of foodgrains for the last three years, State-wise?

Pendency of cases in consumer redressal forums

1528. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in various consumer redressal forums in the country; and

(b) whether Government has any concrete steps to address the backlog of cases in the consumer redressal forums?

Softening in prices of pulses

1529. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed by sudden spurt in prices of pulses, especially Arhar and Urad, Government had stepped up country-wide crackdown on hoarders and black-

marketeers resulting in confiscation of large quantity of pulses hoarded across States;

(b) whether Government had asked the State Governments on the eve of Diwali to offload the confiscated stocks in the PDS and open markets; and

(c) whether coupled with the crash imports of lentils and pulses from Global markets the prices have now started softening in open markets, if so, the details thereof?

Black-marketing in PDS

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

(a) whether Government has the details of BPL and APL families living in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of subsidy given per month to people by Government through Public Distribution System, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is formulating any concrete action plan to curb fraud and black-marketing in Public Distribution System and to ensure availability of Government subsidy to genuine person, if so, the details thereof?

Modernization of FCI godowns

1531. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of wastage of foodgrains due to poor storage conditions

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in FCI godowns have come to light during the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of foodgrains got wasted during the last three years, foodgrains-wise;

(c) the details of action taken against persons responsible for negligence in upkeep of godowns during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating comprehensive renovation and modernization of existing FCI godowns in the country including Gujarat, in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Illegal hoarding of red gram

1532. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal hoarding of red gram has resulted in its price rise in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to stop illegal hoarding and step up the active public distribution system?

Norms for BPL and APL categories

1533. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for fulfilling a Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) category; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government

is considering to replace APL and BPL by 'exclusion' and 'inclusion' categories?

Hoarding and black-marketing of pulses

1534. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that pulses, particularly Arhar is being hoarded and there have been several cases of black-marketing in the country;

(b) if so, whether action has been taken against the hoarders;

(c) the quantum of pulses, particularly Arhar, recovered from the hoarders; and

(d) whether these recovered pulses have been made available to people, if so, the details thereof?

Rise in prices of essential food-items

1535. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:
KUMARI SELJA:

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

(a) the percentage of rise in prices of essential food-items during the last three months, item-wise and month-wise;

(b) whether food inflation has again surged and reached double digit in the month of October, 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for rise in the prices of food articles during the last three months; and

(d) the impact of Government's policies on the increase in the prices of food articles?

Rise in prices of essential commodities

1536. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors responsible for increase in prices of essential commodities including pulses and vegetables recently; and

(b) the measures Government has taken to control the prices and to make available these essential commodities at reasonable prices and the details thereof?

Implementation of recommendations of High Level Committee on restructuring of FCI

1537. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps towards implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Committee on restructuring of FCI, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has considered the option of outsourcing the operations of FCI to other agencies, including private entities, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intends to move away from the present system of covered and plinth storage to the Silos system as suggested in the report, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Production cost of sugar

†1538. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production cost of sugar in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the name of the State where production cost of sugar is maximum;

(c) the reasons therefor and how does it affect the price of sugar; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the production cost of sugar?

Rise in prices of pulses, spices and mustard oil

1539. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic rise in the prices of pulses, spices and mustard oil etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for this sharp rise in the price of these essentials;

(d) the steps Government is taking to reduce the prices; and

(e) whether these steps have been successful, if so, the details thereof?

Settlement of outstanding dues by sugar mills

1540. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the dues of the sugarcane growers outstanding against the sugar mills; and

(b) whether there is any issue between sugarcane growers and the sugar mills pending settlement, if so, the details thereof?

the details thereof, State-wise, for the last three years; and

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete steps to address the aforesaid issue, if so, the details thereof?

Status of Food Processing Industry in the country

1541. KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether India ranks first in production of milk, pulses and tea and second in production of fruits and vegetables in world but its share in the world food trade is less than two per cent;

(b) whether the level of food processing in the country is abysmally low at six per cent compared to developed countries and even other Asian and Latin American countries;

(c) whether very high wastage and very low value addition in the country causes loss to farm income; and

(d) if so, the statistics and status of food processing in the country, State-wise and their comparison with other countries?

