

## 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  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018/Agrahayana 20, 1940 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries : Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy  
(AYUSH); Corporate Affairs; Culture; Finance; Health and Family Welfare;  
Minority Affairs; New and Renewable Energy; Power; Tourism)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Promoting cultivation of medicinal plants in Tamil Nadu**

1. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to train farmers about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Field Collection Practices (GFCP) for medicinal plants in the State of Tamil Nadu to promote the production and processing of herbs/medicinal plants; and

(b) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose to the various organisations/institutions engaged in this field in the State of Tamil Nadu during last three years?

#### **Mushrooming of Ayurvedic Colleges**

2. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Ayurvedic Medical Colleges in the country at present;

(b) how many of them are functioning under the State and Central Governments, respectively, and how many of them are under private sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mushrooming of Ayurvedic colleges in the private sector is deteriorating the standard of our Ayurvedic doctors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the quality of such colleges?

#### **Usage of medicinal herbs to curb malnutrition**

3. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making dietary plans, focussing on ayurvedic and medicinal herbs to curb malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **New AYUSH institutions in Kerala**

4. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new institutions started under AYUSH Ministry in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated to different South Indian States for strengthening of AYUSH institutions during the last three years; and

(c) the number of doctors appointed under AYUSH during the last three years in Kerala in each division of the AYUSH Ministry?

#### **Popularising Siddha system of medicine**

5. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Siddha system of medicine is popular in foreign countries and if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries where Siddha system of medicine or similar system of medicine is practised;

(b) the details regarding cooperation and coordination with these countries in the Research and Development in the Siddha system of medicine; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to popularise the Siddha system of medicine in the country?

#### **Allopathic training for AYUSH students**

6. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide training to AYUSH students in allopathy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Certification of Yoga Instructors**

7. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which have been taken by the Ministry to capitalize upon 'Yoga Tourism' in India;

(b) whether the Ministry is contemplating Certification of Qualified Yoga Instructors by a Government institute;

(c) if so, the details of Government institutes which will provide such certifications; and

(d) whether the establishment of any such institute is proposed in Uttar Pradesh which has yoga hubs like Varanasi and Allahabad (Prayagraj)?

#### **Special scheme for medicinal herbs**

8. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme has been

launched for the production and processing of medicinal herbs in the country and, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect the farmers with related research; and

(c) whether skill development is being carried out in this sector and, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Ban on clinical trial of AYUSH drugs**

9. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has imposed ban on clinical trial of patent drugs of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems;

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

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to check the sale of poor quality Ayush drugs in the market after imposing ban on clinical trial of patent drugs of AYUSH and, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government is considering to formulate any such scheme; and

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

#### **Setting up new AYUSH Kendras**

†10. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps being taken by Government towards promoting AYUSH;

(b) the places where AYUSH Kendras have been set up and the steps being taken to set up the same for the benefit of general public, and State-wise details of the cities and towns, particularly in case of Maharashtra, where these Kendras are proposed to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Problems plaguing Ayurveda sector**

11. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Ayurveda industry is poised to grow high in the coming years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ayurveda sector is facing problems like shortage of manpower and shortage of quality raw materials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by Government to address these issues?

#### **Awareness scheme for Yoga, Ayurveda and Homoeopathy**

12. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by Government with regard to bringing awareness among people of the country regarding Yoga, Ayurveda and Homoeopathy in various parts of the country and the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the funds allocated as well as utilized for this scheme during the last two years, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh?

#### **Curb on shell companies**

13. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shell companies de-registered for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken against the big/core companies which had shell companies; and

(c) the steps taken to curb new shell companies in the country?

#### **Accumulation and spending out of IEPF**

14. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accumulated amount in the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) as on 30.10.2018;

(b) the details of amount credited to IEPF from various sources;

(c) the details of expenditure from IEPF so far; and

(d) the details of awareness programme conducted in Kerala during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?

#### **CSR spending by Oil PSUs**

15. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds spent by the Public Sector Undertakings under Corporate Social Responsibility during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds spent by the Oil Public Sector undertakings during the last three years and the projects under which the funds have been spent; and

(c) whether any funds have been spent by the Public Sector Undertakings which do not contribute to the social cause of the society as mandated by the Companies Act, 2013?

#### **CSR spending by top companies**

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

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by top 500 companies, for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of compliance of CSR spending by these companies;

(c) the details of amount that were spent in education, healthcare and rural development areas during the last three years; and

(d) the number of companies who have defaulted in meeting the CSR requirement during the last three years and action taken by Government?

#### **Committee for coherent policy on CSR**

17. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a High Level Committee was set up to set out a road-map for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);

(b) if so, the details and the result thereof;

(c) whether the provision in the Companies Act, 2013 under which the companies should spend at least two per cent of its average net profit for the previous three years on CSR activities, has been implemented; and

(d) if not, what action has been taken against the erring companies?

#### **150th birth anniversary celebration of Gandhiji**

18. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's initiatives to celebrate 150th year of Gandhiji's birth anniversary;

(b) the amount allocated for various activities for celebration of 150th year of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary; and

(c) whether Government would provide funds to States for celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary?

#### **Museum on Prime Ministers of India**

19. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state whether Government plans to set up a Museum on Prime Ministers of India and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Preservation of Tribal History**

20. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project/scheme in force to document and preserve the oral and cultural history of tribes; and

(b) details of steps being undertaken for promotion of tribal arts on an international platform?

#### **ASI Circle in Amaravathi, A.P.**

21. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether entire Secretariat of ASI Circle of Hyderabad has been shifted to Amaravathi, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) when did ASI ask for accommodation in new capital of Amaravathi in Andhra Pradesh from Government of A.P.;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided accommodation to ASI, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of sanctioned strength of ASI Circle office in Amaravathi in A.P., the present strength and by when the vacancies, if any, are going to be filled?

