

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, December 16, 2016/Agrahayana 25, 1938 (Saka)*

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(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

#### Production of wheat

3361. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheat in the previous Rabi cycle;

(b) the expected rise in production in the next Rabi cycle;

(c) whether Government is considering higher import duties so as to discourage imports; and

(d) whether the country has adequate stocks of wheat to meet any unforeseeable problem?

#### Providing expensive equipment to farmers on rent

†3362. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to provide trained professional drivers and mechanics to small farmers along with expensive equipments on hourly rent basis;

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

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

#### Current income of farmers

3363. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has targeted to double the farmers, income by 2020;

(b) if so, what is their current income level; and

(c) how it is proposed to achieve the target?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Coconut cultivation in the country**

3364. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area under coconut cultivation in the country;
- (b) whether coconut cultivation is expanding into more States;
- (c) the expected area of coconut cultivation in 2021-22;
- (d) the present production and expected production in 2021-22;
- (e) in what way Government is promoting this crop at present; and
- (f) the future plan of action, if any?

**Fund under fresh water aquaculture development scheme**

†3365. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a provision of total amount of ₹ 146.29 lakh under fresh water aquaculture development scheme (grant to fisheries development agencies) under which a proposal for approval of an amount of ₹ 120.31 lakh and revalidation approval for an amount of ₹ 25.98 lakh was sent against which approval of revalidation amount of ₹ 25.98 lakh has been received and approval for the rest amount of ₹ 120.31 lakh is awaited; and
- (b) if so, by when the remaining amount of the proposal would be approved and released?

**Use of pesticides in agriculture sector**

3366. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether use of pesticides is on the rise in agriculture sector, if so, details of the major pesticides used;
- (b) whether it is a fact that pesticides are used mostly by women working in the agriculture fields; and
- (c) if so, the impact of pesticides on the health of women working in farms?

**Implementation of PMFBY in Madhya Pradesh**

3367. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been implemented in all 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the crop insurance companies identified for implementation of the Yojana in all 51 districts, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of farmers in Madhya Pradesh registered under the Yojana whose premium is being deposited by the Central Government/agencies and State Government/agencies; and
- (d) the district-wise break up with total premium collected from these farmers including in respective ratios of deposit?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Fund for Biological Research Centre  
in Telangana**

3368. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of delegation of MPs and Minister from the State of Telangana has met the Minister recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the delegation has requested the Minister to help in releasing necessary funds to the Biological Research Centre being established in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Ministry on such request, the details thereof?

**Distraction of young generation from  
farming**

†3369. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to make farming remunerative and lucrative;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding success of these efforts in timely manner;

(c) whether it is a fact that young generation has become totally distracted from cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government?

**Use of modern and innovative  
technology**

3370. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our large agrarian economy has been aggravated by the challenges posed by the climate change and urbanisation;

(b) whether putting barriers on modern and innovative technology in such a situation will be self-destructive as technology is a potent option in this situation; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry would reform the regulatory system, make it science-based and insulate it from being swayed by misleading propaganda?

**Growth of foodgrains production in  
the country**

3371. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:  
SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the efforts of Indian agriculture scientists saw the nation record a five fold increase in foodgrains production in last six decades;

(b) whether the net sown area also increased during the last six decades and the high yielding seed varieties played a key role in increasing the production; and

(c) whether the country had developed a number of drought and waterlogging resistant varieties of seeds by various institutions like ICAR, IARI and State/ Central Universities, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Quantum of milk produced and consumed**

3372. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the quantum of milk produced and consumed in the country in view of the present economic crisis due to demonetization of currency notes, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to increase milk production through Co-operatives and other agencies to meet the public demand?

**Improvement in NCIP**

3373. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) was implemented in Odisha;

(b) if so, the response of farmers about the benefits of this insurance programme for the year 2014- 15;

(c) whether any review of the NCIP was conducted based on the feedback of the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the proposal of Government for improvement in NCIP and by when the improved NCIP would be implemented?

**Export of sheep and goat and meat thereof**

3374. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock can be exported to other countries, if so, how many sheep and goats have been exported in this year, the criteria to be fulfilled by farmers to export livestock and whether Government has any scheme for farmers who wish to export livestock; and

(b) whether the meat of sheep and goat can be exported, the countries where this can be exported, the criteria to be fulfilled for the export of meat and the steps taken by Government to increase the export?

**Increase in MSP of pulses**

3375. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to increase MSP of Rabi pulses;

(b) whether the MSP increase is limited to pulses only or is it applied to wheat also, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount by which MSP is being raised; and

(d) the details of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in this regard?

**Setting up of Central Agriculture Universities in Bihar**

†3376. SHRIMATI MISHA  
BHARTI:  
SHRI PREM CHAND  
GUPTA:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

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

(b) if so, the location thereof; and

(c) by when both these Universities would start functioning, the details thereof?

#### **Setting up of Integrated Agro-irradiation Centres**

3377. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia are collaborating to set up Integrated Agro-irradiation Centres in the country to reduce agricultural losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that studies on animals fed with irradiated food items have shown increased tumors, reproductive failures and kidney damage;

(c) whether there is any official study showing irradiated food products do not cause health hazards to human beings; and

(d) whether irradiation of food products reduces the amount of essential nutrients in food?

#### **Production of Orange-spotted grouper fish seeds**

3378. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Marine Fisheries

Research Institute (CMFRI) has succeeded in mass seed production of Orange-spotted grouper, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to make available the seeds of this fish species to sea-cage culture enterprises for mass production at the earliest in order to meet the high demand of this fish in overseas market?

#### **Implementation of PMFBY**

3379. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have not implemented the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons given by each of such States for non-implementation of the Yojana; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to implement the PMFBY all over the country for the benefit of farmers?

