

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, August 12, 2016/Sravana 21, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

Oil palm plantation

2942. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in oil palm plantation has failed to draw even a single investor, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to declare oil palm as a plantation crop to attract FDI in this sector, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Opening of Markfed and Nafed Centres

2943. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to purchase the produces of farmers through various methods by opening the Markfed/Nafed Centres in the country,

including Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to export red gram, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

R&D in organic farming

2944. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Research and Development (R&D) measures have been taken by Government for promotion of organic farming in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any path breaking innovations have been achieved in the field of organic farming during the last two years, if so, the details thereof?

Restructuring of ICAR

2945. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is holding any consultations to restructure the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to make the organization stronger in the domain of agricultural research, considering its contribution to national economy; and

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

Drought situation in the country

2946. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drought situation in the country;

(b) how many Mandals/districts have been declared as drought affected, State-wise;

(c) the details of financial and other assistance sought by States and help extended by Central Government, State-wise; and

(d) the financial assistance, if released to any State under NDRF or SDRF, the details thereof, State-wise?

Whitefly attack on crops

2947. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE

AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a high level committee for monitoring and checking the spread of whitefly attack on crops, particularly on cotton in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to prevent damage to the crops and advise growers to spray only recommended chemicals?

Production of new varieties of Moong and Arhar

2948. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that short duration Arhar and Moong varieties have been developed which can substantially increase the production of these pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken to promote these varieties of pulses in Maharashtra and other pulses producing States in the country?

Development of rice intensification system

2949. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a system of rice intensification has recently been developed in which less water is consumed by crop and more production is ensured, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take to introduce the system in Maharashtra and other rice producing States?

Impact of drought on cotton production

2950. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought in cotton growing areas has deeply affected cotton production this season all over the country;

(b) if so, the expected cotton production this year, with figures for last three fiscal years;

(c) the reasons for Government being unable to make cotton cultivation immune to drought generally;

(d) the economic status of cotton growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana due to drought; and

(e) the steps proposed to protect cotton growing farmers from drought in future and also from volatile cotton prices?

Impact of drought on rabi crops

2951. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts that have been noted as drought affected, particularly in Odisha;

(b) whether Government has evaluated the effect of drought on rabi sowing and on the agricultural growth rate, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Central Government has extended/plans to extend central assistance to State Governments to combat the drought situation, if so, the details thereof, time-line, identified States and quantum of funds, if not, the reasons therefor?

Assistance to States to combat drought

2952. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decrease in foodgrains production was recorded in the current year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified districts that are facing drought/heatwave currently, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure food security and livelihood for common man due to the drought situation/heatwave in the country; and

(d) whether Government has extended/plans to extend central assistance to State Governments to combat the drought situation/heatwave, if so, the details thereof, time-line, identified States and quantum of funds, if not the reasons therefor?

Providing insurance literacy to farmers

2953. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural agricultural households that hold crop insurance currently, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken measures to provide insurance literacy to farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether there have been cases of fraudulent claims by farmers, if so, details thereof, the financial implications of the same on Government and the action taken by Government to rectify the issue; and

(d) whether Government plans to introduce measures to reduce premiums payable by farmers, particularly, small and marginal, if so, details thereof and time-line for the same, if not, reasons therefor?

Compensation for loss of cotton crops in Punjab

2954. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation released by Government of Punjab for dealing with cotton crop loss due to whitefly attacks;

(b) whether Central Government has sanctioned a separate amount for the same; and

(c) whether a distinction was made between the amount of compensation sanctioned for the cotton growing farmers and the amount of compensation sanctioned for the cotton labourers, if not, the reasons therefor?

Irrigation facilities across the country

2955. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey of those areas which lack irrigation facilities across the country, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

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

Increasing production of pulses

2956. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to increase the production of pulses and oil seeds under the National Food Security Mission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in the last five years, State-wise?

Package for hapless farmers

2957. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
KUMARI SELJA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATEL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to heavy floods every year, small and marginal farmers in various parts of the country are suffering serious economic setbacks and the number of such farmers is huge;

(b) whether it is also a fact that number of jobless farmers is increasing every year, resulting in steep decline in agricultural/foodgrain production; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any scheme to extend financial package for the hapless farmers?

Implementation of crop insurance schemes

2958. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of farmers covered under the crop insurance schemes in various States; and

(b) how many farmers have since been benefited under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in each State?

Payment of dues to Chhattisgarh

†2959. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amounts of ₹ 18414.61 lakhs under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), ₹ 30187.44 lakhs under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Oil-Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) scheme and second instalment of ₹ 2000 lakhs under National Mission on Micro Irrigation have not been released to Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Government would make an early payment of the said amounts; and

(c) whether an amount of ₹ 595.575 lakhs for healthcare and disease control of livestock and ₹ 185.21 lakhs for fisheries is due for release by Central Government?

Production of pulses in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2960. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any plan to boost the production of pulses in various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) whether the plan comprises any incentives including promise of a

remunerative MSP, if so, the details thereof?

Operational land holdings in the country

2961. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of operational land holdings in the country, size-wise, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(b) total land area of operational holdings in the country, size-wise, category-wise *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(c) total land area under irrigation, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise;

(d) total number of farmers in the country, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs, State-wise; and

(e) total number of landless farmers in the country, category-wise, *e.g.* all categories SC, ST and OBCs and State-wise?

Organic farming

†2962. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to encourage organic farming in the country;

(b) whether organic farming is more expensive and whether Government provides assistance to the farmers to reduce these expenses;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to make conventional manures more accessible and cheaper than chemical fertilizers; and

(d) the quantum of organic manures being produced in the country at present, the details thereof?