Improving food processing infrastructure

1542. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any national level data about the volume of fruits and vegetables which go waste in the absence of processing infrastructure, if so,

Promotion of meat processing industries

1543. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of meat processing industries in the country in Public as well as in private sector; and

(b) whether Government has any scheme to promote meat processing industries and meat exports etc., if so, the details thereof?

Workers in Food Processing Industries

†1544. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of workers presently working in the Food Processing Industries in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of workers, out of the above, working in the unorganized sector; and

(c) the gross growth rate of this industry during the current year?

Replies to letters of Members of Parliament

1545. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Members of Parliament by the Minister since August, 2014 till date;

(b) the number of letters on which interim and final reply has been sent to the Members of Parliament;

(c) the number of letters on which action has been taken and those on which action is still pending;

(d) the number of letters on which neither any reply has been sent to the Members nor any action has been taken along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to avoid the situation in part (d) above?

Cold storages for the benefit of small and marginal farmers

1546. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Government for establishing cold storages, particularly to benefit the small and marginal farmers in their area of produce;

(b) the number of such cold storages established in the State of Odisha;

(c) whether these cold storages have proper connectivity by road/rail and other modes of transport;

(d) whether these cold storages are operating on no-profit no-loss basis for the benefit of small and marginal farmers; and

(e) if so, the details of such cold storages and if not, the reasons therefor?

Formulation of international treaties and agreements

1547. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary Panel has recommended for a new body to formulate international pacts; and

(b) whether the said Parliamentary Panel has recommended for creation of a new wing, namely the Department of International Law, under the Ministry of Law and Justice, to ensure that matters related to international treaties and agreements which may *inter alia* include multiple treaties on black money and other international agreements are formulated and implemented in a better way, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Salary and retirement age of Judges of SC and HCs

1548. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government for enhancing the salary and allowances of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether it is being considered to enhance the date of superannuation of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges to 65 from 62 and to 70 from 65, respectively, if so, the details thereof?

Electronic transfer of postal ballots

1549. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted instances of postal ballot forms being

returned undelivered, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government plans to introduce electronic transfer of postal ballots for in Service voters, if so, the details thereof and the time-line for its implementation, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plans to introduce measures to make the procedure of nomination of proxy for voting less cumbersome, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Help to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category persons in fighting legal cases

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

(a) the number of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (STs) category persons being heard in courts, as on date, along with the details of region/case specification *i.e.* burning, looting, murder, etc. as also the dates on which these cases were filed and convictions made, if any, so far;

(b) the manner in which SC and ST category persons are helped to fight their cases in the court; and

(c) whether there is a special help centre to provide guidance to them for justice, if so, the details thereof?

Action plan to address pending court cases

1551. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pendency of court cases

in all the courts of the country has gone up unabatedly;

(b) whether the Chief Justice of India has expressed concern over this; and

(c) whether Government has devised an action plan to address this serious issue, if so, the details thereof?

The Readjustment of Representation of SCs and STs in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Bill, 2013

1552. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2660 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20 March, 2015 and state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new Bill in this regard in the forthcoming winter session of Parliament;

(b) if so, whether any changes are contemplated in the new Bill; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the State of Uttar Pradesh has implemented the direction of Supreme Court on their own, if so, the details thereof?

Entry of foreign legal firms

1553. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government proposes to allow foreign legal firms to operate in the country, if so, the details of the scheme, if any, in this regard?

Arrears Committees for disposal of cases in High Courts

1554. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided

to set up Arrears Committees in each of the High Courts in the country, if so, the present status thereof;

(b) the number of cases which are older than five years and are pending in each High Court as on date, court-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government towards reduction of pendency and ensure that the cases older than five years are disposed of at the earliest?

Repeal of obsolete laws

1555. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made by Government for finding out obsolete laws in the Statute book; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for repeal of those Acts?

Bringing judges appointment procedure under RTI Act

1556. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to transparency by any method, in appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the Government can not think of bringing in the entire appointment procedure of judges under the RTI Act;

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with the Supreme Court, Bar Council and other stakeholders; and

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

Water vending machines at railway stations

1557. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of water vending machines' installation at railway stations in East Zone, including the East Central Railway (ECR);

(b) the agencies involved in execution of the project; and

(c) the reasons for delay of the project which was proposed to commence in summer of 2015?

