

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

#### Compensation for crop failures

2241. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 18 States are affected by poor rains this season but only four States are declared drought affected making it difficult for the affected farmers to get compensation for their crop failure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

#### Implementation of crop insurance schemes

2242. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have insured their crops under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) and Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), State-wise; and

(b) the average area insured under these three schemes during 2011-12 to 2013-14, seasons-wise break-up thereof?

#### Damage to crops in Maharashtra

2243. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Maharashtra are facing tremendous loss of their crops due to insufficient rains;

(b) if so, in how many hectares the crops were lost;

(c) whether Government will come forward to compensate farmers who suffered damage to their crops; and

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

#### Installation of drip and sprinkler irrigation system

2244. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government scheme that helps in promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation system;

(b) whether Government offers any subsidy to farmers through any scheme encouraging them to install these systems on their farms and whether there is some special package for poor and marginal farmers; and

(c) the number of drip irrigation/sprinkler irrigation system installed during last five years in Punjab and Haryana with the help of Government scheme which have resulted in saving of precious water?

**Non payment by NAFED to State agencies of Rajasthan**

†2245. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the reasons for non-payment of prices of groundnut procured on minimum support price by NAFED, in the year 2013-14 and other expenses to the State agencies RAJFED and Tilam Sangh?

**Recognition of BVSc and AH degree introduced in veterinary colleges, Shimoga, Karnataka**

2246. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had approached the Central Government in June, 2014 for recognition of BVSc and AH degree introduced in veterinary colleges, Shimoga and to permit the graduates, who have passed out to register with the Karnataka Veterinary Council so that they could be recruited in the Government Departments/Organisations;

(b) whether Central Government has considered the request; and

(c) if so, when will the Government approve of the same and communicate to the State Government?

**Production of pulses**

2247. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of area and yield of pulses in the country;

(b) how they have moved during the last five years;

(c) whether there is a need to increase production of pulses in the country;

(d) if so, how the Government proposes to achieve this; and

(e) how far increase in MSP of pulses can help to achieve this objective?

**Compensation for loss of crops**

†2248. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have submitted applications for Government compensation for loss of their crops during the last three years, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of farmers who have been given compensation and the number of farmers for whom compensation has been sanctioned; and

(c) the total amount paid as compensation for loss of their crops the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Adverse effects of climate change on agriculture**

2249. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clear indications of change in climate are being noticed in the country and this has begun affecting the agriculture of the country adversely, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any study about the adverse effects of climate changes on agriculture; and

(c) if so, the details of the report in this regard?

**Organic and innovative techniques of farming**

2250. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are comprehensive schemes to initiate and encourage organic farming in the country;

(b) whether there are plans to provide subsidy to farmers to develop vermi compost, cow dung manure and other natural plant manures, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed agenda before Government to enrich the fertility of soil, strengthen healthy soil with new innovative techniques; and

(d) the new planting, ploughing and harvesting techniques for increased paddy, wheat grains, pulses crops and mode of educating farmers in new types of profitable agriculture?

**Cultivation of organic foodgrains**

2251. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the cultivation, production and sale scenario of organic food in the country;

(b) the steps Government is taking to familiarise the farmers about it;

(c) the steps Government is taking to popularize and switchover to organic food;

(d) the export potential of organic food;

(e) the schemes/incentives to encourage its cultivation; and

(f) the comparative profit margin to farmer, in cultivation of one hectare of wheat, by use of chemical fertilizers *vis-a-vis* organic manure?

**Special package for organic farming development programme**

†2252. SHRI DIGVIJAYSINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government would provide a special package to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe dominated forest areas in Madhya Pradesh for organic farming development programme?

**Implementation of NHM**

†2253. Dr. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts/development blocks included by Government under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM), the details thereof, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the criteria to include districts/development blocks under NHM, the details thereof; and

(c) the facilities provided under the National Horticulture Mission?

#### **MSP for agricultural produces**

2254. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of MSP of wheat, paddy and other grains/agricultural produce in Pakistan and China along with their comparison in India;

(b) whether MSP of wheat and paddy is more in Pakistan and China than India;

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

(d) the details of the number of farmers who have left their profession due to non remunerative MSP of agricultural produces during 2015, so far, State-wise?