#### **Protecting indigenous cows**

†3380. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGT is focussing on the protection of indigenous breed of cows throughout the country, if so, the steps taken by Government for the protection of cows of indigenous breeds, the details thereof;

(b) whether any increase or decrease in the number of indigenous cows has been observed during the last ten years; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the total number of indigenous cows in the country, including Maharashtra, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Legislation to protect the rights of farmers**

3381. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to bring in a pro-farmer seed legislation to ensure regulation of monopolies, price control and to protect the rights of farmers; and

(b) if so, the time-frame therefor?

**Inclusion of sugarcane crop under crop insurance scheme**

3382. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has asked State Governments not to include sugarcane crops under the crop insurance scheme, as it is not a risky crop, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that in many parts of the country the wild animals have been causing damages to sugarcane fields very often causing huge losses to sugarcane growing farmers, necessitating financial protection, if so, Government's view in this regard?

**Second version of APMC Act**

3383. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is considering to come out with second version of model Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act by next year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the APMC Act is aiming to increase farmer's income by measures like taking contract farming out of the law, if so, the details thereof?

**Private investment in agriculture sector**

3384. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of private investment made in the agriculture sector in the last three years, State-wise, including Punjab;

(b) to what extent the schemes, presently run in the country, have been successful in attracting private investment in agriculture sector; and

(c) the innovative means and collaborations Government is contemplating for seeking private investments in agriculture sector?

**Target for foodgrains production**

†3385. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by Government for production of foodgrains in the country in the year 2016-17; and

(b) the cultivated area of pulses likely to be increased in Kharif season for increasing the production of pulses?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Setting up of new fishing harbours in Tamil Nadu**

3386. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new fishing harbours in Tamil Nadu under any Central Scheme to enhance the livelihoods of fishermen, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any special assistance component in the Central Plan for the fishermen, and

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

**Assistance to fishing sector in Tamil Nadu**

3387. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to provide special package of ₹ 975 crore for diversification of fisheries in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the Government's action in this regard;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government in providing adequate financial and logistic support to the fishing sector and for development of fishermen in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the total funds allocated for the same in the last three years, year-wise?

**Commencement of Second Green Revolution**

3388. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has given different statements in 2015 and 2016 as regards commencement of Second Green Revolution; and

(b) if so, from where will the Second Green Revolution commence, the details thereof, with specific timeline?

**Status of proposal from Madhya Pradesh**

†3389. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the status of receipt and approval of a proposal regarding Integrated Approach for the Reclamation of Ravines and Farm Mechanisation and Modernisation Project in Madhya Pradesh, and by when the same would be approved?

**Saving crops of farmers from wild animals**

3390. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that destruction of crops by wild animals in the fields, located close to forests, is a recurring problem putting farmers to a great loss almost every year;

(b) whether Government is aware that farmers of Yelwan Jugai, Taluka Shahuwadi in District Kolhapur, Maharashtra, who are dependent on only one crop in a year, are the worst affected because of this problem; and

(c) if so, the steps Government plans to take to compensate the farmers for the damages caused to the crops in such cases?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Selection of agriculture scientists**

‡3391. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the selection criteria followed to recruit agriculture scientists in the country;

(b) whether a multi-member Agriculture Scientists Recruitment Board has been entrusted with the responsibility to select agriculture scientists and if so, the details thereof including the areas wherefrom these members are selected; and

(c) whether certain members and chairman hold their office despite expiring of their tenure, if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Decline in livestock population**

3392. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 19th Livestock Census shows an overall decline in the total livestock population as compared to the previous Census of 2007, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of livestock population by species as per the latest Census, State-wise?

#### **MoU with countries to improve productivities**

3393. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has entered into an MoU with Armenia, Madagascar and Lithuania to improve the productivity and production and get new technologies for agriculture;

(b) if so, the expertise the above three countries have in agriculture sector; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has not been any MoU since 2011 with Israel which has pioneered in using limited water and getting more output *i.e.* more crop per drop, if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Problems faced by fishermen**

3394. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding problems being faced by fishermen, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has made any efforts to sort out their problems and any incentives proposed for the development of fishermen, the details thereof?

#### **Cold storage capacity in the country**

3395. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of available *vis-a-vis* required cold storage capacity for food products in the country, State-wise, particularly Tamil Nadu;

(b) the quantum of food products that got wasted due to non-availability of cold storage facilities in the last three years and the current year; and

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) the steps being taken by Government to enhance the cold storage capacity in the country?

#### **Promotion of fisheries**

3396. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved any policy for promotion of fisheries and protection as well as well being of fishermen over the years;

(b) if so, the major ingredients of such policy and if not, whether Government would consider evolving such policy after studying all relevant aspects;

(c) the State-wise data pertaining to development of fisheries sector and the names of top three and bottom three States in the context of overall development of this sector; and

(d) the major hurdles in further promotion of fisheries in the country?

#### **Effect of demonetization on sowing of crops**

3397. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are the most victimized due to demonetization as cash is the primary mode of transaction in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether farmers are unable to sow winter crops such as wheat, mustard, chickpeas as they cannot purchase seeds,

fertilizers, implements and tools and make payments to labourers in want of cash;

(d) if so, whether Government considers to take responsibility for such situation and compensate the losses for their crops; and

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

#### **Deep sea fishing**

3398. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deep sea fishing helps fishermen with excessive catch which in turn help in exporting seafood;

(b) if so, what the Ministry is doing under Blue Revolution to help States like Andhra Pradesh, which has the longest coast in deep sea fishing and providing necessary infrastructure;

(c) whether any proposals have come from Andhra Pradesh or from any other coastal State for financial, technical and other assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on such proposals?

#### **Management of crop residues**

3399. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering giving incentives to farmers for sustainable management of crop residues to prevent its burning, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, will it do so along with the State Governments?

#### **Use of farm mechanization**

3400. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of farm mechanization has led to an increase in the yields of crops in States like Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to introduce simpler ways of renting farm equipments to farmers in these areas; and

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

#### **Compensation to fishermen caught by Pakistan Army**

3401. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to provide compensation to the fishermen captured by the Pakistan Army;

(b) if so, the amount given to such fishermen; and

(c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to launch any scheme to provide compensation to such poor fishermen?

