

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, December 14, 2015/Agrahayana 23, 1937 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Coal; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Environment, Forests and
Climate Change; New and Renewable Energy; Panchayati Raj; Planning;
Power; Road Transport and Highways; Rural Development; Shipping;
Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

Total number of questions — 160

Poor output from underground mines of CIL

1601. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the extremely poor output from underground mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL);

(b) whether, as against the envisaged contribution of 40 per cent, only 10 per cent production is coming from underground mines and if so, the reasons why the situation has come to such a pass; and

(c) whether Government is going to fix responsibility for this sharp reversal in fortunes of underground mines of CIL?

De-allocation of coal blocks

1602. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of coal blocks de-allocated this year; and

(b) what are the parameters considered by Government for reviewing coal block allocation?

Facilities for welfare of coal mine workers

1603. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities provided by Government for welfare of the coal mine workers and their family members;

(b) whether it is mandatory for coal mine workers to undergo medical check-up annually;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor as the health of the coal mine workers is a matter of great concern; and

(d) what are the special hospital facilities available for coal mine workers?

Approval for GMDC's mining lease application

1604. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has recommended a proposal for prior approval of Central Government for Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC)'s mining lease application of lignite bearing areas of 3,319 hectares in Kutch district last year; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

Supply of inferior quality of coal by CIL

1605. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints about the inferior quality of coal being supplied by Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure that superior quality coal is supplied by the coal suppliers?

Reduction in coal consumption for electricity generation

1606. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the projection of coal consumption in the country during the next 15 years;

(b) the percentage of coal consumed for electricity generation at present and how it would be reduced during the next 15 years

by utilizing other renewable sources of energy; and

(c) the details of target set for bringing down coal exploration in future, to reduce green house gas emission?

Special courts for coal block allocation cases

†1607. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss incurred by the country in coal mine allocation process adopted by the previous Government;

(b) whether the identification of persons responsible for the loss *i.e.* businessmen, bureaucrats, brokers has been done completely;

(c) the names of persons against whom cases are pending in different courts in the matter; and

(d) whether Government is considering to set up special courts for disposal of these cases?

Coal production

1608. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic coal production is rising and thus reducing the need for imports;

(b) whether this has provided a relief from runaway foreign spending on this fuel; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to supply coal with less ash content to the domestic consumers and to lay emphasis on renewable energy to further dampen demand growth for coal?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Illegal sale of coal

1609. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is illegal sale of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereon;
- (c) whether Government has taken action against the culprits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to prevent this trend?

Best practices for commercial coal mining

1610. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to open commercial coal mining to domestic and foreign private entities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the best practices followed by countries like China have been studied with respect to coal strategy and are expected to be followed in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Production of coal

1611. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the potential of coal reserves in the country, State-wise;

(b) the production of coal during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether production was not started in some of the coal mines, as per the conditions laid down in the agreements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by Government in this regard?

Supply of quality coal to power stations

1612. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to ensure supply of quality coal to all power stations under the Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to enhance the Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of coal by segregating all impurities from coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of water for rural sanitation

1613. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about real situation in various rural blocks and districts regarding the supply of water for sanitation; and

(b) how the rural population can use sanitation facilities without the required water facility?

Implementation of NBA

1614. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of progress of implementation of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan; and

(b) if so, what are the objectives of the scheme and the progress made in its implementation?

(b) whether Government is considering to involve NGOs and other voluntary organizations for the success of the Mission;

(c) the details of steps being taken for construction of toilets and providing proper sanitation facilities in the country; and

(d) by what time target of 100 per cent toilets and proper sanitation facilities would be achieved, in respect of each State?

Problem of clean drinking water in Assam

†1615. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Assam that are still facing the problem of clean drinking water;

(b) whether health related problems have increased in such rural areas due to contaminated drinking water; and

(c) Government's action plan to provide clean drinking water to every village in that State and by when the availability of clean drinking water would be ensured?

Safe drinking water to rural population

1617. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government conducted any survey to identify that portion of rural population who are yet to get safe water for drinking, cooking and other domestic basic needs on a sustainable basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any time bound plan to ensure safe drinking water to this portion of rural population;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Involvement of NGOs in Swachh Bharat Mission

1616. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to make Swachh Bharat Mission successful all over the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab;

Technical and financial assistance under SBM

1618. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of technical and financial assistance provided under solid and liquid waste management component of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) to various States during the last two years, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of villages covered under SBM, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which all the villages are likely to be covered fully under SBM?

Steps taken to improve sanitation in rural areas

1619. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanitation conditions in rural areas is the worse and close to half of households defecate in the open;

(b) whether half of Indian households do not have drainage connectivity either and less than 20 per cent have closed drains and just over 10 per cent of India has a toilet with a flush connected to a piped water system;

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve sanitation in rural areas; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to give financial aid to rural households to construct lavatory in their houses?

Incomplete works under drinking water and sanitation schemes

1620. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is delay or incomplete works under the drinking water and sanitation schemes/projects in the country including Kerala;

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

(c) the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Central Government in this regard?