#### **NABARD All India Survey Results and Resultant Action**

22. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2016-17 included Tier-3 cities in its sample survey;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact on the annual income derived in the survey, if these cities are removed from the sample, considering that Tier-3 cities are considered semi-urban; and

(d) the impact on the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) derived, by comparing these new numbers, derived from (c), to the NSSO Estimates of 2012-13?

**Frauds in saving bank accounts of PSBs**

23. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to investigate frauds reported by the saving bank account holders of fraud last transaction due to negligence of bank employees in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, public sector bank-wise;

(c) how many such cases have been reported during the last three years and in how many cases the banks have initiated investigations to nail culprits of find flaws in the system; and

(d) whether Government intends to initiate action to safeguard the interest of the genuine account-holders?

**Assessment of growth rate**

24. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last two years and the current year;

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

(c) whether Government has also assessed the growth rate in the agricultural, industrial, manufacturing and services sectors while making the said assessment; and

(d) if so, the details of estimated annual growth rate in these sectors during the said period, Sector-wise?

**Revised funding pattern of social sector schemes**

25. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has revised the funding pattern of several social sector schemes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that State Governments have given different reactions to the revised funding pattern on such schemes, State-wise;

(c) whether Government appreciates the genuine concerns of the State Governments; and

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

**Shutting down of large ATMs by March, 2019**

26. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report published by the confederation of ATM Industry which mentions that 1.13 lakh ATMs will be shut down by March, 2019;

(b) if so, whether Government believes the report to be accurate;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to prevent inconvenience being caused to the citizens; and

(d) whether the shutting down of ATMs will impact the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?

**GST exemption to agriculturists**

27. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to exempt agriculturists from the purview of GST; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Disclosure of names of loan defaulters by RBI**

28. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has complied with Supreme Court's direction and CIC directive to disclose details of wilful loan defaulters of public sector banks;

(b) if so, names of top 100 defaulters, banks from which loans taken, loan amounts, date of availing loan, date of default, action taken and amount recovered in each case;

(c) if RBI has not complied so far, specific reasons therefor and State legal provisions which prevent such disclosure;

(d) whether such non-disclosure by RBI tantamounts to contempt of court; and

(e) if so, whether Ministry will intervene to ensure that details are disclosed; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Collection of gold under Gold Monetisation Scheme**

29. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the gold collected from the individuals under the Gold Monetisation Scheme during the last two years;

(b) the details of the gold collected from religious and other entities under the Gold Monetisation Scheme during the last two years;

(c) the extent to which the said Scheme has led to curbing of gold imports and benefited the jewellery industry; and

(d) the extent to which the said Scheme has led to an increase in recycled gold?

**Review of PSBs under PCA**

30. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had undertaken review of more public sector banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the outcome of the PCA undertaken by RBI, Bank-wise?

**Pressure on fiscal position of States**

31. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has pointed the fiscal stress that the States are facing due to several factors including farm loan waiver;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the higher borrowing by the States could crowd out private investments;

(d) whether in recent years, signs of pressures on the fiscal position of States have re-emerged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Enrollment in contributory pension scheme from Kerala**

32. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government employees enrolled in the contributory pension scheme and the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details and name of fund managers dealing with the contributory pension system; and

(c) the total number of State Government employees from Kerala enrolled in the contributory pension system so far?

**Benefits under special package to Andhra Pradesh**

33. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not extended the benefits under the special package announced to Andhra Pradesh in lieu of Special Category Status till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are benefits extended to Andhra Pradesh under this package; and

(c) the reasons for the problems in implementation of the special package announced to Andhra Pradesh?

**Securing monetary stability in India by RBI**

34. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the newspaper report that the autonomy of Reserve Bank of India is at jeopardy due to meddling of Government in its day-to-day affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that India's Central Bank has failed to perform its primary duty of securing monetary stability in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the precautions taken by RBI to secure monetary stability in India?

**Action against officials of banks**

35. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government took action against officials of banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Prevention of Corruption Act need urgent amendments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Tax treaties with foreign countries**

36. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has executed tax treaties with many countries in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tax treaties with others countries helped the nation in a big way to prevent economic offences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Slowdown in economic growth rate**

37. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the economic growth rate for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the economic growth slowed down in the second half of 2016 onwards;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken for increasing the growth rate upto 7 per cent and above, in order to make all round growth in the economy?



### **GST compensation to States**

38. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation paid to States by the Government has declined during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States which are facing maximum revenue shortfall after the implementation of GST;

(d) whether GST collection has not been as was expected or targeted during some of the recent months; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of GST collection during the current financial year, month and State-wise?

### **GST collection and compensation to States**

39. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GST collection during the second quarter of the current financial year had declined;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the current financial year so far, month-wise and the reasons for drop in GST collection during some months;

(c) whether Government has paid compensation to States during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof, month-wise; and

(e) whether any State Government has demanded more compensation and if so, the details thereof along with the response of Government thereto?

### **Intensification of debt recovery**

†40. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that intensification of the debt recovery has led to beginning of stuck-up debt recovery;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to further intensify the debt recovery; and

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

### **Special facilities to honest tax-payers**

†41. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide special facilities to the honest tax-payers;

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

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

### **Measures to stop rupee depreciation and CAD**

†42. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that depreciation in rupee and deficit in current account is increasing;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step to stop it; and

(c) if so, the details of such steps and by when the same will be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Loans and subsidies disbursed to SCs/STs by PSBs**

†43. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the data with regard to poverty ratio among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the details regarding their present status in the rural and urban areas; and

(b) the quantum of loans and subsidies disbursed by nationalised banks during the last three years aimed at providing the assistance to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the scheme-wise, bank-wise details thereof including the number of accounts during the last three years?