#### **Downward trend in foodgrains production**

2255. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ₹ 50,000 crore Union Government Scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has seen progress in implementation given that India's foodgrains production has declined by 5.25 per cent to 251.12 million tones in 2014-15 crop year against the record 265.04 million tones in the previous year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for downward trend in foodgrains production despite the vast spending on irrigation?

#### **Decline in sowing of coarse cereals**

2256. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sowing of coarse cereals has declined 6 per cent to 5.51 million hectares in December last;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor compared to the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to correct the situation by announcing the incentives to coarse cereals in the current year?

#### **Failure of crops due to unseasonal rains and monsoon failure**

2257. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been unseasonal rains and monsoon failure this year;

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

(c) how many crops have failed this year because of unseasonal rains or monsoon failure, State-wise details for each crop;

(d) how many cases of farmers' suicide have been reported so far this year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to reduce the dependency of agriculture on monsoon?

#### **Impact of monsoon on production of foodgrains**

2258. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of monsoon this year compared to the last year;

(b) the impact of this year's monsoon on the foodgrains production in the country;

(c) the alternative measure Government is taking in the event of less foodgrains production; and

(d) the status of production of pulses and their demand in the country this year?

#### **Assistance to farmers for loss of crops**

2259. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts faced deficient monsoon this year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to help farmers who lost their crops due to insufficient rains; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure better preparation in the future to address the issue of deficient rains?

#### **Development of pest-resistant varieties of soyabean**

2260. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has developed certain pest-resistant and high-yielding varieties of soyabean which have shorter duration;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in making these varieties available to farmers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to

prevent large scale damage to soyabean crops due to bad weather and pests?

#### **Setting up of primary processing centres**

2261. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR plans to set up primary processing centres in the agricultural institutes across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to curb high scale post-harvest losses through adopting innovative techniques and information dissemination?

#### **Promotion of micro-irrigation**

2262. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme to promote micro-irrigation in the water stressed and quality affected areas across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the area of land covered under the micro-irrigation and whether micro-irrigation is widely used by farmers as a method of irrigation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various steps taken by Government for promotion of micro-irrigation in the entire country along with the funds allocated and utilized under the scheme during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

**Abandoning farming by farmers**

2263. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been acute shortage of agricultural workers/labourers in the agriculture sector during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of farmers/agricultural workers/labourers who have left farming/agricultural profession in the country;

(c) if so, the details and the results thereof, State-wise along with the main reasons identified for abandoning of farming by the farmers; and

(d) whether Government has conducted any survey in Vidarbha where farmers are finding it difficult to carry on with agriculture?

**Implementation of NAIS**

2264. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is covering all the crops that are listed under its mandate, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the crops that are actually benefited from the existence of NAIS;

(c) how was NAIS beneficial to those farmers who joined this scheme; and

(d) whether Government will consider expanding the scope of NAIS so that those left out can also be roped in?

**Supply of new varieties of seeds to farmers**

†2265. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has resolved to strengthen the farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any arrangement has been made to make seeds and fertilizers available to farmers on time; and

(c) if so, the number of panchayats in Bihar where the new kind of seeds and fertilizers have been made available, the details thereof?

**Demand and production of rice and wheat**

2266. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of rice and wheat during the last three years ending 2014-15;

(b) the gap between the demand for these grains and their production;

(c) the estimate of production of these grains during 2015-16 and 2016-17;

(d) the gap, if any, between the demand and supply of these grains in these two years; and

(e) how shall Government fill up this gap?

**Suicide by farmers**

2267. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of suicide by farmers in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15; and

(b) the actions taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers?

**Setting up of relief fund for distressed farmers**

2268. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given financial assistance as relief to farmers in case of inadequate monsoon;

(b) if so, the details of amount sanctioned and disbursed during last one year, State-wise including West Bengal;

(c) whether Government has any plan to put in place a dedicated relief fund for the distressed farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, will Government consider any such plan in near future; and

(e) how many farmers across the country have committed suicide due to financial distress and crop failure in last one year?

**Policy to tackle drought and floods**

2269. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to save the farmers from drought/floods, etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and the Government's reaction thereto?

**Adverse impact of global warming**

2270. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study/survey on the adverse impact of global warming on agriculture which has manifested unusual trends such as erratic rainfall, shrinking forest cover, rising temperature and increasing food insecurity in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the findings of the study along with the regions identified as most vulnerable to climate change/global warming in the country, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps/launched any schemes to mitigate the impact of global warming on agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof?