Drinking water affected by pollutants

1621. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drinking water in several districts in the country is affected by pollutants such as arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrates etc.;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise and category of pollution-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to solve this problem including the special steps taken in badly affected districts in the country;

(d) the current status of laboratories in various districts to evaluate the quality of drinking water and whether they are able to fulfil their target; and

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

Toilets and sewerage system in slum clusters of Delhi

1622. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 per cent slum clusters in the capital city of Delhi have no toilets and sewerage system;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan to address this issue; and

(c) what is the status of providing drinking water and such other basic facilities in such clusters in Delhi?

Monitoring of the quality of drinking water in rural areas

1623. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken so far by Government to enable the people of the rural areas of the country to have access to safe drinking water and prevent water borne diseases; and

(b) the steps Government has taken to monitor the quality of drinking water in rural areas of the country?

Air quality in cities

1624. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of biomass burning on the quality of air in cities, especially Delhi-NCR;

(b) whether the measures contained in the National Policy for Management of Crop Residue, 2014 have been implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the quality of air in cities like Delhi does not become worse?

Reduction in recorded plant species

1625. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in the total recorded plant species in the world has reduced drastically over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of current share of country's recorded plant species in the world?

Death of wild animals by speeding trains

1626. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants and other wild animals run over by trains running between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during 2015;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to prevent such accidental deaths of wild animals;

(c) whether Government is contemplating change of railway routes from the national corridors of wild elephants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of forest area

†1627. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expansion in forest area in the country during the last five years;

(b) whether the UN has recently issued a report named Global Forest Resources Assessment, 2015;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of the adverse effects caused by the fast depletion of forest area;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps being taken by Government to increase the forest cover?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Proposal for transfer of forest land for Almora-Ghat motorway

†1628. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal for transfer of forest land for widening of Almora-Ghat motorway in Almora district of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, at which level and since when the proposal is pending;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the proposal till now; and

(d) by when the proposal is expected to be cleared?

Emission level of Volkswagen cars

1629. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Automotive Research Association of India has found variations in on-road emission levels in several diesel and petrol models of Volkswagen cars;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a notice has been issued to the company to explain the reasons behind such variations; and

(c) if so, the details of reasons explained by the company and to what extent they are in compliance with emission norms of the country?

Steps taken to deal with global warming

†1630. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those areas of the country which are apprehended to face the threat of global warming; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Protection of Western Ghats

1631. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the steps to be taken for environmental protection of Western Ghats in view of the Reports of Kasturirangan and Madhav Gadgil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Demarcation of Eco-Sensitive Zones

1632. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals are currently pending with the Central Government for demarcation of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around protected areas;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government has set a deadline for clearance of all these proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise; and

(f) the details of procedure for demarcation of ESZs around protected areas?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Performance of pollution control boards

1633. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the performance of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) set up in the country, particularly in Maharashtra and Delhi;

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

(c) the total number of cases brought to the notice of Government regarding violation of pollution and environmental laws and regulations in the country during the last two years and the current year; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government against the guilty persons or industries, State/Union Territory-wise?

Awareness about implications of global warming

1634. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any special initiatives to create awareness among the people across the country about the implications of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated/sanctioned for this purpose during the current financial year?

Clearance for diversion of forest land for coal mining

1635. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests for providing clearances for diversion of forest land for coal mining operations received by the Central Government since 2010;

(b) the number of such proposals approved by Government, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken for monitoring and enforcing the conditions stipulated in these clearances for the conduct of sustainable mining operations?

Study on melting of glaciers

†1636. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any study with regard to melting of glaciers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of policy and action plan adopted by Indian scientists to control the melting of glaciers?

Study on impact of climate change

1637. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any study on the impact of climate change

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

including changing monsoon pattern and the manner in which the country's agriculture sector is affected;

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

(c) whether Government is formulating an action plan to deal with the problem of climate change including changing monsoon pattern?

(a) India's stand on the agenda of climate change summit organised in Paris;

(b) whether India has formulated any strategy along with the countries having similar views on the issue of climate change; and

(c) the possible benefits to India from the consultations held in the summit?

Guidelines on sustainable sand mining

1638. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come out with detailed guidelines on sustainable sand mining in the country and proposed strict monitoring and crack down against illegal mining rampant in many States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Governments have been losing revenue worth thousands of crores of rupees due to rampant illegal mining and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has advised the use of technology like android application, GPS and unique bar-coding system to track illegal mining and those who indulge in exploiting the natural resources beyond permissible limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

India's stand on agenda of climate change summit

†1639. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

Maintenance of Green National Accounts

1640. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals to maintain Green National Accounts has been pending with Government for several years;

(b) if so, the current status of progress on this proposal and the expected time period by which Green National Accounts would be prepared;

(c) the details of steps taken to implement the recommendations given by the Dasgupta Committee for Green National Accounts including introduction of the concept of Wealth Per Capita which includes environmental wealth to GDP of the country; and

(d) the reasons for non-implementation of the recommendations given by the Committee?

Declaration of Kailam Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco Sensitive Zone

1641. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Kailam Wildlife Sanctuary in Churachandpur District in Manipur has been declared as Eco Sensitive Zone and if so, the details of area and villages covered by the sanctuary;

(b) whether the name of the village was Kaihlam which was wrongly spelt as Kailam and if so, whether necessary corrections would be made;

(c) whether the Notification in this regard has been finalized and if so, the proposed timeline for its implementation; and

(d) whether the poor villagers who have been living there for centuries would be allowed to continue to stay in their villages?