Linking of wholesale markets with e-platform

‡2963. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to develop a national integrated agriculture market to provide better price for agricultural produce to improve the deteriorating condition of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is planning to link the main wholesale markets of the country including Maharashtra with an e-platform;

(c) the total number of wholesale markets in Maharashtra that are to be connected with it in the first phase; and

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed to connect all wholesale markets in the country including Maharashtra with an e-platform, if so, details thereof and if not reasons therefor?

Cultivation and marketing of indigenous varieties of rice

2964. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering

to promote native rice varieties in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has chalked out a strategy to explore avenues to propagate cultivation of indigenous varieties of rice and to ensure a marketing network therefor;

(c) whether indigenous rice varieties have a huge potential in the market but it has yet to be tapped properly; and

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

Adverse effects of chemical fertilizers

‡2965. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of chemical fertilizers causes many problems, including loss of land fertility and diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any research to ascertain the reasons therefor, if so, details thereof;

(c) the results of research conducted and whether Government has taken any action on these results, the details thereof;

(d) the proportion of traditional safe manures and chemical fertilizers used in the country in each of last three years and the current year; and

(e) whether Government has launched any awareness drive to train farmers in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Central Agriculture Universities in Bihar and Jharkhand

†2966. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the setting up of two new Central Agriculture Universities in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

(c) by when these two Universities are going to commence their operation; and

(d) the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers

†2967. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is paying special attention to the reasons responsible for forcing farmers to commit suicide day by day as such incidents keep on increasing;

(b) whether Government is conducting any study to understand the financial burden of farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor as the increasing cases of suicide by farmers is a tragic and complex issue?

Compensation to farmers of Rajasthan for crop loss

†2968. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance Central Government

provides to the farmers suffering from crop loss caused due to drought and other calamities;

(b) the details of compensation provided to the farmers of Rajasthan during the last two years; and

(c) the average monthly income of farmers' families in Rajasthan and the action plan of Government to improve it?

Assistance under NICRA

2969. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides assistance to farmers affected from climate change under the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) scheme;

(b) if so, the details of assistance given to the farmers during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of activities carried out under NICRA; and

(d) the procedure for granting the assistance under NICRA?

Changes in curriculum of agricultural education

†2970. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the key recommendations of the committee constituted by Agriculture Research Council for bringing change in the curriculum of agriculture education and the recommendations implemented by Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether teachers and other facilities are available for new curriculum in the institutes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to popularize the agriculture education?

Irrigation facility for additional land

†2971. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to make two crore hectares of additional land irrigated across the country;

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

(c) in what manner arrangement for water will be made to make the land irrigated; and

(d) the total estimated cost for it?

Package for revival of credit cooperative structure in Gujarat

†2972. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revival package amounting to ₹ 828.69 crore has been sanctioned to Government of Gujarat for credit cooperative structure on the basis of recommendation of Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee; and

(b) whether ₹ 260.91 crore are yet to be released to Government of Gujarat by Central Government with reference to above at present, if so, the time period in which Central Government plans to release outstanding amount of ₹ 260.91 crore which could be utilized to strengthen Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and District Central Cooperative Banks?

Difference between MSP and selling price of agricultural produces

2973. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether there is a vast difference between MSP of the agricultural produces and their selling price in the markets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether farmers are getting lesser price for their crops/produce; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove the role of middlemen so that farmers could get more prices for their crops/produce and the consumers could get them at low prices?

Schemes implemented by the Ministry in Andhra Pradesh

2974. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/missions being implemented by the Ministry in Andhra Pradesh and the status of the same, scheme-wise and mission-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated and released for each of the scheme/mission in the last three years and the current year, year-wise, scheme-wise;

(c) whether any special assistance was sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh under any of the above scheme/mission; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Ministry on such request?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Protecting and enhancing fertility of soil

2975. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what the ICAR is doing to protect the existing fertility of soil as also to increase its fertility for better productivity;

(b) the status of soil fertility in various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) whether any research is underway on soil health of the country by ICAR and other institutions, if so, the details thereof?

Development of floriculture

2976. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken by Government to improve floriculture in the country;

(b) the expected average yield per-acre and the total area under cultivation for flower farming;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure good quality Germ Plasm and tissue culture facility at affordable rates;

(d) whether Government is planning to provide adequate marketing facility and sophisticated cold storage space for floriculture; and

(e) whether Government is also planning to reduce import duty on all kinds of floriculture farming related material and equipment?

Whitefly attack on cotton crops in Punjab and Haryana

2977. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cotton cultivation area in Punjab and Haryana has shrunk by 27 per cent this year;

(b) whether Government is also aware that framers have faced huge losses due to whitefly attack this year; and

(c) if so, whether Government is planning to give assistance to farmers in the form of subsidised pesticides and better MSP to reduce their accumulated losses?

Bringing radical agricultural reforms

2978. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised any new schemes and programmes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the system of farm credit to farmers;

(c) whether Government has recently assessed the reasons for slow growth of agriculture, marketing problems being faced by farmers and non-availability of proper remuneration for their farm produce; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to bring radical agricultural reforms to alleviate the difficulties faced by farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Declaration of milk as an agricultural produce

2979. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to declare milk as an agricultural produce; and

(b) if so, its implications on the dairy sector?