**New legislation for crop insurance**

2271. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of farmers availing the crop insurance scheme throughout the country, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government has considered to introduce a new legislation to provide crop insurance to farmers, if so, the details thereof?

**Proposal for Universal crop insurance scheme**

2272. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any crops have been

damaged due to untimely rains and other natural calamities in the country in the current year;

(b) if so, the details and the estimates of the losses thereof;

(c) the number of farmers covered and the quantum of funds disbursed under various crop insurance schemes since last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to introduce a Universal crop insurance scheme; and

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

#### **Drought in Odisha**

2273. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the severe drought situation prevailing in the State of Odisha, the Chief Minister has requested the Prime Minister to consider timely financial assistance to protect the interest of the small, marginal and medium farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Mechanism to supervise royalty payments**

2274. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BT Cotton accounts for nearly 45 per cent of the industry and National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and farmers have paid over ₹ 5000 crore to

a leading multinational seed company as royalty so far, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the Hybrid seed producers' body wants Government to intervene and ensure a regulatory mechanism to supervise and determine royalty payments and licensing of hybrid technologies; and

(c) whether NSAI has urged the said company to slash royalty payments taking into account ceilings fixed by number of State Governments but failed to elicit positive response, if so, details thereof?

#### **Promoting organic farming**

2275. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:  
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government for promoting organic farming in the country;

(b) the type of incentives being given to farmers to produce organic food in the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the future plan/road-map of Government in respect of organic farming in the country?

#### **Distress among oil palm cultivators of Andhra Pradesh**

2276. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the distress among oil palm cultivators in Andhra Pradesh owing to price slump;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking



up any market intervention operations to avert the distressed farmers from committing suicide; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Reduction in farm subsidies**

2277. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from World Trade Organisation (WTO) to the Government to reduce farm subsidies, if so, the reaction of Government to such a demand; and

(b) the per capita subsidy in agriculture?

#### **Production rate of chemicals and pesticides**

†2278. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of producing pesticides by leading chemical and petrochemical industries in the country during last three years;

(b) whether the rate of production of main chemicals has gone down;

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

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government to enhance production rate of chemicals?

#### **High prices of Life Saving Drugs**

2279. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no clear definition

of Life Saving Drugs in Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013;

(b) whether due to this lacuna Life Saving Drugs are very costly and are out of reach of poor patients; and

(c) whether Government will come forward to rectify this lacuna, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fall in price of urea in international market**

2280. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of urea in the international market has registered a steep fall in the recent times;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the current import cost of urea;

(c) whether this steep fall will hamper the revival prospects of closed urea manufacturing units in the country?

#### **Fertilizer subsidy**

2281. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to lack of sufficient allocation of fertilizer subsidy, the urea producers are facing cash crunch forcing them to take bank loans for fulfilling requirement of working capital, thereby leading to huge bank interest payment;

(b) if so, the details thereof including effect on urea industry and overall urea production in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is considering to provide interest subsidy to extend relief of urea producers, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps, including budget subsidy enhancement, taken contemplated by Government for improving the condition of urea producers?

#### **Opening of more Jan Aushadhi stores**

2282. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Jan Aushadhi Stores opened in the country as on 31 October, 2015 particularly in Maharashtra along with their locations;

(b) whether Government proposes to open more such stores in Odisha particularly in its tribal and left wing extremism affected districts;

(c) if so, the targets fixed in this regard for the remaining period of Twelfth Five Year Plan, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to render necessary assistance to the individuals/agencies to open these stores in the far-flung areas of the State?

#### **Decrease in prices of chemical fertilizers**

2283. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of chemical fertilizers have decreased during the current year as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details of the percentage decrease;

(c) whether as a result of this, farmers

would get chemical fertilizers at relatively low rates; and

(d) if so, the percentage of decrease in prices of chemical fertilizers likely to be made in the interest of farmers?

#### **Supply of fertilizers to farmers**

2284. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not getting fertilizers on time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether farmers are suffering for want of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether sub-standard fertilizers are being marketed, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government against the culprits?

#### **Release of subsidy on fertilizers**

2285. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to release the outstanding amount of subsidy on fertilizers of more than ₹ 25 thousand crores; and

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy released so far?