Mercury poisoning in Pambar Shola forests

1642. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey on the extent to which mercury poisoning is happening in Pambar Shola forests in Kodaikanal range;

(b) whether any relief measures have been undertaken by Government for the affected people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rise in global temperature

†1643. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per a World Bank commissioned report, global temperature is likely to rise by 4 degree celsius due to climate change;

(b) whether this rise in temperature poses a threat of submergence to India's coastal areas;

(c) if so, whether the said issue has been addressed in the United Nations climate talks; and

(d) the details of steps being taken/to be taken by Government to deal with this problem?

Regulation of pet care market

1644. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is authorized to notify rules to regulate the pet care market in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of Government to notify the rules in this regard and their implementation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to regulate pet shops and breeders which violate provisions of animal welfare laws, with impunity in the absence of any rules?

Reserved forest land

1645. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserved forest land in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of Government organisations apart from private developers and industrialists are in illegal possession of reserved forest lands and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps Government is taking/has taken to get the reserved forest lands vacated by illegal occupants?

Protection of godawans

†1646. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for protection of godawans;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has a positive approach to the said proposal;

(c) if so, the details of its present status; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Effluent treatment plants

1647. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether common effluent treatment plants set up in the country are sufficient for the treatment of wastes generated by chemical industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Karnataka and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to check water, air and environmental pollution caused by chemical industries along with the action taken to address the health problems being faced by the residents due to dumping of industrial wastes in the rivers?

Plastic littering in national parks and sanctuary

1648. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national parks and sanctuaries are under threat of plastic littering;

(b) if so, the details of the report with Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon for a permanent solution?

Infrastructure and development activities in and around sanctuaries and national parks

1649. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has decided not to consider any infrastructure or developmental activity in and around 624 wildlife sanctuaries and national parks across the country, until their ecologically sensitive zones are clearly demarcated and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Committee took up 53 projects and recommended 26 for clearance while deferring a decision on the remaining 27 projects and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move is to strengthen environmental regulation as it would force to demarcate ESZs which are pending for years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shrinking of elephant habitat

1650. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the elephant habitat area in Western Ghats has shrunk by more than half as per a recent survey;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that about hundreds of elephants are found dead during the last few months due to poaching; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Central Government for their conservation in this regard?

Lakes in Jammu and Kashmir

†1651. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the beautiful lakes in Jammu and Kashmir are dying fast;

(b) whether Government has formulated a scheme to save these lakes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Solar plant in Mahaboobnagar of Telangana

1652. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC is planning to set up a 1,000 MW solar

plant in Mahaboobnagar district of Telangana;

(b) whether the survey for this project has been taken up;

(c) if so, by when it will go before the Board of NTPC; and

(d) what is the likely period within which it would be commissioned and the expenditure involved to complete this project?

Target of renewable energy generation

1653. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set a steep target for increasing the country's renewable energy generation which has to be achieved by 2021-22;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any blue print has been drawn to achieve this ambitious target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Solar and wind power plants

1654. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of solar and wind power plants set up in the country during the last three years;

(b) the power generated by such plants during that period, State-wise; and

(c) the money spent on these plants during the above period?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**New solar power plants in
Maharashtra**

1655. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government's planning to expand the use of solar energy in the country;
- (b) the funds allocated for this purpose;
- (c) whether there are any new solar power projects planned for Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to achieve the target of 1,00,000 MW solar power by 2022?

**Tweaking of Solar Bidding
Framework**

1656. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any new measures to address the energy crunch in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a plan for tweaking the Solar Bidding Framework by introducing different tariffs for different blocks of years, utilizing the international drop in module prices to provide the best tariff to the power procurers, moving from generation based Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to capacity-based like conventional power; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Tapping of geothermal energy

1657. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to tap geothermal energy as source of power generation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of present status of geothermal energy generation; and
- (e) the details of targets, achievements and budget spent on these schemes during the last five years?

Potential of wind energy

1658. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has evaluated the potential of wind energy in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the plant load factor of the wind energy sector during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken/plans to undertake measures to improve the ratio of captive to independent wind power generators and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to ease the regulatory hurdles faced in the wind energy sector?

**Waiving of transmission charges in
renewable energy**

1659. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to give a push to clean energy projects in the country and has decided to waive transmission charges of electricity generated from renewable sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to bring out a legal framework where all inter-State transmission of renewable energy would be at zero cost; and

(d) whether Government has already sanctioned contracts worth ₹ 38000 crore through competitive bidding for green corridors and is identifying more such areas?

Schemes implemented under JNNSM in Uttar Pradesh

†1660. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes being implemented in Uttar Pradesh under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM);

(b) the targets fixed for the State under the Mission, area-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to promote small and affordable solar power projects in rural areas?