Implementation of recommendation of Swaminathan Commission on MSP

2980. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Government, implementation of Swaminathan Commission's recommendation on MSP would distort the market and would lead to inflation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Remunerative price for onion growers

†2981. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that onion growing farmers in various parts of the country get the price of their produce quite less in comparison to the cost involved in it;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take steps to ensure remunerative price for onion to the farmers; and

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

Decline in production of foodgrains

2982. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's farm sector shrank for the first time in five years, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total foodgrain production for the last 11 months ending 28 February, 2016 and how much the production has declined; and

(c) the factors responsible for the decline in farm sector?

Policy on Herbicide Tolerant crops

2983. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swaminathan Task Force on Applications of Agricultural Biotechnology had recommended against the use of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) crops in the country and that Government had adopted the recommendations in 2004; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has adopted a policy on such HT crops as of now?

Measures to improve livelihood of Small land holding farmers

†2984. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big, medium and small farmers, category-wise, in the country in terms of agricultural acreage; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of farmers having less than two hectares of land or small land holding and the measures taken to ensure livelihood of such farmers and agricultural labourers and the number of beneficiaries in this regard?

Special package for suicide prone area of farmers

2985. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a special package for India's worst farmer suicide-prone districts of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details of the special package and the time-frame for implementing the scheme?

Vacant posts of Judges and pending court cases

2986. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/court-wise;

(b) the number of vacancies in these courts, State/Court-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to fill up the vacancies in various courts and to dispose of the large number of pending court cases?

Effect of closure of fertilizer plants on production and availability of fertilizers

2987. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the effects of closure of fertilizer manufacturing units in the country on production and availability of fertilizers; and

(b) whether Government proposes to privatise the sick/closed units in Karnataka?

Revival of defunct urea plants

2988. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a proposal to revive the defunct fertiliser units in the country, particularly Maharashtra, to meet the growing demand for urea, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how Government would finance revival of the defunct urea plants?

Fixing of prices of medicines by pharma companies

†2989. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical companies print 20 per cent more than the actual price of medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in view of some medical stores giving concession of 5 to 15 per cent to their customers while some others refusing to give the same; and

(c) if not, the norms for fixing the prices of medicines in view of the fact that customer is unable to negotiate their price like other things?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Import of bulk drugs and APIs from China

2990. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has imported bulk drugs and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) worth crores of rupees from China and other foreign countries recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether National Security Adviser has warned the Government of its over dependence on China for supply of essential drugs and APIs;

(d) if so, the reasons for importing eighty to ninety per cent essential drugs and APIs from China; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to shift this over dependence on China for supply of essential drugs and APIs?

Reforms in fertilizer sector

2991. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a road-map for reforming fertilizer sector to its logical end and decontrol of urea prices; and

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

Setting up of Plastic Park in Uttarakhand

†2992. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Plastic Park has been set up in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received any request from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether the environment of the State is not likely to be adversely affected with the establishment of this park, at a time when the environmentalists are striving to get plastic banned in the country?

Revival of Gorakhpur fertilizer plant

†2993. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to renovate the Gorakhpur Fertilizers Factory in the last two years;

(b) by when the production is likely to be started; and

(c) whether the Ministry is progressing in the direction of establishing more new fertilizers factories keeping in view the increasing demand of fertilizers and inflation in the country, the details thereof?

Support to pharma industry

2994. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to phase out support to pharma industry by 2020;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any resistance has come from pharma industry in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the support to pharma industry towards research and development?

Shortage and black marketing of urea

2995. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan to meet the shortage of urea and to check its black-marketing in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of fertilizer plants closed down in the country, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to start these closed plants in the interest of farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension of BSNL's 3G internet network in rural areas

2996. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has extended its 3G internet network to all rural areas of the country;

(b) if not, whether there is any time-frame to achieve this target; and

(c) the details of the plan and time-line for rollout of 4G services in the country?

Details of achievements of the Ministry

2997. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements of the Ministry in the last two years;

(b) whether presentation before the Prime Minister was made about Ministry's last two year's achievements, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has fallen short of its targets and where it has excelled;

(d) the targets set for the coming three years and road-map to achieve the same;

(e) the details of difficulties brought out before the Prime Minister and suggestions made to overcome them; and

(f) the details of core areas the Ministry is going to focus on in the coming three years?

Installation of mobile towers in Sialkal range in Champhai, Mizoram

2998. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone services in Mizoram are suffering due to call drops of various mobile service providers, if so, the details of action taken to rectify the same;

(b) whether more mobile towers need to be installed in the backward Sialkal range in Champhai district to compensate for the lack of good surface communication; and

(c) the details of action plan of BSNL and Government to install more mobile towers in Sialkal range, especially in the border areas in and around Mimbung and

Teikhang villages, if not, the reasons therefor?

Meeting with CEOs of telecom companies

2999. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held a meeting with the CEOs of all telecom companies on 25 July, 2016;

(b) the major issues that Government had asked the CEOs to address urgently to help telecom users;

(c) whether Government has stressed that customer satisfaction must be given top priority by telecom companies;

(d) how does Government propose to ensure that telecom companies implement this assurance on customer satisfaction;

(e) whether steps will be taken to set up Telecom Grievance Offices in every State; and

(f) if not, how can customers air their grievances before an impartial body?

Market share of BSNL

3000. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of BSNL in telecom business;

(b) whether BSNL's market share has been growing or sliding down in the last five years;

(c) the details of present market share of various telecom companies in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to enhance BSNL's market share in telecommunication business?

Non-compliance of TRAI norms by telecom operators

3001. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most Indian telecom operators do not comply with TRAI norms on call drop rate;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that call drop rates have increased during the last six months;

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

(d) the instructions issued by Government to improve the service quality of telecom operators?