#### **Recommendation of NITI Aayog for sale of sick pharma PSUs**

3402. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has recommended closure or strategic sale of sick pharma PSUs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of NITI Aayog; and

(c) whether Government would explore the joint venture route to revive these PSUs since there is a huge shortage of indigenous bulk drugs in the country?

#### **Production, consumption and import of fertilizers**

3403. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production, consumption and import of Urea, DAP and Potassic fertilizers for the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the total subsidy granted to indigenous urea producing units and subsidy given for import of urea during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering withdrawal of subsidy regime for urea in the country, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reducing prices of drugs**

†3404. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to reduce the prices of drugs for various diseases including cancer, malaria, HIV and bacterial infection;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step in this regard; and

(c) if so, the extent of reduction in price, and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Share of Indias pharma sector in Japan**

3405. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the share of India's pharmaceutical sector in Japan;
- (b) whether it is far below;
- (c) the reasons that our market in Japan is limited to only Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients; and
- (d) how India is going to capitalize Japan's market in the light of Government of Japan's decision to attain 80 per cent share of generic medicines by 2018?

**Imported raw material for manufacturing of medicines**

3406. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 65 per cent raw materials are being imported from China for manufacturing antibiotics and other important medicines in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has decided to arrange a meeting with the owners of medicine manufacturers to discuss the matter;
- (c) the action taken by Government to overcome the dependency on Chinese raw materials; and
- (d) whether prices of medicines will be affected, if raw material is procured from countries other than China, if so, the details thereof?

**Expenditure incurred on sick fertilizer units**

3407. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the date-wise details of the Public Sector fertilizer units, since when they were making losses, when they were declared sick, when they stopped production, and when they were formally shut downed;
- (b) the details of the expenditure incurred to meet out their liabilities such as wages and others, after the above stages, year-wise; and
- (c) the details about the disinvestment targets, if any, for such fertilizer units?

**Supply of life saving medicines at controlled and fair rates**

3408. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any road-map to control the prices of life-saving medicines; and
- (b) whether Government contemplates to open Government medical stores in all cities of the country for providing such medicines to the common man at controlled and fair rates and whether some such medical stores have already been opened, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Short supply of Desferal drug**

3409. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Desferal, the life saving drug used by Thalassemia patients, has been in short supply across the country for around a year posing a risk to the lives of around one lakh patients;

(b) whether according to some health activists, the shortage may be artificially created to jack-up prices and therefore needs immediate Government intervention in public interest; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to include the drug in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), the details thereof?

#### **Capping trade margin on drugs and medical devices**

3410. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an inter-Ministerial Committee has recommended for capping of trade margins at 35 per cent of MRP of some of the drugs;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the drugs on which the recommendation made is applicable; and

(c) whether there are any recommendations for capping medical devices, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Capping of medicines' prices**

3411. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medicines capped by the Government at present; and

(b) whether for all other medicines, drug companies are allowed to hike prices by only up to 10 per cent annually, and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Import pricing and consumption of urea**

3412. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the average rate on which urea is imported in a particular year, especially prices during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that prices of urea are very high in the international market when tenders are floated normally, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of urea imported and consumed in a particular year; and

(d) the reasons for not producing enough urea in the country and, by when the country is likely to become self sufficient in meeting the requirement of urea?

#### **Selling of medicines at exorbitant rate**

3413. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several life saving drugs under patent are being sold at exorbitant price in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has identified critical life saving drugs which are not being sold at reasonable prices in terms of section 90(iii) of the Indian Patents Act; and

(c) if so, whether Government is contemplating issuing Compulsory Licenses with regard to these drugs?

#### **Revival of fertilizer plant at Barauni**

‡3414. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiative being taken by Government to re-operationalise the abandoned fertilizer plant located in Barauni, Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister and the concerned Minister had made a declaration during the elections for Legislative Assembly held recently in Bihar with regard to re-operationalising the abandoned plant; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government, so far?

#### **Overhauling drug pricing policy**

3415. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to overhaul the drug pricing policy and ease regulatory frame-work to facilitate smooth business environment for pharmaceutical companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Communication network in Kerala**

3416. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network has reached every nook and corner of the

country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including remotest areas; and

(b) the percentage of communication network in the State of Kerala including its place among other States of the country?

#### **Complaint against MTNL mobile services**

3417. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints regarding poor network connectivity, weak signal, frequent call drop, poor internet services received from subscribers of MTNL mobile services (Dolphin) particularly from subscribers who are residing in Government accommodation in various areas of New Delhi are not attended to properly by the concerned authorities; and

(b) if so, the details of complaints received through various modes including *1503@bol.net.in* and *shhelpline@gmail.com* and the steps taken to rectify the problems?

#### **2G spectrum case**

3418. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all culprits in the 2G spectrum case have been proceeded against;

(b) whether anybody has been punished with regard to it;

(c) how many cases are still pending; and

(d) the loss to Government in this connection?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### 700 MHz spectrum

3419. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 700 MHz spectrum went unsold through auction;

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

(c) whether BSNL has not yet rolled out its 4G services and has sought for provision of a block in the 700 MHz band to start 4G services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

### Deployment of public Wi-Fi

3420. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is exploring for wide deployment of public Wi-Fi in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken/being taken by Government and TRAI in this regard, the details of locations/cities identified where Wi-Fi hotspots have already been set up and being set up, location/city-wise?

### Express Mail Service

3421. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Express Mail Service of India Post has doubled its revenue during the last three years;

(b) if so, the plan of Government to continue the growth of business of India Post;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the limit of single/joint deposits scheme in the Monthly Income Plan to develop the business growth of India Post; and

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

### Data of smartphone and internet users in the country

3422. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data of smartphone users in the country;

(b) the State-wise data of internet users in the country;

(c) the State-wise data of digital transactions using debit/credit cards; and

(d) whether the Ministry is taking steps to enhance digital penetration in rural and urban areas, if so, the details thereof?