Outlay for R&D in solar, geothermal and wind energy

1661. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage contribution of solar geothermal and wind energy in the total energy generation during the last two years;

(b) whether Government is planning to increase the outlay in these sectors for promoting technical research and development (R&D) in these sectors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation for new and renewable sources of energy

1662. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage and amount of budget allocated for the development of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) whether Government has undertaken measures to make current equipments more energy efficient and if so, the details thereof and the budget allocated towards the same and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plans to make energy audit mandatory for Government and other organisations and if so, the details thereof and the timeline for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

Bringing backward States at par with advanced States

1663. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are lagging behind in development and some are

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

developing rapidly, thereby creating a wide gap between the States and regions;

(b) if so, the schemes Government is implementing to bring backward States at par with advanced States; and

(c) to what extent the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), etc., are helping to improve the status of less developed States?

Utilizing space based information support for planning at panchayat level

1664. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to use space based information support to empower planning process at panchayat level;

(b) what are the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been set to make the aforesaid project operational?

Computerisation of village/revenue offices

1665. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether people have to depend on the services of local revenue/village offices to meet various requirements;

(b) whether there are many proposals to computerize such offices as the work is got done manually there;

(c) whether most people go to village offices to remit landholding tax;

(d) if so, whether the tax remittance system would be computerized; and

(e) what instructions would be issued to the Panchayati Raj Institutions to computerize village/revenue offices?

Funds to districts under BRGF

1666. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country that have received funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) since 2005, year-wise; and

(b) the details of funds disbursed to each district since then, year-wise?

Districts covered under BRGF in West Bengal

1667. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines laid down to identify backward districts under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF);

(b) the number of districts covered under BRGF in West Bengal;

(c) the details of funds allocated and utilized under BRGF in the State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure full utilization of funds?

Functioning of LSGs

1668. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has instituted a study for better functioning of Local Self

Governments (LSGs) now, after a lapse of over twenty years since passing of 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution;

(b) whether the citizens are now able to get better services from their locally elected Governments in terms of access and delivery;

(c) whether the goals of decentralization and empowerment of people, as envisaged in the said legislations, have been achieved; and

(d) if not, what steps Government intends to take?

NIYATAM programme

†1669. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an integrated development programme NIYATAM is being launched to help States in providing electricity, water, roads, education and health care facilities;

(b) if so, the names of the States where this programme would initially be implemented and the guidelines issued to States, its objectives and the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of current departments and schemes of the State Governments would also be curtailed and if so, the details thereof?

Role and functions of NITI Aayog

1670. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed

any specific role and functions of NITI Aayog for the civil society and development sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided the new role and functions for the States in the planning process;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the measures taken by Government to ensure the federal principles in the planning process under the new NITI Aayog?

Training of youth by CIDC

1671. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youth imparted training by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) along with the number of those who got placement, so far, State-wise;

(b) whether there are reports about deficiencies in the training programme of CIDC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds borne by Government for the said purpose?

Setting up of a steering group for monitoring economic reforms

1672. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a steering group which would monitor the implementation of economic reforms proposed in the Plan document;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether Government proposes to implement some development schemes for hundred most backward districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategy developed to supervise the implementation of the scheme?

Report on improving credit and marketing linkages to improve employment generation

1673. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NITI Aayog has submitted a report on improving credit and marketing linkages to improve employment generation;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made therein; and

(c) what steps are proposed to implement the recommendations?

Functions and responsibilities of NITI Aayog

1674. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the functions and responsibilities of NITI Aayog;

(b) whether it would evaluate the performance of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and core schemes being implemented in various States and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the issues impacting the implementation of CSS schemes would be

addressed to by NITI Aayog and if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of global SDGs and associated targets

1675. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has to implement 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 associated targets during 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government does not have any adequate data to frame the relevant policies;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to collect adequate data on SDGs to frame relevant policies;

(e) whether Government does not have financial resources also to meet these global development targets;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by Government to generate resources to fund SDGs?

Reduction in CSSs

†1676. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of per annum provision of ₹1.69 lakh crore to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs), the reduction in the number of CSS may lead to reduction in the amount to be provided to States;

(b) if so, the details of CSSs proposed to be wound up by Government and whether States are consulted in this matter;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to allow the States to utilize the allocated funds, according to their requirements; and

(d) the revenue deficit Government is likely to face by implementing the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission?

India's position in Global Hunger Index

1677. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is on the top of World's Global Hunger Index;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is on the top of under-nourished children in the world as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof together with an action plan formulated to address this issue seriously?

Special Category Status to Bihar

†1678. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to confer the Special Category Status to Bihar; and

(b) if so, by when?

Identification of Special Category States

1679. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the setting up of NITI Aayog in place of Planning Commission,

the concept of identifying Special Category States has been given up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result thereof, the share of central taxes and duties payable to some States, particularly Bihar has been dropped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to help the States hit by socio-economic backwardness and Left Wing Extremism?

Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh

1680. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister had announced the Special Category Status, Special Economic Packages, fiscal incentives and tax concessions, etc., for Andhra Pradesh on the floor of Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Cabinet has subsequently cleared the proposal for giving effect to the said announcements;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the decisions;

(e) whether there is any time-frame for implementing the decisions; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon, so far?