#### **Establishment of Jan Aushadhi stores**

2286. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision in the month of April to establish 25 Jan Aushadhi stores in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of the decision;

(c) the reasons for delay in establishment of these stores; and

(d) by when these stores will be established to make Jan Aushadhi medicines available to general public?

#### **Purchase of SIM cards by terrorists**

2287. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the TRAI's comments in the Supreme Court, which suggest that terrorists are able to purchase SIM cards with ease due to absence of Aadhaar;

(b) whether TRAI has provided any evidence or data in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific action being taken by Government to ensure that terrorists are not able to get SIM cards, in light of the TRAI's submission?

#### **Free roaming service**

†2288. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not giving directions to telecom operator companies for free roaming service under some pressure, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when the free roaming service would be provided to mobile customers?

#### **Investment on optical fibre cable system**

2289. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has exclusive investment and usage of optical fibre cable laid throughout the country;

(b) if so, the amount of money invested and areas covered by that network system; and

(c) whether a prominent private sector company which advertises for 4G facilities through optical fibre cable throughout the country, is relying upon this Government investment on lease or on a separate system?

#### **Progress under Digital India campaign**

†2290. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress recorded in the objectives determined under the 'Digital India' campaign initiated by Government;

(b) the number of companies in India and abroad which have entered into an agreement with Government under the 'Digital India' campaign; and

(c) the amount of investment and the number of employment opportunities generated through these?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Wi-Fi facilities in cities of Rajasthan**

‡2291. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan formulated by Government to achieve the target of Digital India;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to provide internet facility, through Wi-Fi to the people of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, and Bharatpur, which are major cities of Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Fibre cable connectivity at Panchayat level in Bihar**

2292. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Government's major project of fibre connectivity at Panchayat levels in Bihar;

(b) the probable use of this connectivity which Government is contemplating at initial level;

(c) whether there is any special provision of training, the details thereof; and .

(d) whether Government is preparing a skilled manpower pool for its better utilization?

**Deterioration of services provided by Sarita Vihar Telephone Exchange of MTNL, Delhi**

2293. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of service being provided by Sarita Vihar Telephone Exchange of MTNL, Delhi has deteriorated of late;

(b) whether the landline and broadband services being provided by this Exchange are not to the satisfaction of consumers;

(c) the number of complaints received during the current year and the average time taken in attending to those complaints;

(d) whether it is a fact that fake clearance of complaints is made by the staff of MTNL; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

**Non-working of MTNL telephone/broadband lines**

‡2294. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone/broadband lines of MTNL have not been working for the last five years in Jai Vihar, Najafgarh, Phase-1, New Delhi and despite repeated written complaints/request letters to the authorities several times for making these lines operational, the said lines are still not in working order, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by MTNL to make the said lines operative and by when these lines would be operational, along with the action being

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

taken against the concerned lineman/officer, the details thereof?

**Default fee for Recurring Deposit Accounts in post offices**

2295. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people who are holding Recurring Deposit Accounts in the post offices have to pay a default fee if they don't deposit the installment amount before 15th of the month;

(b) the rules under which these penalties are being recovered;

(c) in which account of the Government, the default fees are being deposited; and

(d) how much default fee has been recovered so far during the last three years, the details thereof?

**Illegal installation of mobile towers**

†2296. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of illegal installation of mobile towers by mobile companies, without seeking permission, have come to the notice of Government in many areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mobile towers, installed illegally, are being removed and action is being taken against the companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Decline in call drop cases**

2297. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's intervention has led to a decline in frequent call drops faced by the mobile phone users;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private telecom operators have installed over 22,000 new cell sites between July and October, 2015; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of dysfunctional sites has come down to 13,823 across the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Use of social media by BSNL, MTNL and India Post**

2298. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued notices to BSNL, MTNL and India Post over quality of service on the basis of complaints received;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked BSNL and other concerns to use social media; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has started giving training to its officers to handle complaints on social media, if so, the details thereof?

**Connecting Panchayats through optical fibre**

†2299. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the name of States and the number of their Panchayats which have been connected with optical fibre in the country, the details thereof;

(b) the amount spent, so far, on this scheme and the total estimated expenditure in this regard; and

(c) the changes brought about in this scheme after formation of NDA Government and the benefits to be accrued to the Panchayats by them?