**Depreciation of rupee against dollar**

†44. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of rupee in comparison to dollar is at the lowest level so far, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check the depreciation of rupee; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

**Tax returns filed and realised**

45. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tax returns filed since last three years till date along with zero tax returns filed, year-wise;

(b) the details of the refunds post-tax filing since last three years till date, year-wise;

(c) the details regarding the total number

of PAN cards in India and the actual returns filed, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether Government imposed penalty for late filing of ITR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the data regarding the total penalty collected, year-wise?

**Recovery of written off loans**

46. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has written off loans worth ₹ 55,356 crores in last six months, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the loans which have been written off since last three years till date, State/UT/Bank-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to recover these loans before writing them off?

**Role of RBI in increase of NPAs**

47. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rise in the NPAs during 2017-18 to ₹ 9.61 lakh crore, the details of NPAs since last three years till date, year-wise;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the CAG said that the increase in NPAs is due to asset liability mismatch, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the CAG has said that the increase in NPAs is due to the role played by RBI?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Special funds to backward districts/  
areas of States**

48. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is releasing special funds to States for the development of backward districts/areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) backward districts/areas identified and funds released during the last three years, expenditure incurred by States from these funds, State-wise?

**Breaching fiscal deficit limit by  
States**

49. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States have breached threshold of keeping the average fiscal deficit within 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that farm loan waiver is severely affecting the States' fiscal deficit; and

(d) States which have crossed the said threshold?

**Inclusion of ATF under GST ambit**

50. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to introduce Aviation Turbine Fuel under the ambit of Goods and Services Tax;

(b) whether any deliberations regarding the same have taken place within the GST Council; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Merger of PSBs**

51. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiatives for the merger of certain Public Sector Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total turnover amount in each of the Public Sector Banks and Private Banks during the last year;

(c) whether Government has taken any efforts to find a solution with regards to the NPA issues, employees job assurance, number of bank branches and other bank related issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this?

**Illegal diversion of agricultural  
credit**

52. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that several loans under the agriculture bracket of the priority sector lending scheme are being given to big corporations, to the tune of ₹ 100 crores per loan by Public Sector Banks;

(b) whether the Ministry has an action plan to improve institutional access to finance specifically for small and marginal farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this plan will attempt to reduce the incidence of finance being diverted towards large agri-business firms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Usage of financial services in rural areas**

53. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusions Survey (NAFIS) 2016-17 and its findings on the usage of financial instruments by rural households, especially of savings accounts;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken concrete steps to increase usage of institutional savings accounts as only 55 per cent of households reported savings and of these 53 per cent saved with institutions;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken concrete steps to increase repeated usage of financial products and services, including tackling the issue of dormant accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Reduction of ATMs**

54. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes any measure to reduce ATMs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ₹ 2000 notes are not provided through ATM in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Cash deficit and its effect on national economy**

55. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of cash flow in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that in first half of October this year, there was a cash deficit of about 1.4 lakh crore in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of its effect on the share market and national economy?

**Banking facilities in Panchayats in Kerala**

56. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats and villages in the State of Kerala who do not have any banking facilities; and

(b) the steps taken to provide banking facilities to such villages?

**Merger of PSBs**

57. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to move forward with any plans to merge Public Sector Banks, if so, the details thereof including the benefits expected out of such mergers for the banks under crisis and the expected benefits for the better performing banks out of the merger; and

(b) if so, whether Government has consulted the RBI before such mergers?

**Managing Fiscal Deficit**

58. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government missed the GST Revenue Collection targets by ₹ 22,000 crores, which will adversely affect the fiscal deficits;

(b) the way in which high oil prices in the global market affected the fiscal deficit in India; and

(c) whether Government has planned certain disinvestments or sell-offs to meet the fiscal deficit targets, if so, details thereof?

**Reduction in risk weight on Banks by RBI**

59. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Housing Board (NHB) are investigating and inspecting the books of accounts of some enterprises and their housing finance companies in cases of loan default to builders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether RBI is considering to reduce the risk weight for Banks on their lending to those companies and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Tax evasion complaints to CBDT**

60. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have received complaints of tax evasion, stashing of unaccounted money through sale of property in lockers of a Private Sector Bank in Malviya Nagar and non-filing of accurate TDS in property transactions etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the CBDT on complaints received during the last six months;

(c) whether CBDT has also received

complaints against NRIs transferring money to New Zealand through Hawala transactions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken on these complaints?

**Disclosure of name of wilful defaulters of loans**

61. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court and Central Information Commission (CIC) have asked the RBI to disclose the names of wilful defaulters of loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI is ready to share the details;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shareholders of GSTN**

62. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goods, Services Tax Network (GSTN) has been modified so that the entire shareholding of GSTN is with Government and the Government Institutions;

(b) if so, on which date the decision was taken and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the names of current shareholders and the proportion of their respective share holding?

**Economic growth reduced due to GST**

63. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's economic growth was pushed downward in 2017 due to the Goods and Services Tax as well as protracted issues of corporate and bank balance sheet problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's GDP grew at 6.6 per cent in 2017, down from 7.1 per cent in 2016;

(d) whether India's GDP is likely to grow at 7.2 per cent in 2018 and 7.4 in next year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Customs shipment *via* foreign Post Offices**

64. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs Department plans to permit shipment *via* foreign Post Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the plan to allow e-commerce exports through foreign Post Offices will be without benefits to Merchandise Exports from India Schemes (MEIS) for now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Amendments to GST laws**

65. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed as many as 46 amendments

to the GST laws-Central GST, State GST, Integrated GST and Compensation to States Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had invited stakeholders' comments on the draft proposals for amending GST laws by July 15, 2018; and

(d) if so, the response received by Government in this regard?