Opening of new post offices and modernisation of existing ones

3002. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for opening of new post offices and modernization of the existing post offices in various States/UTs, including Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Haryana; and

(c) the time by which these post offices are likely to be opened in the country?

Merger of MTNL, BSNL and VSNL

3003. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated/contemplated any move for merger of MTNL, BSNL and VSNL; and

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

Providing free Wi-Fi connectivity

†3004. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide free high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity to 2500 cities, towns and Panchayats in the country, including Maharashtra, under the National Broadband Project in the next three years;

(b) whether any time-limit has been prescribed for completion of this project;

(c) whether due to taking more time in buying the necessary device, Gigabit Passive Optical Network, the project is not likely to be completed in time; and

(d) if so, the total work of fibre cables completed in kilometres so far in the country, including Maharashtra?

Improving services of BSNL in Rajasthan

†3005. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the road-map for improving the mobile services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether towers of BSNL are not operational in various cities and villages of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, by when those towers, which are not working as of now, will start functioning, the details thereof?

Optical fibres laid under NOFN

†3006. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the optical fibres laid, so far, under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats covered under this project, so far, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats in Gujarat and Rajasthan yet to be covered under this project, the district-wise details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred so far and the cost outlay for completion of this project, the State-wise details thereof?

Meeting with heads of telecom companies on call drop issue

3007. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a meeting with the heads of telecom companies, including BSNL and MTNL, very recently regarding the problem of call drop;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the issues raised and discussed in the meeting;

(c) the reaction of these companies with regard to checking the call drop problem; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to settle the issues raised by these companies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decreasing subscriber base of MTNL and BSNL due to call drops

3008. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to stop call drops in MTNL and BSNL on an immediate basis, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of MTNL and BSNL subscribers are decreasing due to excessive call drops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof for last six months?

DDoS attack in Maharashtra

3009. SHRI ANIL DESAI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether internet users across Maharashtra are reporting slow speeds after several major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) came under a sustained Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack over the past few days; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps being taken to rectify the slow down?

Rise in prices of food items

3010. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increase in prices of food items, particularly pulses;

(b) if so, the corrective steps, including imports, being undertaken by Government to contain/stabilise the prices of above commodities; and

(c) whether any cases of hoarding of essential commodities, including grains and pulses, have been reported/detected during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed in this regard?

Monitoring mechanism in FCI

3011. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a regular monitoring mechanism in the Food Corporation of India (FCI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether monitoring has been done through the said mechanism in the godowns, where foodgrains have been reported to be spoiled, during last three years;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the reasons for damage to foodgrains despite availability of adequate storage facility?

Coverage under NFSA for drought affected States

3012. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people registered and benefiting from the National Food Security Act (NFSA), State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has taken any action to widen the coverage in the drought affected States under NFSA, if so, details thereof?

Stock of wheat in Central Pool

3013. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministry's estimate of wheat export for 2016-17; and

(b) whether the fall in wheat stock in the Central Pool will affect the availability of wheat in the domestic market?

Procurement of crops at fair prices

3014. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be direct procurement of paddy and other crops, including pulses, at fair prices (MSP) with good returns to the farmers all over the country during harvest period; and

(b) whether Government would directly start fair price mobile shops, allowing farmers to sell their produces directly to consumers, if so, the details thereof?

Performance of Tamil Nadu in PDS

3015. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the best performance of Tamil Nadu in Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(b) if so, whether this would be extended to other States of the country?

Identification of beneficiaries under NFSA

3016. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 per cent of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) are yet to be identified in all the States/UTs, if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(b) whether there are States which did not identify the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority household beneficiaries as per the provisions of the NFSA but used the old database of beneficiaries for extending the benefits, if so, the reasons therefor?

Inflation in food items

3017. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

KUMARI SELJA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation in food items, including vegetables, is rising sharply, causing great difficulties to common people, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering to take any step to bring down the food inflation, if so, the details thereof?

Hoarding of food items

†3018. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has provided adequate funds to State Governments in form of subsidy to control the price rise of food items during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether several State Governments have not taken adequate steps to contain hoarding of food items recently, if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of offices of the Ministry in Amaravati

3019. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated action for setting up of offices/ Departments/Institutions that come under it, like Quality Control Cell, Grain Storage Management Institute, Central Vigilance and Public Distribution System, Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Food Corporation Office, etc., in Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any issues relating to procurement of land and infrastructure, needed for this purpose, have been taken up with the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the status thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking PDS with Aadhaar database

3020. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to link Public Distribution System (PDS) with Aadhaar database/cards;

(b) if so, the details of achievement and pending numbers in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be implemented in a full-fledged manner?

Accidents at Amusement/Theme/Water Parks

3021. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been several incidents of accidents at various Amusement/Theme/Water Parks across the country, including Kishkinta Park in Tamil Nadu and Imagica Adlabs in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of deaths or injured persons due to these accidents for the last five years;

(c) the details of action taken against management of such Parks for each of these accidents in the last five years; and

(d) the details of compensation paid to victims for each of these incidents and steps taken to prevent such accidents in future?

Rise in price of sugar

3022. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar has registered a sharp rise due to fall in its production;

(b) the production of sugar in 2014, 2015 and estimated production in 2016, alongwith State-wise breakup for Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) the quantity and value of sugar exports during the last three years; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to meet the demand and supply gap of sugar?