### Improving the services of MTNL and BSNL

†3423. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial burden on MTNL;

(b) whether MTNL is facing difficulties in improving its services due to heavy financial burden and debt;

(c) the reasons for unsatisfactory services of Government undertakings, BSNL and MTNL; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to improve the services of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MTNL and BSNL and by when these services will be improved?

**Enquiry into National Internet Backbone contract**

3424. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 107 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25 November, 2016 and state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for departmental inquiry into ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract along with purchase of new hardware; and

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

**Demonetization and poor mobile network communication**

3425. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that poor mobile network communication is a serious problem in the country and additional banking work after demonetization will further hamper the situation;

(b) if so, whether Government is prepared to improve the network position to take care of the additional banking work on mobile system; and

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

**Poor MTNL services in Vasant Vihar**

3426. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL services in New Delhi, particularly in CPWD Colony, Vasant Vihar area, is very poor;

(b) whether inspite of repeated complaints, there is no improvement in the services of MTNL and problem of frequent call drop and network connectivity still persists;

(c) whether due to poor services, subscribers of MTNL are migrating to other Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) under Mobile Number Portability (MNP); and

(d) whether any financial disincentives will be imposed against MTNL for failure to comply with benchmark services?

**Post offices in Chhattisgarh**

†3427. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of main post offices, post-offices and sub post-offices functional in the country, particularly Chhattisgarh;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in Chhattisgarh during the current financial year;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to computerise all post offices in the country including Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to initiate new financial services under Digital India Programme and make post office-

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

based banking facility all the more user-friendly for convenience of people living in naxalite affected rural areas of Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Debt of MTNL and BSNL**

†3428. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:  
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are heavily debt-ridden because of private telecom companies having larger share in landline and mobile services thus causing loss to them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year and reasons therefor, and the number of consumers switching from the said two Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) landline and mobile connections PSU-wise?

#### **Loss of foodgrains due to bad storage facility**

3429. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any loss of foodgrains due to bad storage infrastructure and bad management of stocks in the last two years;

(b) if so, the total quantity and value of foodgrains lost in the last two years; and

(c) the steps, if any, Government has taken to address the issue of loss of foodgrains due to bad storage facilities and bad management of stocks?

#### **Release of Pending dues under PDS to Telangana**

3430. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs and Minister from Telangana has met the Minister recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the delegation has submitted any request seeking release of pending dues of ₹ 1640 crore under PDS quota not released so far, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delegation has also requested to release ₹ 2400 MTs of additional rice, over and above the regular quota of 6400 MTs, for the Government welfare schemes, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to release the above funds without any further delay?

#### **Rise in prices of sugar, wheat, rice and pulses, etc.**

†3431. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market prices of sugar, wheat, rice and pulses have continuously been on the rise during the last two years, if so, the details of market and retail prices during the last five years; and

(b) the quantum of subsidy given on the quantities of sugar, wheat, rice and pulses, and the minimum support price on which these were purchased, the details thereof for the last five years?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Complaints lodged under Food  
Security Scheme**

†3432. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

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

(a) whether Government has received any complaints from State Governments with regard to problems being faced about storage and distribution of foodgrains under Food Security Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to overcome these problems; and

(c) the quantity of main foodgrains distributed and expenditure incurred on implementation of this scheme, State-wise, particularly in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand during the current year?

**Imposition of stock limit on sugar  
mills**

3433. SHRIMATI VIJILA  
SATHYANANTH:  
SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has imposed stock limits on sugar mills recently; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time that Government has imposed curbs on the ₹ 80,000 crore sugar industry ever since it was partially decontrolled in 2013, if so, the details thereof?

**Action taken on helpline  
complaints**

†3434. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing the number of consumer helpline numbers is being contemplated and the States in which these helplines are functional;

(b) the number of complaints received on these helplines and the number of complaints on which action was taken; and

(c) the amount spent on modernisation of consumer court?

**Procurement of foodgrains by  
Government agencies**

3435. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether harvesting of many agricultural produces has begun in many parts of the country and Government is gearing up to procure the lentil at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to avoid distress sale by farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether country has been witnessing that many a times farmers had to sell their produces at throw away prices to recover the cost due to delay in procurement by Government agencies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such recurrences?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### Price of pulses

3436. 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 been asking State Governments to lift pulses from buffer stock and sell it at subsidised prices, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has noticed that there are declining trends in the prices of all pulses in recent weeks, if so, the details thereof?

### Consumer Melas

3437. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether dovetailing with popular Consumer Melas during festive seasons like Diwali, Government has plans to organise consumer grievance redressal camps attended by officials of public utility regulators, big companies and industry bodies;

(b) whether National Consumer Helpline participated in such Melas to educate consumers about their rights and the procedure for seeking grievance redressal; and

(c) whether such Melas will be organised in different parts/States of the country in future?

### Rise in prices of pulses

3438. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantities of pulses imported by Government in the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and variety-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices of pulses inspite of having buffer stocks in the country;

(c) the reasons for not allocating pulses from buffer stock to States that are in real need of pulses;

(d) the outcome of the high-level meeting held recently with the Finance Minister and others; and

(e) the follow-up action taken on the outcome of the aforesaid meeting?

### Foodgrain procuring infrastructure

3439. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating improving the foodgrain procuring infrastructure to increase procurement from farmers;

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

(c) whether State level procurement agencies can help in arranging sufficient credit facilities for carrying out foodgrain purchase activities without depending on the Central Government, if so, the details thereof?

### Regularization of casual labourers in FCI

3440. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of casual labourers in FCI in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the casual labourers in FCI, Delhi, since 1985, with particular reference to its Ghevra depot;

(c) whether Government has regularized around 451 labourers out of 617 in its Ghevra depot and rest have been left, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when rest of the casual labourers would be regularized?

#### **Digitization of ration cards**

3441. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken the process of digitization of ration cards, if so, the details of the progress of the process; and

(b) by when does Government plan to cover all citizens under this scheme, the details thereof?