Enquiry into the incident of missing train

†1558. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a train laden with 90 containers had started from Jodhpur for Mundra Port on 27 July, 2015 containing goods worth ₹ 9 crore;

(b) whether this train was supposed to reach Mundra Port in three days;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways initiated an enquiry when exporter enquired with Concor depot;

(d) whether there is a possibility of heavy losses to the exporter due to negligence of Railways;

(e) when this train reached Mundra Port; and

(f) the details of the action taken by Railways on the complaint made by Jodhpur Handicrafts Association ?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Work completed against targets set for railway projects

1559. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length, in kilometres, of tracks relaid against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise;

(b) the total length of railway electrification work against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise; and

(c) the total length of new lines constructed against the target set and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise?

New railway tracks in Chhattisgarh

1560. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the timeframe for commencement and completion of railway track from Ambikapur to Barwadih and Raigarh to Dharamjaigarh in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) whether there is any plan to connect Jharsuguda to Ambikapur and if so, the route details thereof?

Setting up of solid waste plants

1561. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up solid waste plants in its vacant land near railway stations, aimed at generating clean energy from the solid waste generated on its network, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the railway stations identified for the purpose;

(c) the quantum of energy estimated to be generated from these plants and the manner in which the energy would be utilized; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be put into operation and the estimated cost of each project?

Redevelopment of railway stations

1562. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to redevelop 400 railway stations and the Cabinet has also approved the same;

(c) if so, the details of railway stations identified, State-wise, and the time-frame within which they are likely to be redeveloped; and

(d) what happened to the earlier proposal of developing railway stations as world-class stations and what was the success of that proposal?

Transfer policy of Railways

1563. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group A officers promoted from Group B/C are not transferred to other Zones and they usually retire from their Zone of posting;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, Zone/units-wise;

(c) whether there is an urgent need for formulating a rotational transfer policy for such officers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Railways in this regard?

Bullet train financing

1564. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has offered to finance India's first bullet train, estimated to cost ₹ 15 billion, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Japan Railways have also taken keen interest in many other railway projects, if so, the details thereof?

Probe of railway employees

1565. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway employees are being probed for allowing private firms to supply water bottles in the trains, if so, the details thereof including the loss incurred to the State exchequer;

(b) the details of the railway employees and private firms alleged to be involved in the said scam;

(c) the details of trains in which such private firms were being allowed to supply water; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways to prevent such incidents in future ?

Hefty profits in Rail Neer water bottles

†1566. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many companies were earning hefty profits in preparing Rail Neer water bottles with the support of senior officers which was revealed a few days ago;

(b) if so, the action taken by Railways in this regard so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the maximum total cost of one litre bottled water is ₹ 5 per bottle;

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

(e) if not, whether Government has done any exercise in this regard, the details thereof?

Insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station

1567. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that passengers are forced to jump out to get down from the train and climb to get into the train due to insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station in Rajahmundry;

(b) if so, the reasons for not altering the platform despite knowledge of the problem; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Railways to solve the problem and to extend the length of the platform?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Demand and supply of railway rakes and coaches

†1568. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken in the country to fulfil the required demand of railway passenger rakes and coaches for trains at present and status thereof; and

(b) whether coaches of trains are still in operation even after expiration of their term and if so, the number thereof and measures taken for their replacement?

Online satellite images of trains

1569. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have joined hands with ISRO to get online satellite images for improving safety and enhancing efficiency, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the technology is also expected to be used for tracking trains for disseminating information about their movement on real time basis, if so, the details thereof?

Surplus land with Railways

1570. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have over 4.40 lakh hectares of surplus land of which, only 43,000 hectares have been identified as land not required for operational purposes; and

(b) whether Railways will consider replicating the successful digitisation and indexing exercise of the Directorate General

of Defence Estates to chalk out a blue print for monetisation of its surplus land, if so, the details thereof?

