

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 18, 2015/Agrahayana 27, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Vacant posts in consumer fora

*211. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA
RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many posts
are lying vacant in the consumer fora/
courts leading to piling up of cases,
particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether Government will
undertake measures to fill up all vacant
posts in a time-bound manner?

Letters received by Minister from Members of Parliament

*212. SHRI GULAM RASOOL
BALYAWI: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from
Members of Parliament by him since
August, 2014, till date;

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

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

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

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

Representations for railway projects

*213. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N.
VEGAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received
representations from various organisations/
road users as well as from Government of
Gujarat for gauge conversion, new railway
lines and doubling of railway lines which
are essential and necessary for development
of ports and industries, if so, the full details
thereof; and

(b) by when the work is likely to start
along with the probable time-frame for each
project?

Direct procurement of farmers' produce

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

(a) whether Government would bring in a mechanism to procure the farmers' produce directly through Government Procurement Centres to stop farmers' suicides as many farmers are not aware of the market value of their produce and they are exploited by middlemen and traders who provide very limited price for their produce; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government would bring out a system to resolve farmers' issues all over the country and protect the welfare of grieving farmers?

Services of BSNL and MTNL in Himachal Pradesh

†*215. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL and BSNL are lagging behind the private telecom companies across the country and especially in Himachal Pradesh and in many States their services are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the concrete measures the Ministry is taking to streamline and strengthen the services of BSNL and MTNL; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that BSNL services in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh have collapsed and sub-exchanges

under Rohru Telecommunication Centre are either nearly closed or are closing down?

Arrangements for Simhastha Kumbh Mela

†*216. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the special additional arrangements made so far for pilgrims' convenience in Ujjain and all other routes leading to Ujjain for Simhastha Kumbh Mela to be held in Ujjain early in the year 2016 and at which stations these special arrangements have been made, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of additional trains to be in operation for the above purpose?

Production of onion

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

(a) whether production of onion has declined in the current season as compared to the last season due to untimely and excessive rain, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is making any efforts to control the prices of onion and for its storage, if so, the details thereof?

Pathetic condition of farmers in Chhattisgarh

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

(a) whether the issue of suicide by farmers due to drought or other reasons in Chhattisgarh has been deliberated upon;

(b) whether Government proposes to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

provide full assistance to farmers who are in pathetic situation and getting little relief for loss of their crops due to lack of rain and problems such as costly fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, ploughing and sowing; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide sufficient relief to the drought affected farmers?

Inspection of railway tracks

*219. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have ordered all the Railway Zones to carry out inspection of tracks and to maintain them according to the prescribed standards, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the inspection carried out at many places, it has been found that the tracks were in a very shabby condition, if so, the details thereof?

Women compartments in trains

*220. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are very few women compartments in various trains on important routes, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that generally, men have been found travelling in women's compartments and if so, the reasons for not providing adequate safety in women compartments?

Restructuring of Railway Protection Force

*221. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Protection Force (RPF) and policing in railways badly need restructuring and revamping, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that RPF requires more legal support to tackle the menace of crime on railway network; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by railways in this regard?

Protecting identity of Bhagalpur as 'Silk city'

†*222. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhagalpur is known as 'Silk city' but it is losing its said identity; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect its identity?

Backlog vacancies of SC and ST category

*223. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of backlog vacancies belonging to SC and ST category in Group A and B posts, as on 31 March, 2015; and

(b) the number of backlog vacancies filled up during April, 2014 to March, 2015 in Group A, B, C and D posts?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Quality of service provided by telecom
service providers**

*224. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom service providers are lagging behind in providing quality service to customers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is of the view that service providers are not adhering to the norms laid down, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to make the service providers/

telecom companies follow the norms and provide quality service to the customers?

**Manipulations in software of static
and in-motion weighbridges**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that manipulations have been found in the software of static and in-motion weighbridges of Railways for weighment purposes;

(b) if so, the quantum of freight charges likely to be lost due to such manipulations; and

(c) the action being taken by Government against the manipulators?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th December, 2015
Agrahayana, 21, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 217, 218,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 212, 215, 224,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 211, 214,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Law and Justice	: —
Railways	: 213, 216, 219, 220, 221, 223, 225,
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