**Currency shortage in PSBs**

66. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currency shortage in Public Sector Banks in many regions of the country have come to the notice of Government;

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

(c) whether Government have taken prompt action to rectify the situation, if so, the details thereof?

**Streamlining education loan availing system**

67. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the students are facing many hardships in availing education loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs);

(b) the steps taken by Government/ proposed to be taken by Government to streamline the education loan availing system;

(c) whether Government has received any representation from student community to increase the collateral free

loan limit from existing ₹7.5 lakh to ₹10 lakh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Relaxation of norms for PSBs under PCA framework**

68. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a board meeting between Government and RBI officials was held on 19th November, 2018;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision to relax some of the norms for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework has been taken to allow credit flow in market;

(c) if so, justification behind such a move considering weak PSBs which still do not have access to significant amount of capital; and

(d) which of these banks have yet complied to 11.5 per cent current adequacy ratio and what steps have been taken to ensure the compliance of all 11 Banks under PCA framework?

**Non-disclosure of list of wilful bank defaulters**

69. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Information Commission (CIC) has issued a show-cause notice to Reserve Bank of India for non-disclosure of wilful defaulters list under the bad loans category;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the non-disclosure of the list of wilful defaulters;

(c) whether Government seeks to invoke Section 7 of the RBI Act in lieu of the above-mentioned interpretation;

(d) if not, how Government will then ensure the list of wilful defaulters is disclosed considering the bad state of the banking sector in the country; and

(e) the action taken till date against the bank defaulters?

**Offloading stake in Coal India**

70. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to offload a stake in State run Coal India to speed up asset sales after a disastrous attempt to find a buyer for the cash strapped national airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government's plan to raise about US \$ 12 billion in the current year from asset sale is at a risk after a high profile plan to sell Air India ground to halt as no prospective buyer emerged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Funding issues with Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

71. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:  
SHRIMATI SHANTA  
CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) are supposed to be cost free for struggling Banks but they are required to bear the cost of the accounts;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred by each public sector bank as on 31st December, 2017;

(c) the number of Jan Dhan accounts which are active and inactive as on date; and

(d) the steps Government is taking to give a fillip to Jan Dhan Yojana?

#### **Sale of assets of CPSEs**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government identified certain assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and gave in-principal approval for strategic sale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many of them are loss making and how many have come out from the loss in the last three years;

(d) whether land, buildings, residential flats of these enterprises would be put on strategic sale, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount that would be raised by way of strategic sale and divesting stakes in these enterprises?

#### **Increase in fiscal deficit**

73. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fiscal deficit has touched 95.3 per cent of full year target in just six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has been constantly monitoring the dis-investments targets; and

(d) if so, the details of status of progress thereof?

#### **Decline in poverty due to economic growth**

†74. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high economic growth rate leads to sharp decline in poverty rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether barring certain exceptions, the country's economic growth rate has constantly been higher since the year 2014 and as a result, there has been sharp decline in poverty rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Dual control of PSBs**

75. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how the Ministry look at the suggestion made by former RBI Governor, to end dual control on public sector banks; and

(b) whether it is a fact that improving governance in PSU banks is more important than consolidating them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the view of the present RBI Governor, regulator does not have enough powers to regulate public sector banks; and

(d) the view of the Ministry on the issue and how Government and RBI contemplate to tackle the issue?

#### **Apprehensions on use of RBI reserve fund by Government**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government wants to spend RBI's reserve fund meant for emergencies, in various activities;

(b) if so, the apprehensions of RBI with regard to use of its reserve capital and the manner in which Government proposes to allay these apprehensions;

(c) the amount of reserve fund Government wants to take and the sectors in which it proposes to use it; and

(d) whether experts are projecting increase in inflation due to deployment of reserve fund in the market?

**Government asking funds from RBI reserves**

77. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked for ₹ 3.6 lakh crore from RBI which is around one third of its reserve, which has been denied by RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is on the verge of becoming bankrupt;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for seeking fund and infringement on autonomy of the RBI?

**Increase in pay fitment factor and HRA**

78. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to raise the fitment factor under 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) from 2.57 for intermediate and lower officials to 2.81 which has been implemented for senior officials under 7th CPC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would increase the HRA from 24 per cent to 30 per cent of basic salary as it was under 6th CPC in view of non-availability of rented accommodations within 24 per cent of basic salary in metro cities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Achievements made under demonetisation**

79. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether withdrawal of ₹ 1000 and ₹ 500 currency notes announced on 8th November, 2016 was the largest demonetisation scheme of Government;

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

(c) if not, the details of percentage of currency notes received back to RBI as per the recent report of RBI on demonetisation in 2018; and

(d) the details of objectives of demonetisation announced by Prime Minister on 8th November, 2016 and achievements made therein, objective-wise?

**Setting up of Mega Finance Company  
for Power Sector**

80. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:  
SHRI DHARMAPURI  
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
is contemplating on setting up of a Mega  
Finance Company for Power Sector by  
merging the two Power Companies PFC  
and REC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for embarking on such a  
plan as the two independent profit making  
companies are in the same business; and

(d) whether such a move will not affect  
the said two profit making CPSEs?