Supreme Court's opinion on agreement of power sharing

†1681. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether an agreement had been signed regarding seeking the Supreme Court's opinion on distribution of power generated by Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukeria Hydel Project, Thien Dam Project, Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) stage-II and Shahpur Kandi project;

(b) if so, whether the said matter has been referred to the Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy for solar panels

1682. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a New Solar Policy to give subsidy to every household to erect their own solar panels in their roof tops for indigenous power generation;

(b) whether many large and major industries require large utilization of power and whether the Central Government has stepped into reducing such enormous power requirement to half by giving one time subsidy and encouraging power saving mechanism; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Claim of surplus power generation

1683. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while claiming that India generates more power now than it needs, as disclosed at the recent meet of the World Economic Forum held on 4th November 2015, Government would concede that the common consumer is subjected to vagaries

of power shortage, especially in rural areas and, if so, Government's explanation to this paradox;

(b) the reasons for consumption of power consistently lagging behind its availability;

(c) whether Government expects UDAY, the newly launched scheme, to make the State Governments formally responsible for the losses of State-owned discoms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Projects undertaken by PGCIL

1684. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being undertaken by the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) including the projects of State Governments;

(b) whether certain transmission projects have been delayed due to land acquisition and delay in power generation installations;

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

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Reform package for loss making electricity utilities

1685. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a reform package for loss making electricity utilities, allowing transfer of 75 per cent of the about ₹ 4.3 lakh crore outstanding debt incurred by stressed discoms to the States' debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government aims to help States in wiping out the discoms' losses by 2019; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Opposition to Electricity
(Amendment) Bill**

1686. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that engineers and staff of State power distribution utilities are opposing the provisions of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill; and

(b) if so, whether Government has ascertained and addressed their concerns and if so, the details thereof?

Increase in power generation

1687. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in power generation in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal between 2012 to 2014;

(b) the amount provided by the Central Government during the last and the current financial years for making these States self sufficient in power generation, head-wise; and

(c) whether these State Governments have utilized the said amount?

**Gap between demand and supply of
power**

1688. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing gap between the demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) the details of steps which are under consideration to meet the gap; and

(c) the details of power projects under construction which would be ready by the end of 2019?

**Accumulated losses of Maharashtra
State Electricity Board**

1689. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of accumulated losses of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, and other State Electricity Boards in the country, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take to improve the financial health of State Electricity Boards in the country?

**Study to reduce CO₂ emission from
thermal power plants**

†1690. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emission from coal-based power plants in view of rising pollution levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal-based power plants located in India consume maximum water in the world and whether these plants are the most inefficient in the world; and

(d) whether thermal power plants in the country are following norms prescribed by Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change regarding consumption of fly ash, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

CSR activities of power PSEs

1691. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of development/welfare schemes funded by various Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Ministry for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) enterprise-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the type of schemes funded, names of beneficiaries, places where such activities have been carried out and the funds allocated therefor during each of the last two years and the current year, enterprise-wise?

Opposition to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill

1692. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:
SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 has attracted the ire of some State Governments as it would have deep impact on India's power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Coal production by NTPC

1693. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is aiming to start production from Jharkhand mine this year for its coal requirement;

(b) whether production from three more coal blocks may commence over the next

two years;

(c) whether NTPC would soon appoint a mine developer and operator for its coal blocks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Demand for higher tariffs private power producers

1694. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private power producers have sought higher tariffs; and

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

Land acquisition award for Parwanoo-Shimla highway

1695. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has rejected the land acquisition awards for the four laning of Parwanoo-Shimla highway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for early completion of land acquisition awards process; and

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

Increase in number of private toll booths

1696. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of private toll booths has increased during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Demands of All India Motor Transport Congress

1697. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the All India Motor Transport Congress requesting for removal of toll system and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to solve these issues?

Bids for Shivpuri-Dewas road project in Madhya Pradesh

1698. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited bids for Shivpuri-Dewas road project in Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) to whom this project was awarded earlier along with the status of work done and the cost of the project proposed earlier and the present estimated cost; and

(c) the details of project like widening, lanes, phases/parts, plan for work distribution to save time and avoid delays?

Four lane National Highways

1699. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the National Highways

(NHs) have four or more lanes;

(b) if not, the length of NHs so converted, in Kilometres;

(c) how many of them are under construction; and

(d) whether expenditure on rehabilitation of those affected by expansion work would, in future, be included in the NH project cost?

Funds for revamping of road transport system in Kerala

1700. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Kerala during the last two years or the current year for allocation of more funds to the State Government to revamp the road transport system in the State;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be allocated to the State in this regard; and

(c) the other steps being taken and schemes being implemented by Government in this regard?

Toll booths on NH No. 47

1701. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of toll booths along National Highway No. 47;

(b) the details of contractors authorized to collect toll at each toll booth and the criteria for their selection;

(c) what are the specifications of contract with them together with the guidelines prescribed and conditions accepted;

(d) the duration of contract and the amount collected, so far, together with the expenditure incurred every month by them;

(e) whether Government is monitoring these contractors periodically;

(f) whether there is any violation of contract conditions; and

(g) how many of them comply with the specifications laid down by the Central Government and whether they are properly audited and accountable?

Measures to reduce accidents on expressways

1702. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider a mandatory check up of vehicles before they get onto expressways, in view of increase in fatal accidents on expressways due to high speed and poor road worthiness of vehicles;

(b) if so, by when such proposals would be examined and implemented; and

(c) if not, the details of other measures proposed to be taken to avoid/minimize such fatal to accidents on expressways to save precious human lives?