Setting up of additional procurement centres

‡3023. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agencies procuring foodgrains at the Minimum Support Price in the country, State-wise, including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the target fixed for establishment of procurement centres during each of the last three years and the current financial year and the details of procurement centres actually established;

(c) whether some parameters have been fixed to open these procurement centres, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to set up additional procurement centres for procurement of crops during the forthcoming season and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Financial condition of FCI

‡3024. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the financial condition of Food Corporation of India (FCI) at present;

(b) whether FCI is facing difficulties in generating funds from its resources for meeting its expenditure; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for making the functioning of FCI transparent?

Allotment of wheat and rice to Kerala

3025. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that *ad-hoc* allotment of rice and wheat to Kerala was only 22540 and 7898 tonnes, against a normal share of 83477 and 18740 tonnes, during April to October, 2015;

(b) whether it is a fact that since July, 2016, even *ad-hoc* share has not been released, and without it, BPL and APL card holders cannot be given their due share; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to ensure release of *ad-hoc* allotment from July, 2016 onwards?

Buffer stock of pulses

3026. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to increase the buffer stock of

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

pulses to twenty lakh tonnes from the current stock of eight lakh tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to explore the possibility of having agreements with other pulses producing nations, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has already signed an agreement with Mozambique for import of Tur dal?

Rise in price of foodgrains

3027. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains are increasing very high;

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

(c) the total stock of rice, wheat and sugar available under PDS this year?

Construction of silos

3028. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has called for bids from private firms for constructing 27 silos in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what would be the combined storage capacity of these silos and in which States;

(c) the module for silo operations and private firms to recover capital investment and maintenance charges; and

(d) the total cost that would be estimated for constructing these silos?

Auditing of Government websites

3029. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification Directorate has carried out the audit of 957 Government websites and found that 920 websites failed the quality audit, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure that all Government websites follow the prescribed quality parameters?

Vacant post of Chairperson of Cyber Appellate Tribunal

3030. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the media reports that appeals before the Cyber Appellate Tribunal remain pending due to the post of the Chairperson of the Tribunal lying vacant continuously since 30 June, 2011;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to appoint a Chairperson to the Tribunal;

(c) if so, the time-line within which the appointment will be made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

National e-Governance Plan

†3031. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated the National e-Governance plan with the objectives of containing corruption in the country through information technology, raise the standard of Government services as well as to bring transparency in them, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the achievements of the National e-Governance plan, so far, are corresponding to the targets fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in job opportunities in IT sector

3032. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in job opportunities in IT sector during 2013-2015, the details thereof;

(b) if so, whether it is anticipated that there will be more decline in jobs pertaining to IT sector in near future, if so, the details of plans of Government in this regard and reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the share of IT sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country; and

(d) the measures being adopted by Government to arrest the decline in job environment of the IT sector?

Investment proposals for setting up FPIs in Maharashtra

3033. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several foreign and private investment proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the impact of such investment on domestic food processing industries?

Initiatives for expansion of food processing sector

3034. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by Government in food processing sector in the country since 2014-15;

(b) the details of financial assistance extended by Government to this sector, State-wise; and

(c) how far this sector has been able to utilise them in expanding production of processed food?

Giving fillip to FPIs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

3035. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth rate of Food Processing Industry (FPI) is sluggish in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this state of affairs; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps proposed to give a fillip to the FPIs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

Development of Food Processing Units

3036. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) the total number of Food Processing Units in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been shortage of Food Processing Units in the country resulting in farmers not getting the right price for their produce;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for development and promotion of various fruit and vegetable growing areas in the country to provide better raw material to food processing units, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Role of private sector and State Governments in development of Food Parks

3037. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Parks are being developed by private promoters also in the country;

(b) if so, the details of Food Parks being developed by private sector;

(c) the extent of incentives being given

by Government to private sector in developing Food Parks; and

(d) the role of State Governments in development of these Food Parks?

Performance audit of Legal Aid Clinics

3038. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no performance audit of the Legal Aid Clinics has been done so far, as provided in the concerned Regulation, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the required number of such Clinics in the country along with the number of those established so far, State-wise; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for their performance audit being not done so far?

Cases of crime against women

†3039. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crimes against women belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories and single women are increasing continuously, if so, whether Government proposes to establish separate Special Courts for hearing of such cases, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of women Judges and women Public Prosecutors appointed/ under consideration in the last two years to hear the rising cases of crimes against women and provide them fast-track justice, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Alternative voting option for NRIs

3040. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the system to cast vote through alternative voting option by Non-Resident Indian (NRI) voters, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it is likely to be implemented/notified?

Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill

3041. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to do away with the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill following strong resistance and objections from Judges, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the action being taken by Government for smooth passage of the Bill; and

(c) the present status of the Bill, including the reasons for delay in its passage?

Setting up of Special District Courts to award accident insurance claims

3042. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up Special District Courts to award accident insurance claims without delay to the affected families, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of courts and the time

by which such courts are likely to be set up; and

(c) the number of accident insurance cases pending till 31 March, 2015?

Courts for cases relating to women and children

3043. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of courts functioning for disposal of cases relating to crimes against children and women in the country, including number of cases pending/disposed of by these courts during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the proposals under consideration of Government for setting up of more such courts along with present status thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up dedicated courts to deal with cases relating to crimes against women and for disposal of cases of women by appointing women judges/prosecutors in such courts; and

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

Family courts

3044. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of family courts in the country;

(b) the details of family courts in the country;

(c) the details of cases pending in family courts, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that more than 25,000 cases are pending in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(e) if so, the cases pending for 3, 5 and 7 years, respectively, and efforts being made to resolve the disputes at an early date; and

(f) the status of vacancy position in family courts, State-wise and court-wise?