Konkan railway line

1571. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate regarding total cost of Konkan railway line from Mangalore to Mumbai has been made;

(b) if so, the approximate cost of the civil work on electrification of the said line; and

(c) the components of civil work, the details thereof?

Bullet train financing by Japan

1572. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:
SHRI BALWINDER SINGH
BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has offered to finance India's first bullet train estimated to cost more than \$15 million, if so, the complete details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have abolished the original plan of the project to 'Build and Supply' concept through tender, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Ticketless travelling

1573. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:
SHRI BALWINDER SINGH
BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Division of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Northern Railway collected more than ₹ 15 crore as penalty from over 7 lakh passengers travelling ticketless between April to September, 2015;

(b) if so, the complete details of increase in ticketless travelling and action proposed to be taken by Railways to prevent ticketless travelling;

(c) the estimated loss due to ticketless travelling by various railway zones during the last 18 months; and

(d) the steps Railways propose to take to ensure that ticketless travelling is reduced considerably?

Wi-Fi facility in Rajdhani trains

1574. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there are any plans to introduce Wi-Fi in the Rajdhani trains and if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of dynamic fares

1575. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering introduction of dynamic fares for all classes in all trains on the lines of air fares, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic on trains has decreased over the last few years;

(c) if so, whether any reasons have been identified in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps being taken by Railways to increase their revenue so that high fares do not become a burden for passengers?

Increase in revenue due to Suvidha trains

1576. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suvidha trains only reflect the experience, well-being and purchase patterns of customers who travel between cities;

(b) whether Suvidha special trains have increased the revenue of Railways; and

(c) if so, the details of additional revenue earned in the past year due to Suvidha trains?

Creating separate zone out of Mumbai Suburban Railway

1577. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a feasibility study has been conducted to assess the possibility of creating a separate zone out of the Mumbai Suburban Railway system (CR and WR) in the past;

(b) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(c) if not, whether such a study is planned in the future ?

Development of 400 railway stations

1578. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop 400 railway stations in metros and major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with names of railway stations and States;

(c) by when, these stations will be developed; and

(d) the total estimated cost that would be required for this work?

Probe in the publicity works of Railways

1579. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI raided houses of five railway officials for irregularities in the publicity works at railway stations in 2008-09; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBI has confiscated records related to the case from Firozpur Division Office of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

Supply of poor quality ballast in Madhya Pradesh

1580. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways awarded an order of ₹ 2.80 crore to a private company on 20 September, 2013 for supply of 50,000 cubic meter ballast in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that as many as 19 stacks of ballast were found to be of poor quality; and

(c) if so, how the bills have been settled by West Central Railways?

Survey for new railway line in Chhattisgarh

†1581. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that survey of a new railway line from Raipur to Jharsuguda has been conducted;

(b) whether Raipur to Baloda Bazar, Girodhuri and Sarangarh to Jharsuguda have been included in the survey; and

(c) by when will this new railway line start functioning?

Doubling of railway line on Villupuram Dindigul section

1582. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are unable to complete the doubling of railway line between Villupuram-Dindigul section in Chennai-Kanyakumari trunk route, which is pending for a long time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways will allocate substantial funds so that doubling work could be completed in a time-bound manner on this section, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

New railway zone for Seemandhra

1583. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Senior Officers from Railways was constituted to examine amongst other issues, the feasibility of creation of a new Railway Zone in the residual State of Andhra Pradesh as mentioned in item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reorganisation Act, 2014, if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when the Committee is likely to consult various stakeholders, including MPs, State Governments etc. on the issue;

(c) whether there is any time-frame fixed for it; and

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

Approval for laying tracks

1584. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have received approval for 14 doubling/tripling projects to lay 13,048 kilometers of tracks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have overcome earlier funds crunch for executing such projects and have sanctioned an enhanced amount of ₹ 18,200 crore in 2015 against ₹ 4025 crore last year, if so, the details thereof?

Railway line from Unchahar to Shahganj

†1585. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have completed the process of laying of railway line from Unchahar to Shahganj *via* Amethi-Sultanpur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the route ascertained for this segment;

(c) the details of budget sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) the quantum of amount, out of sanctioned budget, that has been released

so far and action plan formulated to complete this task along with the time-limit fixed therefor?