Coverage of toll employees under Minimum Wages Act

1703. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees working at toll booths on highways are covered under the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, the details of minimum wages fixed by Government for various categories of such employees;

(c) whether employees are provided identity cards, wage slips, fixed working hours by the toll tax collection contractors and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(d) what is the number of toll booths, State-wise; and

(e) the number of roads on which NHAI collects toll in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra?

Status of work on Vijaywada-Ranchi corridor

1704. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of work on Vijaywada-Ranchi corridor passing through Odisha;

(b) whether the project is delayed and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government expects to complete the projects?

Awarding road projects worth ₹ 5 lakh crore

1705. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to award road projects worth ₹ 1 lakh crore this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government aims to award road projects worth ₹ 5 lakh crore during the next four years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Monetisation scheme for National Highway projects

1706. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a monetisation scheme for National Highway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to accelerate the very slow pace of construction of National Highways?

Amount deposited in CRF

†1707. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Central Road Fund (CRF) by levying surcharge on petrol and diesel ;

(b) if so, the amount deposited in the said fund during the last two years; and

(c) the details of work scheduled to be undertaken through CRF and the work done during the last two years out of this fund, State-wise?

Expansion of National Highways in Kerala

1708. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated steps to build and expand National Highways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much amount has been spent annually on the above during the last five years?

Closure of toll plazas

†1709. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toll plazas throughout the country have not been closed despite the assurance for closing them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when toll plazas would be closed?

Financial assistance from JBIC for highway and expressway projects

1710. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is seeking financial assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for highway and expressway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to use JBIC funds for any of the ongoing or new highway projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Facilities for drivers at highway villages

†1711. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the facilities likely to be made available for drivers at highway villages and the authority responsible for its maintenance;

(b) whether these would be constructed on old highways also along with the estimated cost of its construction and the radius of the area, in kilometres within which it would be constructed; and

(c) the length of highways in kilometres constructed by Government during the last one year and new measures taken to check road accidents?

Prepaid toll passes for private vehicles

1712. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to allow all private vehicles to ply across the entire National Highways network by paying monthly, half-yearly or annual charges;

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

(c) whether the Central Government has sought comments from various Ministries on the aforesaid proposal;

(d) if so, response of the Ministries thereon; and

(e) the formula proposed to be adopted for fixing such charges?

State Government's orders for stopping toll collection

1713. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are

issuing arbitrary orders to stop toll collection by National Highway developers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these developers would be compensated?

NHAI projects in Tamil Nadu

1714. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various ongoing projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of present status of each of such project and the likely time of completion of each of them;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of them are delayed, resulting in cost-overruns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of efforts made by Government for their early completion?

Target to reduce road fatalities

1715. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has set an ambitious target to reduce road fatalities by 50 per cent during the next five years from the current 1.38 lakh deaths annually to nearly 70,000 by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target set by Government is a difficult one and acting proactively with the help of State Governments can go a long way in meeting the benchmark; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents by underage and unlicensed drivers

1716. SHRI M.D. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been cases of road accidents by underage and unlicensed drivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of road accidents caused by such drivers, during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the details of steps taken by Government against underage drivers or their legal guardians for causing such road accidents; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to curb the practice of driving by underage and unlicensed drivers?

Use of technology for checking traffic offences

1717. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken under the new proposed Motor Vehicles Act to create deterrents for traffic offences that are not addressed by human intervention, like police and RTO action, by using technology such as using CCTV footage and e-challans against vehicle registration numbers;

(b) how many challans have been issued using the latest technology during the last three years in various States; and

(c) whether, in view of growing traffic violations, the work of installation of technological devices would be taken on war footing level?

Lump sum financial assistance for pending highway projects

†1718. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared the proposal for giving lump sum financial assistance for incomplete and pending highway projects;

(b) if so, the number of such projects along with their names and locations;

(c) the funds allocated for such projects; and

(d) whether any time-frame has also been fixed to complete these projects and if so, the details thereof?

Use of plastic waste to build roads

†1719. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to use plastic waste to build roads in villages;

(b) if so, the States where plastic waste has been used for building roads and the length of roads so built, in kilometres;

(c) the length of roads targeted to be built by Government annually by using plastic waste and quantum of plastic waste to be used therefor; and

(d) the quantity of plastic waste generated annually in the country and the quantum of waste left after recycling?

Road under/over bridges in Kerala

1720. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the road under/over bridges sanctioned or under construction with Central assistance in Kerala, at present; and

(b) the status of each project?

Construction of tunnel or alternate route on National Highway No. 73

†1721. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal for constructing a new tunnel or alternate route near Daat Kali Mandir, the main gate of National Highway No. 73, which connects Dehradun; and

(b) if so, by when the tunnel or alternate route would be constructed there so that people would find it convenient to visit Dehradun, Mussoorie Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh?