**Investment by LIC in loss making  
companies**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested by Life  
Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in  
companies that are running in loss and the  
benefit which would accrue to LIC in the  
long run by such investment;

(b) whether LIC has invested in such  
share market companies out of which more  
than 45 have been running in loss for many  
years; and

(c) the details of investments made by  
LIC in such companies in share market  
which are running in loss, quantum of  
principal amount invested and amount of  
loss likely to incur if these shares are sold  
on such and such date?

**Losses in PSBs due to non-repayment  
of loans**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the  
public sector banks are in a bad shape and  
the non-repayment of loans is the main  
reason for it;

(b) the name of the banks incurring  
losses along with quantum thereof and the  
details of increase in the losses during the  
last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of actions taken against  
bank officers during the last three years  
whose irrational decisions resulted in losses  
to banks; and

(d) the details of actions taken against  
major loan defaulters during the last three  
years?

**Expenditure on healthcare**

83. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:  
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the average per capita  
expenditure incurred by Government on  
health during the last three years;

(b) whether it is very low as compared  
to the developed countries of the world  
and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the health services in India  
are becoming expensive day by day, if so,  
the details thereof and the steps taken/being  
taken by Government to provide affordable  
healthcare services to the people, especially  
the poor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Availability of fully equipped Government hospitals**

84. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fully functional Government hospitals equipped with doctors, staff and basic healthcare facilities per 100 sq. kilometres especially in the rural and underdeveloped regions; and

(b) the number of proposed Government healthcare centres or hospitals to be built and made functional within the next five years to ease the pressure of rising number of patients?

**Allocation of funds for AIIMS in Tamil Nadu**

85. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to expedite the allocation of funds for the AIIMS in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has devised any new initiatives and policies to provide adequate funds for the development of Government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount disbursed till date by the Centre for development of Government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, college-wise; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government to increase the number of Government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu?

**Unsafe medical syringes in the market**

86. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to newspaper reports that syringes after their being declared as dangerous and unsafe for use by UK's National Health Services are finding their way to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has verified the news reports; and

(c) the precautions that Government is taking to curb these types of unsafe medical products from coming to India?

**Action plan to handle mental illnesses**

87. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan on the WHO report stating that about seven per cent of Indian population suffers from mental illnesses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mental hospitals/centres in the country are facing shortage and financial crunch;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to fill up the gap in this regard; and

(e) the total funds provided to each State including Punjab for promotion/awareness of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and development Centres during the last three years?

**Spread of swine flu in the country**

88. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the spread of swine flu in the country claiming a number of lives;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such cases registered in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on this viral fever; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken up to control this viral fever?

**Improving menstrual health in the country**

89. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to improve the menstrual health in the country;
- (b) whether Government provides free sanitary napkins to girls in Government schools; and
- (c) if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised for the same by Government?

**Casualties from Zika virus and Swine Flu**

90. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States are in the grip of Zika virus disease and Swine flu;
- (b) if so, the details of casualties that occurred in those States; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to help the affected States in dealing with the crisis?

**Increasing seats in medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh**

91. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to

increase the number of seats in MBBS course from existing ones to 250 in all Government medical colleges across the State of Andhra Pradesh with a view to augment human resources in health care sector; and

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

**Conducting biannual NEET examination**

92. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government will go ahead with the new biannual NEET, especially the provision of eight different time slots and as many different question papers with different difficulty levels, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the totally online test will be heavily loaded against students from rural and poor backgrounds; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to entrust the job of conducting NEET to an external agency?

**Augmenting infrastructural facilities in Government hospitals**

93. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government proposes to augment infrastructural and treatment facilities in Government hospitals across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for increasing the facilities in Government hospitals;
- (c) whether Government has received proposals from various States for financial assistance for improving the infrastructural

and other facilities in their respective Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

#### **Reappearance of Measles**

94. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the once eradicated measles has reportedly reappeared in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by Government in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether reappearance of measles is a worldwide phenomena and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reduction in non-medical teachers**

95. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India (MCI) has proposed to reduce the proportion of non-medical teachers from 30 per cent of permissible faculty strength in medical colleges to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a change; and

(c) the number of Government-run Medical Colleges in India which are running Medical M.Sc. programmes for students and the details thereof?

#### **Shortage of doctors practicing allopathy**

†96. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of allopathic doctors in the country having minimum medical qualifications, State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the extent of shortage of allopathic doctors in proportion to the population and the total number of allopathic doctors recruited during the last three years, State-wise details thereof?

#### **Per capita spending on healthcare**

†97. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount being spent on health and treatment in the country and the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of above amount spent on private and Government hospitals and the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the amount for which applications have been received under Ayushman Bharat Yojana till now and the quantum of amount released to beneficiaries, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) whether Government plans to include economically poor persons in addition to BPL card holders under Ayushman Bharat Yojana and if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**National Health Policy for  
betterment of healthcare of  
the needy**

†98. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any national health policy for providing better and affordable healthcare facilities to poor and middle-class people in the year 2019;

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be launched and the roadmap prepared by Government thereof;

(c) details of the provision of budget made by Government for this scheme, State-wise including Maharashtra; and

(d) details of classes of people who will be provided treatment for their diseases under this scheme, and the extent of benefit they will get, including Maharashtra?

**Mortality from superbugs' infection**

99. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that superbugs kill more in India than globally and the mortality rate is 13 per cent owing to drug-resistant bacteria;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to contain such mortality rate due to superbugs and to create awareness among the public?

**Allocation for family planning under  
National Health Mission**

100. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the National Health Mission Budget that has been allocated towards family planning, in the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the family planning portion of the National Health Mission Budget that has been allocated and used for terminal methods and spacing methods respectively, in the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of the family planning budget that has been allocated and used for incentives for terminal methods, in the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) whether any percentage of the National Health Mission Budget has been allocated specifically towards female sterilisation, or incentives relating to it?