#### **Scanning of thumb impression for ration supply**

†3442. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed State Governments for providing ration supply at various shops after biometric scanning of thumb impression of the card holder, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Governments have supplied the machines to all ration shops, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these machines are being inspected time to time, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of NFSA**

3443. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have implemented the NFSA;

(b) the main hurdles pointed out by State Governments in implementing it;

(c) the quantity of rice and wheat required to implement NFSA all over the country;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains produced in the country in 2014 and 2015; and

(e) whether the quantity of foodgrains produced in the country is sufficient to implement NFSA successfully?

#### **Supply of additional foodgrains to Kerala**

3444. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed by Central Government to allocate foodgrains to States for Public Distribution System;

(b) how much foodgrains and sugar is provided to Kerala as per the existing criteria;

(c) whether there is any reduction in the allocation, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether in view of more than 25 lakh workers from outside working in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Kerala, the Central Government would allocate additional foodgrains for them?

**Setting up of a body to monitor price-fluctuation of essential commodities**

‡3445. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any integrated system in place to deal with sharp fluctuations in the prices of essential commodities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to constitute a body to monitor and intervene in cases of sharp changes in prices of essential commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for constitution of such body, if so, the details thereof?

**Construction of godowns in Kerala**

3446. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has enough godowns under Food Corporation of India (FCI) to store rice and other essential commodities to meet any eventuality; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government to construct more godowns in the State?

**Offtake of foodgrains by States**

3447. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States, particularly Jharkhand and Gujarat, are unable to lift their quota of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Public Distribution System (PDS) schemes, the details thereof State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government proposes to review the policy of supplying foodgrains to States under PDS and BPL schemes in view of decreased offtake of quota by them, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether in view of low offtake, Government is unable to fix the quota for export of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken in this regard?

**Aadhaar cards issued in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

3448. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Aadhaar cards have been issued in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) whether there are any reports of misuse of these cards from the two States;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken prior permission of Centre/UID Authority while linking Aadhaar number with several welfare schemes in the State; and

(d) if not, why the State was allowed to make use of the UID data?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Unique Biometric Competency Centre**

3449. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UIDAI has set up a Unique Biometric Competency Centre (UBCC);

(b) if so, whether UBCC has been established to address the biometric challenges faced by UIDAI, if so, what are these challenges;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many instances, while using Aadhaar for identification, instead of biometrics, other safety measures like One-Time Password (OTP) is being used;

(d) if so, then what is the need of collecting biometric data under Aadhaar; and

(e) whether Government intends to make use of biometric compulsory despite security challenges?

**Constituting Future Group to predict future course of telecom industry**

3450. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country which is moving towards e-commerce, e-banking and other digital platforms for modern day business and governance is facing disillusionment; and

(b) if so, the reasons why TRAI has not constituted a "future group" with tech gurus, service providers and industry geeks

to predict the future course of domestic and global telecom?

**Aadhaar cards made in urban and rural areas**

†3451. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons whose Aadhaar cards have been made in the rural and urban areas and the number of persons whose cards are yet to be made, the details thereof;

(b) the names of schemes to which the Aadhaar cards have been linked and the total number of Aadhaar cards linked therewith along with the total number of Aadhaar cards pending to be linked, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of schemes to which the linking of Aadhaar cards has been proposed, the details thereof?

**Increase in cyber crimes**

3452. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an unprecedented increase in cyber crimes in the country and it has grown to 350 per cent in five years;

(b) if so, the response of Government to deal with internet crimes;

(c) how many persons out of 32,000 cyber crimes reported between 2011 and 2015, were convicted and why the conviction rate is very meagre; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether, in view of recent demonetisation and increased cashless transactions, Government would review present cyber laws and legal framework to make them more stringent and comprehensive, if so, the details thereof?

**E-Kranti-Electronic delivery of services**

3453. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the reach of Digital India Programme in rural areas in the last two years;

(b) how many Gram Panchayats in the country have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and the schedule of target, with details thereof;

(c) the details of efforts made to provide internet facility at cheaper rates; and

(d) under e-Kranti- Electronic delivery of services, how many Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) were launched, the areas covered and the impact thereof, the details thereof?

**Cyber security platform**

†3454. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the platform for cyber security will be prepared;

(b) the measures to tackle cyber security presently and the amount being spent to strengthen it; and

(c) whether adequate number of cyber security experts are available in the country?

**Electronics manufacturing clusters**

†3455. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the State-wise details of currently operational electronics manufacturing clusters in the country and by when proposals for setting up new clusters will be approved and operationalised, the State-wise details thereof, including Madhya Pradesh?

**Job creation and hiring in electronics and IT sector**

3456. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new job creation and hiring in electronics and IT sector has gone down sharply in the last three years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of new job creation and hiring in the electronics and IT sector during the last three years?

**Section 43A of IT Act**

3457. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has State-wise statistics on the cases registered and convictions under Section 43 A of the IT Act;

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to take steps to address the issue that the IT rules on reasonable security practices does not specify the period within which corporate bodies are required to provide a policy for privacy and disclosure; and

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

#### **Ingredients of Digital India programme**

3458. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major ingredients of the Digital India programme and the details of progress made thereunder so far;

(b) the top five States responding to the efforts of the Central Government in promoting information technology in a proactive manner, the nature of their response along with the States either not responding or responding very slowly; and

(c) the special efforts being undertaken by Government to end digital divide effectively and whether these efforts are time-bound?

#### **Mobile phone sets in the country**

3459. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many mobile phone sets are in use in the country;

(b) the requirement of mobile sets per year; and

(c) whether there is any lacuna in mobile

sets leading to their misuse, which is harming common man, if so, the steps taken by Government to stop it?

#### **Promotion of Food Zones/Clusters**

3460. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of food processing units in the country resulting in farmers not getting fair price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details and impact thereof along with requirement and availability of such facilities, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for development and promotion of Food Zones/Clusters to ensure adequate supply of raw material to food processing units in the surplus fruit and vegetable growing areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with steps taken in this regard?