NHAI's proposal for revival of road projects

1722. SHRI PAUL MANOJ
PANDIAN:
SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the one time fund infusion proposal by Government to revive languishing National Highway projects may not be acceptable to the developers and lenders due to claim of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on toll receivables;

(b) whether the lenders may reject NHAI funds to revive ₹ 45,000 crore road projects;

(c) whether the lenders, already having high exposure to these languishing projects, may be unwilling to commit more resources without the help from external resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of NHs in border areas in Rajasthan

†1723. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to build National Highways (NHs) in border areas of western Rajasthan and if so, the details of districts which are proposed to be covered thereunder;

(b) whether any proposal is also under Government's consideration to build Delhi-Jaipur expressway; and

(c) if so, since when and if not, whether Government proposes to build the above expressway?

State Governments to compensate developers for toll loss

1724. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the State Governments to compensate developers for the toll loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments have declined to compensate developers for the toll loss suffered by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dismantling centres for unfit vehicles

1725. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ban plying of all commercial and public diesel vehicles older than 15 years in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for setting up of dismantling centres where unfit vehicles can be scrapped in a controlled manner and the locations where such centres are likely to be set up?

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is still marred with loopholes and is yet to achieve its desired results;

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

(c) whether Government has received complaints particularly with regard to payments to beneficiaries under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the payment system?

MGNREGA Sameeksha II report by UNDP

1726. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Sameeksha II studies brought out by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry, gender discrimination within MGNREGA framework remains, with women excluded from the planning process and deprived of basic work-site facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government has examined the report; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Loopholes under MGNREGA

1727. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's rural employment programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Implementation of rural development projects

1728. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central projects executed for betterment and development of rural infrastructure and rural economy during the last five years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) the current status of the fully and partially funded Centrally sponsored rural development projects/schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu during the above period;

(c) the funds allocated and disbursed for the fully and partially funded Central assistance development Programmes in that State during the above period;

(d) whether Government is providing any financial support for various poor people oriented welfare projects undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Provisions of other works along roads built under PMGSY

†1729. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for construction of bridges, culverts and cement-concrete roads and drains in villages along with the roads, which connect villages, proposed to be built under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether there is a provision for construction of overbridges and underbridges in villages where the roads cross railway tracks; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government would connect those villages with main roads?

Obstructions in Mangal Turbine

1730. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an irrigation project of Mangal Turbine installed by its inventor and the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in village Bailoni Lodh, District Lalitpur, UP was destroyed to take back foreign funds, given by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), by creating obstruction without any feasibility study and legal permission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Vigilance and Monitoring Committees

1731. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of revised guidelines for Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State and district levels to monitor rural development programmes, which were issued by Government in 2010;

(b) the names of States and districts where these Committees are still not functional; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure strengthening of implementation of rural development programmes through these guidelines?

Use of jute and coir geo-textiles in PMGSY roads

1732. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the use of jute and coir geo-textiles in construction of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details of initial evaluation report in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for promoting usages of geo-textiles in construction of roads and river or lake embankment in rural areas across the country?

Targets of Aajeevika scheme under NRLM

1733. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: DR. SANJAY SINH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed by Government in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ajeevika scheme under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) what is the progress of the achievement of these targets and the status of setting up of State missions, State-wise; and

(c) whether this scheme has failed in achieving its objectives?

Status of Mangal Turbine project

1734. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that implementation of a Mangal Turbine project at Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh was sanctioned by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA);

(b) if so, the present status thereof including the amount sanctioned, so far, and the total cost of the project;

(c) whether the project has been completed and, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the bank account of its inventor was seized, and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether its inventor has been victimized by auctioning his ancestral land for ₹ 1 by the State Government and disallowed him a passport illegally and jeopardized his life for such eco-friendly innovation?

Land acquired during 2015

1735. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired under the three ordinances implemented during 2015 to amend the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR), 2013;

(b) the number and details of private, Government and public-private partnership projects for which land was acquired;

(c) the number of people affected by such acquisitions;

(d) the details of compensation and rehabilitation provided to those affected by these land acquisitions; and

(e) the total number of private, Government and public-private partnership projects which have been delayed due to problems in land acquisition, State-wise since 2000?

Demand for pucca houses in Uttar Pradesh

†1736. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that demand for pucca houses is constantly rising in Uttar Pradesh from such people who do not have such houses;

(b) the number of persons who have already been allocated houses and the number of houses yet to be allocated during the current year in the State;

(c) whether Government is considering to formulate any special scheme to meet this demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Participatory planning exercise in poorer blocks

1737. DR. CHANDAN MITRA:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch the Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise in certain poorer blocks of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its salient features, State-wise and UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for addressing various facets of poverty in rural families by incorporating all rural development programmes in a single participatory planning exercise?

Fall in average man days per household under MGNREGA

1738. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average only 46 days of work was offered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2012-13, 46 days during 2013-14 and 40 days during 2014-15 as against mandatory 100 days;

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

(c) what are the reasons for shrinking of rural job plan during the last three years;

(d) to what extent increase in wages under MGNREGA has impacted the reduction in providing man days; and

(e) the efforts being made to improve the man days and how many districts

suffering from drought have been provided with 150 days of work under MGNREGA, so far?