**Effect of female sterilization on  
womens' health**

101. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that female sterilization is the most prevalent form of modern contraception in India;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to look into effects of female sterilization on women's health, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has directed all State Governments to discontinue the process of holding sterilization camps, as

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

directed by the Supreme Court in *Devika Biswas vs. Union of India and Others*;

(d) if so, the details of compliance, State-wise, if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any States are continuing with sterilization camps and the reasons therefor?

#### **Centrally funded health projects in Kerala**

102. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Centrally funded health projects being implemented in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if there is delay in completing any project, as per schedule, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fatalities caused by faulty hip implants**

103. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that faulty hip implants manufactured by a manufacturer had resulted in deaths and disability of several patients;

(b) if so, the number of deaths and disability caused due to the faulty hip implants and whether compensation has been paid to the victims; and

(c) whether Government was aware that the hip implants of the same manufacturer were recalled in the United States due to its faulty equipments and if so, the reasons why it was allowed to market the product in India?

#### **Committee to examine faulty hip implants**

104. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Committee to look into the issue of faulty hip implants of some manufacturers;

(b) if so, the major findings and recommendations of the Committee and status of its implementation by Government; and

(c) whether any criminal action/penalty has been initiated or contemplated against the manufacturers for marketing their faulty product knowingly?

#### **Medical colleges and hospitals in tribal dominated districts of Gujarat**

†105. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe shortage of hospitals in the tribal dominated districts of Chhota Udaipur and Bharuch in Gujarat;

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

(c) whether efforts have been made by Government to set up a Government hospital and medical college in this region, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Diseases targeted under Mission  
Indradhanush**

106. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified diseases to be targeted under Mission Indradhanush, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details regarding districts identified for special focus under the Mission; and

(c) whether any districts of Rajasthan have been targeted under the Mission, if so, the details thereof?

**Prevalence of CVDs in the country**

107. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that absolute estimated prevalence of cardio-vascular diseases (CVDs) in India is over 60 per cent larger than in the USA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a large variation among States in India in the percentage of CVDs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Safety of polio vaccines**

108. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of reports in a section of the print media mentioning that bivalent oral polio vaccine supplied by a particular manufacturer has some quality issues; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by Government thereon?

**Expansion of AIIMS, Chhattisgarh**

†109. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared/ proposes to prepare any proposal regarding expansion of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the time by when the said proposal is likely to be completed and implemented and the extent of relief patients are likely to get; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

**MBBS seats at Thoothukudi Medical  
College, Tamil Nadu**

110. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government to increase the number of MBBS seats from existing 150 to 250 in Government Thoothukudi Medical College, Tamil Nadu from the academic year 2019-20 onwards, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to introduce more MD courses at the college, besides the existing MD courses from the academic year 2019-20 onwards, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Violation of norms by private hospitals**

111. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private hospitals built on subsidised land in Delhi/New Delhi together with the norms;

(b) whether it is mandatory for the private hospitals to provide treatment to the patients belonging to economically weaker sections (EWS), both from Out Patient Department and In-Patient Department;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that many cases of violation by private hospitals have come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof together with the names of the hospitals and action taken by Government against these hospitals?

**Medical team for studying kidney ailments in Prakasam District, AP**

112. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR has taken a decision to constitute a team under Dr. T. Raviraja to deeply study kidney-related problems in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh and submit a report, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons due to which a long period of three years has been given to complete the study; and

(c) whether its study period could be reduced?

**Shortage of qualified doctors in Government hospitals and CGHS dispensaries**

113. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of qualified doctors in Government hospitals and CGHS dispensaries in the country, if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise including NCT Delhi; and

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up and whether Government has set any time line and, if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in TB patients in the country**

114. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of TB patients in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether WHO has published any report giving details of TB patients world-wide; and

(c) what effective action has been taken by Government in this regard?

**Faculty and non-faculty shortages in AIIMS-like institutes**

115. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many sanctioned posts in the faculty and non-faculty positions in various AIIMS-like institutes at Patna, Jodhpur, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar are lying vacant for a long time;

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

(c) the position of filling faculty

shortages at AIIMS, Delhi and the reasons for not filling the vacant posts;

(d) the efforts made by the authorities to empanel and fill up the vacancies; and

(e) by what time the vacancies will be filled so that the institutes would function most efficiently and effectively?

#### **Improving the performance of NRHM**

116. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to WHO, the role played by the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is pivotal but its pace is not satisfactory to meet the laid down targets;

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

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to improve the position?

#### **Restructuring of NLEM**

117. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to restructure the National List for Essential Medicines (NLEM) with the objective to make it more contemporary and in line with public health needs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government will constitute a standing national committee on medicines; and

(c) whether scientists, doctors and experts will be involved to review and revise the NLEM, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Significant drop in MMR**

118. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country has dropped significantly, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this 28 per cent drop is an achievement arising from painstakingly reducing the MMR in each of the States; and

(c) whether, it indicates impressive progress, particularly in the Empowered Action Group (EAC) States, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Private participation in Ayushman Bharat Programme**

119. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the spurt in demand for healthcare services is plenty and Government is planning to take the help of private parties to tackle this problem and the details thereof?

#### **Outbreak of Zika virus**

120. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:  
SHRI NARAYAN LAL  
PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zika virus has once again surfaced and has spread in many parts/ States of the country;

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

(c) the number of cases tested positive during the current year, State-wise, and the number of persons died due to infection of Zika virus during this period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to contain further spread of the deadly virus?