#### **Investment proposals in Food Processing sector**

3461. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and value of investment proposals received and approved by Government for setting up of cold chains in the country after the revised guidelines for Twelfth Five Year Plan came into effect, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of such proposals for Jharkhand and Gujarat, the details thereof;

(c) the number and value of Foreign Direct Investment proposals received in this regard; and

(d) whether Government has any proposal to attract more investment for setting up of cold chains, if so, the details thereof?

**Development of infrastructure for judiciary**

3462. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary, including construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers/Judges of Subordinate Courts across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds released for this purpose to Tamil Nadu since inception of the Scheme; and

(c) the details of infrastructure created in Tamil Nadu since inception of the Scheme?

**Reservation for women in Legislatures and urban local bodies**

3463. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for consideration of a Bill providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies; and

(b) the steps taken in the past one year to provide for 50 per cent reservation for women in the urban local bodies, if any?

**Disposal of cases by Lok Adalats**

3464. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the number of pending cases disposed of by Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats, separately, in the country in the last three years and the current year, as on 31 October, 2016;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued recently to State Legal Services Authorities to include all disputes, including e-transaction cases, pending in the Courts at pre-litigation stage for compromise/final settlement; and

(c) the efforts made to expand the scope of National Legal Services Authority for delivery of legal aid and providing justice at door-step of the common men, the details thereof?

**Steps to reduce backlog of pending Court cases**

3465. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that our judicial system is facing extensive workload;

(b) if so, the reforms Government is planning to put forth; and

(c) the Government's plan to reduce backlog of decade old pending cases?

**Appointment of Notaries**

3466. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan



to appoint Notary Public in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total number of Notary Advocates in the country, State-wise?

#### **Establishment of Bench of Odisha High Court**

3467. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha has written to the Ministry recommending early establishment of permanent Bench of Odisha High Court in West Odisha Development Council area based on the continuous demand of local people over a period of more than half a century;

(b) if so, whether any response, in this regard, has been given by the Ministry to the Government of Odisha; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

#### **Ease of access for physically challenged/senior citizens**

3468. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds would be required to enable ease of access for the physically challenged/senior citizens with access to ramps, escalators and/or elevators across the country; and

(b) the update on the number of stations that have standard ramps at entry points/ escalators and elevators for easy access?

#### **Allotment of land in Bihar for agriculture**

‡3469. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have allotted railway land from Samastipur to Muzaffarpur and Hajipur to Barauni *via* Bachhwara in Bihar for agricultural work during the last five years;

(b) if so, the total area of land allotted for agricultural work; and

(c) the amount of income Railways received due to this, year-wise?

#### **Funds sanctioned for railway safety**

3470. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any funds for railway safety between 2005 and 2016, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the reports and findings of railway accidents are published in the public domain, if so, the number of documents published between 2005 and 2016; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not making them public?

#### **Pension liability of Railways**

3471. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pension liability of Railways is more than 34 per cent of its budgeted working expenditure; and

(b) if so, the take of Ministry of

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Finance in this regard after decision to merge Rail Budget with the General Budget?

**Rate list of foods and beverages served in Express trains**

3472. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the trains, food is provided by the vendors under IRCTC, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has approved a particular rate list for foods and beverages;

(c) if so, the details of rate list of foods for the Express trains/Rajdhani express/Shatabdi express, etc.; and

(d) whether IRCTC has conducted raids or carried out inspection about the quality of food and the rate at which the vendors are selling their food products in the trains?

**Recommendations of the Anil Kakodkar Committee**

3473. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to implement the recommendations of the Anil Kakodkar Committee to improve the safety of Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to empower foremen, through training and technology, to enable them do their work more efficiently, if so, the details thereof?

**Electrification of railway networks**

3474. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would consider full electrification of railway networks;

(b) whether any research has been carried out to check the feasibility of full electrification; and

(c) the cost to Government for full electrification of railway networks?

**Attacks in trains by robbers**

3475. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures undertaken to increase security in outstation trains in the wake of recent attacks in trains by robbers, as reported in some sections of the media;

(b) whether security measures have been enhanced at important stations to deter unauthorized entry of miscreants; and

(c) whether there is a scope for monetary compensation for passengers affected by such incidents of robbery in trains using the newly introduced insurance scheme?

**Capital expenditure on Railways**

3476. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) finalized or talks initiated and joint ventures formed or being explored as the capital expenditure on Railways for 2016-17, estimated at approximately ₹ 1,21,000 crore, was to be implemented through joint ventures with States and new frame-works for PPP;

(b) the district-wise break-up of capital expenditure proposed and actually incurred in the last three years till date, in Maharashtra; and

(c) the district-wise break-up of kind of capital expenditure projects started in the last three years and their status of progress in Maharashtra?

#### **FDI in Railways**

‡3477. SHRI PREM CHAND  
GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI MISHA  
BHARTI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by Government, so far, after allowing foreign direct investment in Railways;

(b) the details of such proposals; and

(c) Government's view about foreign investment?

#### **Sanctioning of new railway projects**

3478. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Railways will consider sanctioning of the ten new projects, namely, Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh) Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh, Jeypore-Nabarangpur, Bargarh-Nuapada *via* Padmapur (120 kms), Talcher-Gopalpur (245 kms), Puri-Konark (35 Kms), Rupsa-Bangriposi to Gorumahisani (35 kms), Badampahar to Keonjhar (70 kms), Berhampur-Phulbani (169 kms), Rayagada-Gopalpur *via* Gunupur-Bhismagiri and Digapahandi and Gunupur-Therubali-Rayagada (79 kms)?

#### **Appointment of Sulabh International as brand ambassador of Railways**

3479. SHRI MAJEED MAMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve sanitation facilities in railways, Railways have appointed Sulabh International as its brand ambassador; and

(b) whether Railways will also form some local committees involving railway officials, local schools, colleges and civil society groups to make people aware of cleanliness and sanitation issues at railway premises to make Swachh Rail Mission more popular, the details thereof?

#### **Contamination of foodgrains during transportation**

3480. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the contamination of foodgrains with cement and other harmful materials due to the usage of unclean wagons for their transportation; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken by Railways to avoid such contamination of foodgrains with harmful materials?