Fast Track Courts

†3045. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were started across the country to bring speedy justice to victims of rape and other serious crimes, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether most of the FTCs set up for this purpose have closed down, if so, the details thereof, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to long pendency of cases of rape victims in courts the hope for justice diminishes; and

(d) if so, whether Government would set-up FTCs immediately to improve this condition?

Pending court cases and shortage of judges

3046. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) the total number of cases pending in the courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Judges in various courts of the country, resulting in delay in clearance of pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Anti-defection Law

3047. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the Anti-defection Law is very weak in the country and representatives elected from one party join another party without any fear, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to curb defections of representatives from the party they are elected?

Central Regulatory Authorities

3048. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Regulatory Authorities in the country, at present;

(b) the judicial and non-judicial powers enjoyed by these Regulatory Authorities; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring in a law to regulate the regulators to create a uniform national framework for orderly development of infrastructure and protection of consumers' interests?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Creation of All India Judicial Service

3049. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government is considering setting up of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) on the lines of IAS and IPS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, it would be set up; and

(c) if not, how Government is going to meet the demand of maintaining the required strength in District Courts and High Courts?

Doubling and tripling of railway lines

3050. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved railway projects worth ₹10,736 crore for doubling and tripling of railway lines in various States of the country, if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the funds sanctioned/spent for each project, so far?

Insurance for railway passengers

3051. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide insurance for railway passengers, if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(b) the details of premium to be paid by passengers in that regard?

State-wise construction of new railway lines

3052. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new railway lines being considered for construction by Railways at present, State-wise;

(b) the time by which the construction works of these railway lines is likely to be started; and

(c) whether any new project is proposed to be undertaken in Kerala in the near future, if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies under Railways

3053. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have nearly 1,20,000 job vacancies presently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this huge vacancy backlog has had severe impact on rail safety issues;

(c) the details of job vacancies in South Central Railway;

(d) how does Government propose to prevent rail accidents and take care of rail safety issues with such a serious manpower shortage; and

(e) the steps proposed to assess the situation and take appropriate action ?

Provision of confirmed tickets for all passengers

‡3054. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has planned to add extra coaches in trains in view of huge crowd in general coaches, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the provisions regarding waitlisted passengers for travelling in sleeper and AC coaches; and

(c) whether Government is mulling over any scheme to provide confirmed tickets to all passengers, if so, the details thereof and how much time would be taken for implementation of this scheme?

Funds raised through EBR-IF

3055. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has raised any funds through Extra Budgetary Resources-Institutional Finance (EBR-IF) to augment pending railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of funds raised so far during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of projects on which the funds, so raised, have been spent?

Diamond Quadrilateral network

3056. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have undertaken a Diamond Quadrilateral network of high-speed rail connecting major metros and growth centres; and

(b) if so, the metro cities and growth centres identified for this purpose and the progress made so far?

Complaints received by Railways on social websites

‡3057. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by Railways on the social websites during the years 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively, regarding railway services/amenities and the number of complaints addressed out of those;

(b) the zones from which maximum number of complaints were received through social websites during the said years, zone-wise; and

(c) whether Railways are planning to create a separate cell in this regard in view of the increasing trend of social websites in the society, the details thereof?

Completion of ongoing railway projects in Punjab

3058. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing railway projects in Punjab; and

(b) by when they are likely to be completed?

Battery-operated car service at railway stations

3059. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is going to start battery-operated car service at all major railway stations across the country to facilitate movement of passengers, especially disabled, ailing and elderly at platforms;

(b) whether this facility to the ailing, disabled and elderly passengers will be on the lines of airports or on chargeable basis; and

(c) a detailed note on the total number of stations to be provided with this facility in the first phase?

Workers not getting minimum wages in textile mills

3060. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in various private sector textile mills, the workers are not being paid minimum wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in various such mills there is widespread agitation among workers on this issue; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that workers in textile mills are paid minimum wages?

Completion of Ranchi to Tori rail route

3061. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Ranchi-Lohardaga-Tori route will be completed as it is under construction for a long time and trains starting from Ranchi reach Tori after four hours or more and if this route is ready,

time to reach Tori from Ranchi will be less than two hours for Delhi-bound trains; and

(b) by when the work of overbridge at Nagri near Ranchi in Jharkhand will be completed as the work has been stopped for a long time and traffic is facing a major problem?

Upgrading the speed of Delhi-Ranchi and Delhi-Raipur Rajdhani trains

3062. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the speed of Rajdhani trains, especially Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani and Delhi-Raipur Rajdhani will be upgraded as it will save a lot of time?

Installing CCTV cameras at railway stations

3063. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to install CCTV cameras at railway stations to ensure safety of women passengers;

(b) if so, the details of stations where such cameras are proposed to be installed;

(c) whether the CCTVs installed will also be used for monitoring station's cleanliness, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all stations, right down to category 'C' stations, have been included in this project;

(e) if so, the details of small stations and category 'C' stations identified for this purpose, State-wise; and

(f) by when this exercise will be completed?

Leasing out vacant railway lands

‡3064. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating leasing out the vacant railway lands in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether railway lands have been leased out in the past also; and

(c) if so, the details of companies and persons, besides Public Sector Undertakings, to whom railway lands have been leased out in the country, location-wise?

Multi-Functional Complexes

3065. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time-line for commissioning of eight Multi-Functional Complexes at Cuttack, Brahmpur, Jharsuguda, Rayagada, Banspani, Balasore and Bhubaneswar with Budget hotel at Sambalpur, as these proposals are yet to be taken up by Rail Land Development Authority, a Railway Undertaking entrusted with these works?