Separate budget for SAGY

†1739. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allocate separate budget for the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

(b) if so, by when and how much; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reduction in MGNREGA funds for Tamil Nadu

1740. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the year 2014-15 for Tamil Nadu, in comparison to the year 2013-14;

(b) whether the cut in central funds was due to poor implementation of the scheme at the State level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Villages adopted under SAGY

†1741. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages adopted under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) till date, Lok Sabha constituency-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the amount allocated by the Central Government thereunder, village-wise; and

(c) the details of amount used in villages included thereunder till date?

Area under bio-fuel plant cultivation

1742. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how much land in the country is cultivated under plants like Jatropha, etc. to provide for bio-fuels under the National Mission on bio-fuels;

(b) the share of bio-fuels so produced in total oil production in the country;

(c) whether the progress is satisfactory in the area of bio-fuel production; and

(d) if not, the reasons identified and the steps taken by Government to increase production of bio-fuels and have satisfactory progress?

Modernization of ports

1743. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to modernize the existing ports in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to develop any new ports in any part of our country during the next couple of years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of Gujarat Maritime Board

1744. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to refer to answer

to Starred Question 253 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2013 and state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by the Central Government on the representations received for extension of IV limits;

(b) whether a final decision has been taken on the demands received in the representations and the same have been acceded to and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the final decision is expected in this regard; and

(d) the updated status of the request of Gujarat Maritime Board sent to the Directorate General of Shipping *vide* their letter dated the 6th February, 2013?

Fund for integrated national waterways transportation grid

1745. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for the integrated national waterways transportation grid;

(b) the estimated date by which the scheme would be implemented;

(c) whether any environmental and social impact assessment has been done for the 101 waterways proposed under the Waterways Bill, 2015 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there are many problems associated with conversion of rivers into waterways including contamination of water, loss of fish species etc. and if so, whether Government has taken into account these problems before introducing the scheme?

Conversion of non-irrigated land into irrigated land

†1746. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to convert non-irrigated land into irrigated land;

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

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

Release of meagre amount under AIBP

1747. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has released very meagre amount under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last three years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that inadequate allocation under the programme is adversely affecting the irrigation infrastructure in the country leading to draughts in many parts of the country and if so, what steps Government is taking in this regard?

Water management technology

1748. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to address the gaps in water management technology transfer and performance to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that out of 502 technologies released till now, only 110 technologies have been transferred successfully to farmers and the returns on water management technologies average 21 per cent at the research station level as compared to average 10.8 per cent at the farm level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Irrigation in Bhagidari in Maharashtra

1749. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to manage irrigation in Bhagidari in Maharashtra and other parts of the country; and

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

Agreement with private players for cleaning of Ganga

1750. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

into agreements with private players for cleaning of Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of private players which have been allowed under PPP mode to cleanse the river;

(d) the details of work undertaken, so far, in this regard; and

(e) the achievements made in the above work, work-wise?

Financial assistance to Gujarat under AIBP

1751. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to the Central Government for considering DDP areas at par with DPAP areas for financial assistance under AIBP which was also recommended by the erstwhile Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government proposes to take to fulfil the said request;

(c) whether the state Government has requested for considering DDP areas at par with DPAP areas regardless of whether it is new project or on going project and the Central Government should revise its guidelines accordingly; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

Fresh water availability in A.P. and Telangana

1752. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER

RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government agrees that dwindling of fresh water supplies, inequitable access to water and corporate control of water are undermining the interests of low income groups in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken/ contemplated to address the issue in the near and long term?

Cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna

1753. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the poor state of rivers in the country;

(b) whether Government plans to announce any initiative or scheme to clean all the major rivers in the country, in addition to Ganga and Yamuna;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with targets and budget allocated river-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of Polavaram dam

1754. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original estimated expenditure for Polavaram dam when it started in 2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that, as per the recent estimates, the project cost has gone up to ₹ 30,000 crore;

- (c) if so, the reasons for cost overrun;
- (d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the dam;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) by when Government would complete the construction of the project?

Ground water level in Tamil Nadu

1755. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the average ground water level in Tamil Nadu has declined considerably during the last five years; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Restructuring of Central Water Commission and Central Ground Water Board

1756. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted a seven member committee to restructure the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board to encourage optimum development of water resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that with most of the Indian rivers found to be polluted, as per a Central Pollution Control Board assessment, the move hold the

potential to help and revive the rivers in a big way; and

- (d) whether the new committee would work on water resource planning, augmenting and budgeting in an integrated manner?

Implementation of water harvesting scheme

1757. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing water harvesting scheme to make adequate water available to the farmers for irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure incurred and the total water harvested during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government has provided central assistance for repair and maintenance of dams and embankments meant for water harvesting to various States including Jharkhand and Gujarat; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated/released/utilized for this purpose, State/UT-wise?

Underground water in Rajasthan

†1758. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of underground water in the State of Rajasthan;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of total districts in the State which have been declared as dark zone; and

(c) whether the Central Government has prepared any special action plan especially for drinking water and irrigation in districts falling under dark zone?

Use of tortoises for cleaning Ganga river

†1759. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to use tortoises for cleaning of river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details of types of tortoises Government is considering to use and the status of their availability; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Draft National Water Framework Bill

1760. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring a draft National Water Framework Bill which obliges States to use water efficiently through enforcement measures;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft Bill;

(c) whether availability of water to each citizen of the country would be provided in the draft Bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th December, 2015
Agrahayana 17, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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