#### **Beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana**

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

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries enrolled so far under Ayushman Bharat Yojana;

(b) the number of people in the country who would be eligible for availing the benefits of this Yojana and the steps taken to provide treatment to them;

(c) the number of people treated so far under it and the amount spent thereon; and

(d) the number of private and public health centres in the country which are associated with the operation of this Yojana and whether it is satisfactory for the implementation of such a big scheme; State-wise/district-wise details thereof?

#### **Overuse of antibiotics**

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

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the world's largest consumer of antibiotics and their use has more than double in the last 15 years;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made against overuse of antibiotics, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Food and Drug Administration has warned that overuse of antibiotics can cause mental health problems and serious blood sugar disturbances etc., among the people with diabetes; and

(d) if so, whether any advisory or guidelines have been issued to use antibiotics only when needed, and the details thereof?

#### **Representation of minority communities in Public Service**

123. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is collecting statistics on representation of people from minority communities, including muslims, in employment under Central Government;

(b) if so, the Ministry and department-wise statistics on people from different minority communities, including muslims, employed under Central Government, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is also collecting statistics on representation of people from minority communities, including muslims, in Indian Administrative Services, Indian Police Services and other elite services, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Hamari Dharohar Scheme**

124. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any action to ensure implementation of Hamari

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dharohar Scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether Government has set up any mechanism to monitor the utilization of these funds by State Governments, and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Coaching scheme for minority community students**

125. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is running a scheme to empower students from the minority communities by preparing them for competitive examination so that their participation in Government and private jobs improves, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some coaching institutes in State like Telangana and other States have swindled crores of rupees in collusion with Government officials under the guise of imparting free training to six notified minority communities under the scheme of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to recover the amount, so that the scheme is implemented in a fair manner?

#### **Economic and Educational Survey of minority communities**

126. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to analyse the pathetic economic condition, educational background of minority groups in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of policy and other

interventions that Ministry has taken during the last three years and proposes to take in future to bring them up, at least, to the national average?

#### **Reduction of minority scholarships**

127. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in disbursement of minority scholarships since 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the total number of applications received for the minority scholarships and the total number of minority scholarships granted since 2015?

#### **Solar energy production**

128. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total solar energy production in the country at present;

(b) year-wise data of solar energy production since 2015; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve power production through renewable energy sources?

#### **FDI in Renewable Energy**

129. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received year-wise in the New and Renewable Energy Sector, between the year 2015-2018; and

(b) the distribution of the FDI and the corresponding capacity amongst different States and projects and the details thereof?

**Cheap generation of renewable energy**

130. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of power that has been generated through renewable energy sources in the last year;

(b) the average cost of generating power through solar and wind energy sources; and

(c) whether measures have been adopted to ensure cheap generation of renewable energy, and if so, the details thereof?

**Penetration of clean energy schemes in rural areas**

†131. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of rural areas are not getting the benefits of the schemes being run by Government for the use of renewable energy, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the schemes being run by Government in rural areas to promote the use of solar energy, the details thereof; and

(c) the levels at which these schemes are being run in rural areas, the details thereof?

**DCR in National Solar Mission**

132. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the top three supplier countries of solar panels to India under the National Solar Mission, along with the import details thereof;

(b) whether there exists a Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) for use and installation of solar panels under the National Solar Mission; and

(c) if so, whether such a requirement is compliant with the WTO disciplines and the details of compliance thereof?

**Loan given for renewable energy projects**

133. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been given loan with lower interest for setting up of new renewable energy projects and production units in the country including Karnataka, the details thereof; and

(b) the target being fixed by Government to produce more energy through this loan scheme?

**Installation of solar electric fencing in Ratnagiri Konkan area**

†134. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to install Solar Electric Fencing system to protect agro-crops from wild animals in Ratnagiri Konkan area, if so, details thereof;

(b) the extent of the area in which Solar Electric Fencing system has been installed as on date to protect agro-crops from wild animals in Konkan area and the extent of area in which this system is yet to be installed; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when Solar Electric Fencing system would be installed in the remaining agricultural areas?

**Popularization of solar energy in India**

135. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the share/contribution (in percentage) of solar energy in total power production in India;

(b) the details of exemptions/subsidies for installing solar panels in urban and rural domestic areas and process of obtaining the same; and

(c) whether there is any promotion/propagation road map for increasing the use of solar energy and installing the solar panels in every house?

**Solar power production in Karnataka**

136. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roof-top solar panel installation undertaken by the Ministry across India, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) a list of current beneficiaries of power produced by solar and wind power plants set up by Government in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) the consumer segments in the State of Karnataka that are running on coal powered electricity, solar and wind powered electricity, hydro powered electricity and the details thereof?

**Investment required for renewable energy sector**

137. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment required to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022;

(b) how much investment Ministry has so far been able to make out of the total requirement;

(c) the details of blueprint that Ministry has prepared to achieve 40 per cent energy generation through non conventional energy sources by 2030; and

(d) how the decision of the USA to pull out from Paris Pact helps India to attract investment in the renewable energy sector?

**Harvesting of roof-top solar energy potential as per the target set**

138. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated to harvest 40 GW power from roof-top solar projects by 2021 and put in place any scheme for lease of roof-top by the owners of the buildings taking care of their interest too, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether doubts have been raised on the viability of achievement of the target; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and how Government intends to tackle such issues?

#### **Shifting of Mannavaram Project**

139. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the matter of Mannavaram Project to be setup in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said project is being shifted on the grounds of viability, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the project and the steps being taken by Government to continue the project keeping in view of backwardness of Rayalaseema region?