Creation of another Railway Division at Rayagada under East Coast Railway

3066. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether keeping in view the public demand, Railways are considering to create another Railway Division at Rayagada under the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway with five railway lines - Nuapada-Gunupur, Rayagada-Titlagarh-Raipur, Koraput-Rayagada, Koraput-Jeypore-Jagdalpur and Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh?

Late running of trains

‡3067. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swatantrata Senani Express, Bihar Sampark Kranti-Express, Vaishali Express and Jai Nagar Garib Rath trains, that ply in and out of Bihar, are never able to reach their destinations in time;

(b) whether passengers having wait-listed tickets get into the sleeper coaches and deprive the passengers having confirmed tickets from sitting and even going to bathrooms/toilets; and

(c) whether Government is considering running the Jai Nagar Garib Rath, everyday, in order to rid of this inconvenience, the details thereof?

Completion of Tarakeswar-Bishnupur rail route

3068. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present targeted date of completion of Tarakeswar-Bishnupur railway line which was inaugurated in 2012; and

(b) the present targeted date of completion of Bagnan-Amta railway line which was inaugurated in 2010?

Signing of MoU with SNCF

3069. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had signed Memorandum of Understanding

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(MoU) with SNCF during last year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that feasibility/implementation study for raising the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmph on some routes has commenced; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the feasibility study was awarded on 50:50 cost sharing basis divided into three phases, if so, the details thereof?

Pending and under-construction railway projects in Rajasthan

†3070. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the under-construction and pending railway projects in Rajasthan as on date;

(b) the status of each of such projects; and

(c) the details of project cost, sources of funds and the time-limit for completion of projects?

Comparison of average passenger fare amongst Bullet, Talgo and other Trains

3071. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to run Bullet trains, if so, the details of the routes being planned and finalized so far;

(b) whether any comparison has been done regarding the average passenger fare amongst Bullet, Talgo and prevailing trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether study of cost comparison of Bullet train tracks with that of prevailing train tracks has been made, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether estimated time-line has been formulated for the Bullet train project, if so, the details thereof?

Cost sharing railway projects with Telangana

3072. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the projects have been undertaken by Railways on cost sharing basis with the respective State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of such projects in Telangana;

(c) the share between Railways and the State Government; and

(d) by when each of the identified projects is likely to be completed?

Electrification of railway lines in Rajasthan

†3073. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines in Rajasthan which are being electrified currently,

(b) the scheme of electrification for the rest of the railway lines, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the scheme of electrification of railway line from Jaipur railway station to Jodhpur railway station is included in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the budget of this year, if so, by when the work on the same will be started?

Electrocution on Patna-Gaya railway line

†3074. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether twelve people were killed and many got injured after an electrical wire fell on a railway track on Patna-Gaya railway line in East-Central Railway near Neema halt, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has got this accident investigated;

(c) if so, the action taken against the Chief Electrical Engineer of East Central Railway; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to take appropriate action against guilty officers?

Refund on cancellation of confirmed ticket

†3075. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no amount can be recovered from the cancellation of confirmed ticket less than four hours of departure of the train;

(b) if so, the details of the passengers who could not travel on the confirmed tickets from the date of implementation of this scheme and whether such vacant seats are reserved for other passengers; and

(c) the justification behind limiting the cancellation of confirmed tickets upto four hours at such a time when high-tech technology is available and wait-listed passengers are also available?

CCTV cameras in trains for women safety

3076. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CCTV cameras would be fitted in local and other peak hour trains since indecent behaviour towards women is rampant;

(b) whether such cameras will first be fitted in northern and adjacent sectors; and

(c) whether Government will see to it that such cameras are fitted in crowded local trains as well in Southern States which have been totally neglected?

Withdrawal of concessions in train tickets

3077. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to withdraw concessions given in train ticket fares to senior citizens, journalists, freedom fighters etc.; and

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

Train accident at unmanned railway level crossing in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh

3078. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons died/injured in train accident at unmanned railway level

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

crossing on 25 July, 2016 in Bhadohi district, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for the accident;

(c) the details of *ex-gratia*/compensation announced and paid to the injured/kin of deceased victims, so far;

(d) the details of inquiry initiated and outcome thereof along with the action taken against the guilty; and

(e) the details of *ex-gratia* announced during 2014, 2015 and 2016 so far and paid till date, accident-wise?

Exclusive goods wagons for transporting coal

3079. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of goods wagons for transporting coal within the country;

(b) the total number of goods wagons actually required for transporting the coal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the production of goods wagons for transporting coal; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to keep goods wagons exclusively for transportation of coal to ensure that transportation of coal is not delayed to its destinations due to shortage of goods wagons?

Reforms in functioning of railways

3080. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reforms/changes effected in the functioning of railways recently;

(b) whether the efforts are for more passenger facilities to convenience their rail commuting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of suggestions received from public, committees and experts for the overall improvement in railways?

Erecting high wall on both sides of tracks from Ghaziabad to Kanpur

†3081. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in view of increasing the speed of trains/introduction of high speed trains and the possibilities of accidents occurring due to stray animals coming on railway tracks, is planning to erect high walls on both sides of the tracks from Ghaziabad to Kanpur;

(b) whether Government would consider to erect high walls on both sides of the tracks wherever such trains will be running; and

(c) if so, the places where it is proposed and if not, the reasons therefor?

MoU for Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project

3082. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways and Government of Odisha have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project, to complete it in a time-bound manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the share of the project cost, to be borne by Railways and the State Government, respectively;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the present status of the project and the funds allocated by Railways for the project during the current financial year; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

Demotion of persons appointed initially on higher posts

3083. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that persons appointed in Railways on higher posts initially, were later on made as safaiwalas;

(b) whether any such incident has been brought to the notice of Railways in the recent past; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Railways for such a serious lapse, if so, the details thereof ?