#### **Increasing the speed of trains connecting southern India**

‡3481. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway routes identified for running of trains at high speed in the country;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is contemplating enhancing the speed of long distance trains connecting southern India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Preparation of BPL and AAY lists**

3482. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is still struggling hard to prepare BPL and AAY lists which are free from bogus/ineligible beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive policy to advise the States, including Tamil Nadu, to prepare genuine lists of BPL and AAY beneficiaries; and

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

#### **Rashtriya Rail Samraksha Kosh**

3483. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced Mission Zero Accident in the railway Budget, 2016;

(b) whether the Ministry has made a request to the Ministry of Finance to make a provision for a dedicated fund of ₹ 1,19,183 crore, called the Rashtriya Rail Samraksha Kosh, for carrying out safety-related projects; and

(c) whether the Ministry will emphasise on the Ministry of Finance to provide this fund at the earliest in light of the train derailment at Kanpur?

#### **Availability of purified water at railway stations**

3484. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purified water supply systems are not working properly at railway stations, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 50 per cent of the railway stations do not have proper purified water supply system, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken note of the matter and made any efforts to make available purified water systems at all railway stations; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to ensure supply of purified water at all railway stations?

#### **Smart railway stations**

3485. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 500 railway stations in the country will smarten up with better passenger amenities, easy access and integrated public transport hubs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Free Wi-Fi at railway stations**

3486. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have teamed up with Google to provide free public Wi-Fi at railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise data of railway stations which have Wi-Fi services;

(c) the number of passengers using such services; and

(d) whether the Ministry is planning to extend such services to other railway stations in the country, if so, the details and deadline of such projects?

#### **Increasing speed of trains**

†3487. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral rail corridor and two important railway lines, *i.e.* Delhi-Chennai and Howrah-Mumbai count for 16 per cent of total railway lines of the country but these lines are able to carry only 56 per cent of goods and 52 per cent of passengers, of their capacity, and whether the main cause of such situation is slow-running passenger trains being operated on these routes;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the speed of trains on these routes; and

(c) the total average speed of all goods and passenger trains in the country?

#### **Safety and security of women passengers**

3488. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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

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

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

#### **Dynamic pricing**

3489. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced dynamic pricing in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the fare of these trains is higher than airline fare in some sectors; and

(c) whether Government plans to implement this pricing system for other trains as well, the details thereof?

#### **Increasing the frequency of trains from Jodhpur to southern India**

†3490. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ticket booking status

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for the trains going to South India from Jodhpur in Rajasthan turns to 'no room' just one hour after the booking of ticket starts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the frequency of trains running between Jodhpur and southern India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **MoU with Government of Odisha for new railway lines**

3491. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a MoU has been signed with Government of Odisha for new railway lines connecting Jeypore with Nabarangpur and Jeypore with Malkangiri;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which the MoU is based and the time-line for its completion; and

(c) the status of a railway line initiated by the British during 1934, connecting Kantabanji to Bhadrachalam through Rajkhariar, Ampani, Nabarangpur and Jeypore?

#### **Target of laying new rail lines**

†3492. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had set any target of laying new railway lines during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the achievements made out of the targets set, so far;

(d) whether there has been a decline in the rate of laying of new rail lines, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to achieve the set targets?

#### **Routes of Tejas and Antyodaya trains**

3493. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 680 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2016 and state:

(a) whether routes of Tejas and Antyodaya trains have now been finalised;

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

(c) whether the new Talgo trains are proposed to be introduced on the routes selected for above trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government is taking to expedite implementation of its decisions?

#### **Redevelopment of railway stations in partnership with NBCC**

3494. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:  
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to redevelop railway stations into world class terminals in partnership with National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC);

(b) if so, the details of these railway stations;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between Railways and NBCC in this regard recently; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Leasing out of spaces at railway stations to e-commerce companies**

3495. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to lease out the abandoned buildings at railway stations as warehouse spaces to e-commerce companies to make their pick-up points, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the other incentives proposed to be given to e-commerce companies in this way, the details thereof?

**Train accident near Kanpur**

3496. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:  
DR. K. V. P. RAMA-  
CHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to rethink about safety in Railways in view of the recent train accident near Kanpur, if so, the details thereof;

(b) when were the tracks, where the derailment took place, last inspected;

(c) whether Government has any plan to ensure safety in railways; and

(d) the number of deaths due to train accidents reported during last five years?

**Container depot at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand**

3497. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one container depot of the Container Corporation of India operating in Jharkhand at Jamshedpur;

(b) the incoming and outgoing container business done by the depot, year-wise, for the last three year, viz., 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16; and

(c) whether this depot has any programme for handling steel items from M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., if so, the expected date of commencement?

**Rail coach facility at Ranchi**

3498. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project of Rail Coach Factory at Palakkad, Kerala, sanctioned in the year 2012-13, has not taken off;

(b) whether Railways are aware that M/s Heavy Engineering Corporation, Jharkhand, a PSU, has huge infrastructure, including railway siding, water supply, housing, etc.; and

(c) if (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, whether Railways would put up a Rail coach facility at Ranchi to make coaches of stainless steel and aluminium?

**Budget provision for railway projects in Uttarakhand**

†3499. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budget provision made by the Ministry for rail expansion, building railway tracks, etc. for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2016-17;

(b) the details of the amount provided under each head; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the quantum of amount provided in the financial year 2017-18 for the State of Uttarakhand?

**Survey of Ramnagar-Chaukhutiya railway route**

‡3500. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval for conducting the survey of Ramnagar-Chaukhutiya railway route had been given earlier also;

(b) if so, the details of year, month and date thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent on survey since approval of survey of this railway route was accorded, the year-wise details thereof?

**Share of West Bengal in new railway line projects**

3501. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of West Bengal in new railway line projects during the last five years;

(b) the number of projects where work has commenced and the details of work completed so far, Zone-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Governments contribute equally in some projects, if so, the number of such projects with Government of West Bengal; and

(d) whether due to this condition, there is more likelihood of projects getting stalled?