Corruption in PSUs under Railways

1586. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the fact that mass scale corruption is prevailing in the PSUs under the Ministry of Railways, prevent them from generating revenue and to pay dividend to the Railways, if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether Railways have instructed the PSUs under them to ensure transparency and best practices in the tendering and contract process, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make PSUs profit making institutions so as to get the maximum dividends from them?

New DRM offices in Odisha

1587. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to set up one DRM office in Kalahandi-Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) zone and one at Rourkela in Odisha;

(b) whether any reorganisation of DRM offices of Railways is being considered; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to re-organise the East Coast Railway?

Bogibeel National Project

1588. SHRISANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Bogibee National Project is still pending for completion;

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

(c) the reasons that this important National Project is still pending for completion, the details thereof?

Survey of Ramnagar-Bhikiyasen railway line

†1589. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey work on Ramnagar-Mohaan-Marchula-Chaukhutia-Bhikiyasen railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the level at which the proposal for laying of this railway line is pending, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are likely to be allocated in the next financial year for laying of this railway line; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revenue earning system of Railways

1590. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
KUMARI SELJA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken note of the fact that its current revenue earning system leaves a very small surplus for investment and modernisation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps taken/being taken by Railways in this regard?

Extending the route of Andhra Pradesh Express

1591. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that the Ministry is considering to extend Andhra Pradesh Express introduced between Delhi and Visakhapatnam;

(b) the problems Railways are facing for maintenance of this train at Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether it is a fact that in view of (b) above, Railways are planning to extend this train upto Katra or Jammu;

(d) whether initially, it was proposed to run this train on daily basis;

(e) the reasons for running it only twice a week; and

(f) the efforts being made to run this train on daily basis?

New rules for cancellation and refund of railway tickets

1592. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the new rules for cancellation of railway tickets, there will be no refund of confirmed/waitlisted tickets after the departure of train and one can get refunds only upto four hours before the departure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons and rationale for such a rule;

(c) whether Government would refund 100 per cent of ticket fare if train gets late by at least 4 hours and 50 per cent if train gets late by 2 hours; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons for such one-sided guideline/rule by Railways?

Second terminal at Kollam railway station

1593. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of second terminal at Kollam railway station is completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the present status of the work?

Land scam in NTC

1594. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the land scam worth ₹ 1700 crore in National Textile Corporation Limited;

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

(c) the quantum of loss incurred to the exchequer due to this scam;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in the said land scam; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such scams in future?

Setting up of textile colleges in Madhya Pradesh

†1595. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile colleges situated in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, along with the location thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes/ plans to set up new textile colleges in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of the locations where these colleges are proposed to be set up; and

(d) the details of the likely time-frame within which these colleges would be set up?

Urban Haats

1596. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and the details of Urban Haats sanctioned across the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all such Haats are functioning and have at least 50 per cent stall occupancy, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of sales and profit derived therefrom;

(d) whether Urban Haats have been successful in achieving their objective, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being undertaken therefor; and

(e) the other steps being taken to revive, promote and develop handloom and handicraft sector in the country along with the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Funds to boost textile sector

1597. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of FICCI have met the Government representatives asking for funds to boost the textile sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the current status of this sector; and

(c) how far will this help to boost this sector to generate employment, especially in the rural sector?

Purchase of cotton from farmers by CCIL

1598. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tussle between the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) and farmers producing cotton regarding purchase of cotton, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Governments to direct the CCIL for taking necessary steps to purchase cotton from farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to solve the problem and direct the CCIL for rectifying the logjam?

Upliftment of handloom industry

1599. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes of Government for the upliftment of handloom industry;

(b) the funds allocated and released for these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to overcome the problems of handloom industry, such as lack of market access, inadequate credit facilities and rising input prices because of which youths are not interested in taking over the family business?

Assistance to textile sector

1600. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile and foms industry, which is pegged at 105 billion dollar turn over per year 35 to 40 per cent export, has asked for quick help from Government on its problems, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether their demands include action on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on export incentives and release of funds under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) among others, if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 5th December, 2015
Agrahayana 14, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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