#### **National Heritage Monument status to Ram Setu**

140. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court had issued Notice to the Union of India in Transfer Petition No. 27 seeking the Ministry's view regarding the recognition of Ram Setu as a National Heritage Monument;
- (b) whether Ram Setu meets the qualification for such recognition as per Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958;
- (c) if so, whether Government has decided to accord national status to Ram Setu;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any Counter Affidavit has been filed in the Supreme Court recently in this matter? if so, the date of filing the said Affidavit, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Adequate supply of gas to power plants**

141. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many gas-based power plants are stranded due to Government's inability to ensure an adequate supply of gas to them;
- (b) if so, the details of the gas-based power plants that are stranded/non-functional, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to ensure gas-supply to these power plants; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Average spot electricity price in India**

142. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's daily average spot electricity price has nearly doubled and is close to ₹ 5 per unit, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that some 4,000 MW of generating capacities are off grid at the moment; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this has added to the power supply shortfall; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Shortage of coal in Thermal Power Plants**

143. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Thermal Power Plants are not getting sufficient quantity and quality of coal since last year and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total thermal power generation in the country, State-wise, as on date;

(c) whether Government has taken any effective steps to support and develop Thermal Power Units in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total funds allocated in this regard; and

(e) various steps taken by Government to provide incentives and other encouragements to the major power producing States in the country?

#### **Street Light National Programme**

†144. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced a Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this programme is currently being implemented only in a few States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and by when all States would be included under this programme and the details of target fixed therefor and achievements made till now?

#### **Electrification of Rural Households**

145. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government claimed recently that all villages in the country have been electrified;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an estimated 3.14 crore rural households are still without electricity and majority of such villages are in Bihar, UP, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, etc. contrary to this claim;

(c) whether Ministry has decided to electrify each household by December this year; and

(d) if so, details of roadmap prepared for execution of this project and how much money is going to be spent for this purpose?

#### **Augmentation of power capacity of NTPC**

146. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has recently come up with tenders for 4750 MW of renewable power projects, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that of this, 2,000 MW is for wind power projects, while the remaining capacity would be solar based; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the projects would significantly enhance NTPCs renewable energy portfolio which presents 870 MW of solar and 50 MW of wind power projects, if so the details thereof?

#### **Smart pre-paid meters**

147. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the deadline for converting all electric meters to smart pre-paid electric meters, the details thereof; and

(b) the total funds sanctioned for procuring smart pre-paid electric meters?

#### **Energy crisis in India**

148. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



present energy crisis in the country wherein power producers sit on thousands of megawatts of under utilised capacities and are facing insolvency proceedings while the consumers are facing power cuts and load shedding; and

(b) if so, the major problems faced by the power producers and remedial measures which are being taken to solve the problems?

#### **Coal supply to captive power producers**

149. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fixed percentage of coal is required to be supplied by Coal India to captive power producers, if so, what percentage;

(b) whether this fixed percentage of coal has been supplied to the captive power producers in the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to captive power producers?

#### **Upkeep of damaged tourist places**

†150. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist places that are damaged and whether Government has any State-wise scheme for improving them to attract tourists; and

(b) if so, by when their condition would be improved and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Development of sea beaches for tourism in Maharashtra and West Bengal**

151. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra and West Bengal have a vast coastline, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Ministry has taken up developing Midnapore and Sunderban Coasts and beaches in West Coast in Maharashtra for attracting tourists and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Declining number of foreign tourists**

152. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of foreign tourists from western countries including Russia have been on a decline during the last three years; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has prepared any check list and steps taken to boost tourism sector in the country and details thereof?

#### **Development of ancient monuments as tourist spots**

153. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the scope of tourism to our ancient monuments;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

monuments built during Mughal era are being targeted by fundamentalist groups who are trying to defame them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome such issues?

#### **Adopt a Heritage scheme**

154. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Adopt a Heritage scheme;

(b) the details of heritage sites identified under the scheme so far, State and UT-wise;

(c) the details of heritage sites adopted by the corporate entities under the scheme so far, State and UT-wise; and

(d) the criteria for deciding the heritage sites under the scheme?

#### **Improvement of tourism infrastructure in Chhota Udaypur region**

†155. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the works done by Government for the development of tourism infrastructure in Chhota Udaypur of Gujarat;

(b) the amount allotted/used by Government for these works so far; and

(c) the details of works completed so far with the said amount and place-wise details thereof?

#### **Promotion of tourism in Chhattisgarh**

†156. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided any special package to promote tourism in Mainpath and Tatapani of Surguja district in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of amount allocated and spent in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of progress made so far in this regard?

#### **Crocodiles hampering tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

157. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether saltwater crocodiles have hampered the tourism industry in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, if so; the details thereof;

(b) whether any beaches have been closed for tourists as a safety measure, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to resolve this issue?

#### **Development of tourism in Telangana**

158. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has initiated/planned to develop the tourist spots in the State of Telangana; if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the places identified for development;

(c) whether any DPRs have been received from the State Government to this effect; and

(d) the status of the projects as of now?

**Theme based circuits under Swadesh Darshan Yojana**

†159. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific theme based circuits are being developed by Government under Swadesh Darshan scheme in which rural circuits and spritual circuits are also included; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the progress made so far in the development work of rural circuits and spritual circuits is as expected and whether the work is expected to be completed in fixed time and if so, the details thereof?

**Sale of geological fossils to tourists**

160. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is cognizant of the fact that geological fossils in Lahaul and Spiti Valley are being sold to tourists as cheap souvenirs by the locals and tour operators;

(b) whether Ministry has any policy to prohibit such exploitation *via* tourism and preserve fossils; if so, the details thereof; if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Ministry has issued any directions to locals and tour operators to prevent them from owning and selling such fossils; and

(d) whether Ministry plans to undertake future action to preserve geological heritage sites and create awareness among tourists; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 5th December, 2018*  
*Agrahayana 14, 1940 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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