Projects in the North Eastern Region

3084. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special efforts are being made by Railways towards completion of projects for development of rail network in North Eastern region after declaring them as National Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard, project-wise?

Complaints against private catering companies

3085. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been received by Railways against private catering companies for over-charging passengers and flouting directions, the year-wise details of the last three years;

(b) whether any investigation is going on against catering firms running contracts in Indian Railways for over-charging passengers and flouting directions of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, names of the companies against whom such investigations are going on?

Proposals for working of Non-Fare Revenue Directorate

3086. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have created a separate Directorate, Non-Fare Revenue Directorate, in the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the purpose and idea behind it;

(c) whether proposals came from waste management group to collect garbage, solid waste generated at railway stations at a price, which can be recycled for generating energy and manure;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposals; and

(e) why big railway stations could not set up biomethanation plant for processing solid wastes and to generate electricity, the reasons therefor with details?

Amenities at Ujjain-Ratlam railway route

†3087. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the passenger amenities and public conveniences available at each station on Ujjain-Nagda-Ratlam and Nagda-Kota railway routes, along with details of arrangement for light system on lamp/light posts, working or otherwise, on up/down platforms and measures taken to run them smoothly?

User-friendly railway stations for physically challenged and senior citizens

3088. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new stations have been constructed that would enable ease of access for the physically challenged/senior citizens with access ramps, escalators and/or elevators;

(b) how many existing stations have been modified for their ease of access;

(c) how many railway stations have been identified for modification in future to make it user-friendly for physically challenged and senior citizens; and

(d) the time-frame for such upgradation?

Platform-raising exercise for Mumbai suburban network

3089. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an update on the platform-raising exercise for the Mumbai suburban network;

(b) the number of stations where work has been completed and the time-line for its full completion; and

(c) whether Railways have identified high-density stations which have only one single bridge like Mumbra, Parel in CR and others in WR, for additional bridge construction to enhance safety during peak hours?

Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

3090. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. is planning to introduce high-speed trains between Amaravati and Bengaluru as well as Chennai and Kolkata, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the progress made in the implementation of North-South and East-South corridors and whether any meeting was held with State Governments recently in this regard;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh and Railways propose to float Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for expediting pending projects and re-development of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and budgetary allocations made or to be made in this regard?

Steps to rescue powerloom weavers from financial crisis

3091. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether imposition of anti-dumping duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and sudden sky rocketing of raw cotton and cotton yarn prices due to shortage and lesser sowing of cotton seeds, have adversely affected the most employment generating decentralized powerloom sectors of Malegaon, Bhiwandi, Ichalkatanji, Sholapur, Surat, Varanasi, Erode and other centres in the country;

(b) whether thousands of micro scale powerloom employer-cum-employee weavers have become jobless and have faced severe financial crisis in the last one year; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to rescue the affected class of labour?

Women Self Help Group

3092. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Women Self Help Groups in the Textile sector that are presently operating in the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government plans to increase them, the details thereof?

Concessions to handloom weavers

3093. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government on the representations received, requesting more concessions to cooperative societies and other organisations of handloom weavers in the country, during the last two years;

(b) the details of concessions provided at present to handloom weavers; and

(c) the total number of handloom weavers from backward regions benefited from such concessions?

Employment generation in Textile sector/industry

†3094. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities generated in the last two years and the number of employment opportunities likely to be generated in the next three years in the Textile sector/industry;

(b) the plan to ensure availability of skilled human resources to meet the requirements of employment generation in the Textile industry in future; and

(c) whether the requirement of human resources in Textile industry would be fulfilled by the existing resources in the country, if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

Export of jute

3095. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of jute produced, exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years along with the country's position in the world jute market;

(b) the criteria/parameters laid down for maintaining minimum quality of jute for export;

(c) whether Government is aware that manufacturers are facing a lot of difficulties in selling jute in international markets on

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

account of multiple documentation and Government certification required for export consignments;

(d) if so, the steps taken to solve this matter; and

(e) the efforts made by Government to promote jute export?

Shortage of raw jute

3096. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that severe shortage of raw jute is affecting the production and supply of finished jute from mills in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue;

(c) the steps taken by Government to discourage import of jute to protect jute growers and mill workers; and

(d) the details of revenue earned through jute industry and funds allocated and spent on the jute industry in last three years, State-wise?

Improving the skills of textile workers

3097. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched a new scheme to improve the skills of workers in various segments of the Textile industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to target training of 100 lakh textile workers by 2022, if so, the details thereof?

Exemption for use of jute packaging material bag

3098. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has exempted the mandatory rules for use of jute packaging material bag replacing with polypropylene fibre;

(b) whether Government has taken clearance from the concerned Department on eco-friendly norms therefor, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the experts' report on purview of 'JPM Act' thereon?

Production of raw jute

3099. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of raw jute production during the current season in the country;

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

(c) whether Jute Corporation of India has sufficient manpower to launch Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation through its Departmental Purchasing Centres (DPCs) in the event of fall in price below the MSP; and

(d) if so, the details of present manpower, DPC-wise?

Textile projects in Himachal Pradesh

3100. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the work on new Textile projects, undergoing/proposed to be started, in Himachal Pradesh?

Production and import of yarn

3101. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of yarn in the country has declined during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of policy for importing yarn;

(c) the names of countries from which yarn is imported; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to enhance the production of yarn in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 6th August, 2016
Sravana 15, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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