**De-commissioning of ICF coaches**

3502. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee on Rail Safety had clearly stated that coaches from Integral Coach Factory (ICF) should be removed as they did not have anti-climbing designs to reduce impact of accidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Patna-Indore Express, involved in the recent accident, had only ICF coaches;

(c) the reasons for Railways not removing the accident-prone ICF-designed coaches; and

(d) the steps proposed to de-commission all ICF coaches across the Indian Railways within this fiscal year?

**Special features of LHB coaches**

3503. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anil Kakodkar Committee on Rail Safety had recommended in 2012 that all railway coaches in the country be replaced with Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches to enhance rail safety;

(b) whether Railways have accepted this recommendation;

(c) if so, the special features of LHB coaches in reducing train accidents and fatal casualties;

(d) how many LHB coaches so far have been inducted into Railways; and

(e) the steps proposed to enhance rail safety?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Negative growth in freight and passenger volume of Railways**

3504. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise data of increase or decrease in freight volume carried by Railways in the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have seen a negative growth of 3 to 4 per cent, both in freight and passenger volume, in the year 2015-16; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this negative growth?

**Funds for repair and maintenance of railway tracks**

3505. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the precautionary steps Government is taking to ensure that incidents such as derailment of Patna-Indore Express near Kanpur, in which around 140 people died, do not take place in future as train derailment is not so uncommon in the country;

(b) the yearly allocation of funds in the last three years, dedicated especially for the repair and maintenance of railway tracks;

(c) whether Government is planning to increase these funds for better maintenance of railway tracks; and

(d) if so, by what amount and by when?

**Inclusion of transgenders as an option in railway ticket forms**

3506. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has included transgenders as third gender in the option alongside male and female in railway ticket reservation and cancellation forms;

(b) if so, whether transgenders will be provided benefits accorded to socially and economically backward classes and women; and

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

**Safety and amenities in suburban trains**

3507. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Railways in improving passenger safety and passenger amenities in suburban train services across the country; and

(b) the measures adopted to improve the safety and security of women passengers who are often harassed in suburban trains?

**Sanctioned ROBs in Andhra Pradesh**

3508. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sanctioned 20 ROBs for Andhra Pradesh in the last three years, *i.e.* 2013-14 to 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details of ROBs sanctioned, district-wise;

(c) the status of the above ROBs, ROB-wise;

(d) by when they are likely to be completed; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is

a fixed period within which ROB's have to be completed?

**Redressal of problems of weavers and artisans of North Eastern Region**

3509. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that weavers and artisans of North Eastern Regions (NERs) are facing problems due to non-receipt of funds from Government;

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

(c) whether weavers and artisans in the country are also facing shortage of marketing facilities; and

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

**Revival of spinning mills in Odisha**

3510. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps would be taken by Government for providing necessary infrastructure and technical support to develop Konark Spinning Mill, bestowed with state-of-the-art facilities, to provide much needed support to the languishing Textile sector in Odisha; and

(b) whether Government has any proposal to provide support for revival of three spinning mills closed down in Odisha due to obsolescence?

**People employed in Handloom industry**

3511. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Handloom industry is one of the industries in the country which uses labour intensive techniques;

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

(c) the number of people currently employed in the industry throughout the country?

**Revising the provisions of TUFs**

3512. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the provisions of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) with a plan to boost Make in India in the Textile sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the budget provisions made and the incentives being offered to Handloom sector for the said purpose in the current financial year?

**Protecting domestic Sericulture Industry**

3513. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to cut in customs duty on silk imports, Chinese silk has swamped the South Indian Sericulture Industry, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Ministry is planning to protect the domestic Sericulture Industry and push it to complete with the Chinese silk; and

(c) the efforts made by Government in this regard?

#### **Decline in exports of textiles**

3514. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile export of the country has been consistently falling down;

(b) if so, the corresponding data of the last three years and the reasons for the decline;

(c) whether it is also a fact that trade agreements with various countries in Textile sector need to be fast tracked and whether this is also a reason for the decline in exports; and

(d) the action taken by Government to address the declining export of textiles?

#### **Support to Textile industry of Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra**

3515. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra used to be known as Manchester of India for having a large number of handlooms for manufacture of quality cotton;

(b) whether Government is aware that majority of handlooms have either been closed down or on the verge of closure because of high cost of production and lack of marketing facilities making thousands of craftsmen jobless; and

(c) if so, the steps Government plans to take to support the local Textile industry of Ichalkaranji?

#### **Measures to provide relief to Powerloom industry**

3516. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the newspaper report under the caption "Powerloom industry stares at shutdown" appeared in a leading daily, dated the 26 November, 2016;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide relief measures to the Powerloom industry, including supply of yarn on credit basis and asking banks to provide liquid cash to the industrial units located all over the country to tide over the situation?

#### **Protection of domestic textile industry**

3517. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported textile products are severely hampering the interests of domestic textile industry;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to support the domestic textile industry; and

(c) the value of import of textile products during the last three years and its ratio with value of domestic production?

**Revival of Textile industry of Kanpur**

3518. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the textile mills running in Kanpur;

(b) the number of mills shut down over the years due to various problems;

(c) whether Government proposes to revive old textile mills and provide jobs to workers who became jobless; and

(d) whether Government has conducted any study on textile industry of Kanpur and prepared any revival plan, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Urban Haats**

3519. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for setting up, promotion and operation of Urban Haats in the country during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise and Haat-wise details of project proposals received for setting

up of Urban Haats in the country along with the current status of those proposals including district-wise details for West Bengal;

(c) the details of existing Urban Haats in West Bengal, district-wise; and

(d) the revenue earned and expenditure incurred along with beneficiaries reached through these Haats during the last three years?

**Effect of demonetisation on textile industry**

3520. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of demonetisation on the textile industry;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fact that thousands of workers were laid off from the Textile industry due to cash crunch in powerloom firms: and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to tackle the issue?

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