**Initiative to dispel myth about radio waves**

2300. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will soon embark on an initiative to dispel the myth that radio waves cause cancer; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that TRAI will be working with Government and telecom operators to educate users on this issue, if so, the details thereof?

**National Optical Fibre Network Policy**

2301. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to formulate a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government plans to adopt uniform Right of Way (RoW) measures for greater involvement of States in the policy;

(c) whether Government plans to release more spectrum for successful rollout of wireless broadband, ensuring seamless execution of the NOFN policy; and

(d) whether Government plans to connect Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), making it an effective Internet Exchange Point (IXP), if so, the details thereof?

**Discontinuation of stamps**

2302. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stamps on Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi have been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons for such discontinuance; and

(c) the details of proposed new series of stamps that Government is planning to start along with the details of denominations in which it wishes to start above series?

**Landline and mobile connections of BSNL in Kerala**

2303. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline and mobile connections of BSNL in Kerala circle at present;

(b) whether there is further demand for fresh connections of both, if so, the requirement thereof annually;

(c) whether continuous severed connections are due to unsatisfactory services;

(d) whether delay in replacement of old machines and accessories and overuse of the capacity of existing ones are some of the reasons for poor quality of BSNL service in Kerala; and

(e) if so, whether Government will take immediate measures to get this circle new machines and accessories?

#### **Increase in mobile connectivity**

†2304. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of mobile connections is increasing while the number of landline connections is decreasing continuously in the country;

(b) whether the problem of call drop is increasing due to rise in number of mobile connections or it is due to other reasons; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to deal with the problem of call drop, the details thereof?

#### **Telephone/mobile connectivity to Scheduled Caste category households in rural areas**

2305. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a considerable population of

Scheduled Castes in rural India do not have any telephone/mobile connection;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the various steps taken by Government to ensure a telephone/mobile connection to Scheduled Caste households in rural areas?

#### **Rise in call drop cases in 2G and 3G services**

2306. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that call drops in April-June 2015 were more than two times than previous quarter of the same year in case of 2G services, according to latest report of TRAI released recently;

(b) whether Government is also aware that call drop rate rose by 16.13 per cent in case of 3G services;

(c) if so, the action taken by TRAI against the service providers and compensation paid to consumers in this regard; and

(d) the policy put in place for call drops by Government?

#### **Unavailability of new phone equipments for WLL in Kerala**

2307. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is facing

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

unavailability of new phone equipments for WLL fixed line in Kerala circle; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Budget for Digital India programme**

†2308. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive action plan for budget and resources for the Digital India programme initiated in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that BSNL is losing its credibility among the public owing to its poor service; and

(c) whether BSNL towers are very less in number not only in villages but also in towns, if so, the plan formulated to rectify it, the details thereof?

#### **Next round of spectrum auctions**

2309. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has set in motion the process for next round of spectrum auctions in the country by issuing a consultation paper for fixing the reserve price of 2G, 3G and 4G airwaves, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has sought comments and counter comments by end of this year, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Call drop rate**

2310. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to TRAI parameters, the call drop rate should not be more than 2 per cent and for the worst affected areas, it should not be more than 3 per cent, and most of the operators were not achieving this benchmark, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the operators which were worst performers include BSNL as well, if so, the steps taken by BSNL in this regard?

#### **Post office savings schemes**

2311. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post office savings schemes are popular despite the launch of various schemes by banks and the Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to provide new technology to the post offices at par with banks?

#### **Action against persons sending fake e-mails/SMSes**

†2312. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints received by Government regarding fake e-mails/SMSes containing varied

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



inducements like winning lotteries, prizes, selection for any scheme etc. have increased, if so, the State-wise details of complaints received in this regard in the current year;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to formulate any strict law/ make amendments in laws against the people accused of offering such fake inducements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this would be enforced?

#### **Build-Own-Operate-Transfer model for Bharat Net**

2313. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom regulator, TRAI, has suggested Build-Own-Operate Transfer (BOOT) model in addition to the three models proposed by the Telecom Department for implementing Bharat Net, which envisages broadband connectivity for 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats under the Digital India initiative, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the project Bharat Net plans to create a digital network by 2017 for providing affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps to all rural households and institutions, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Services of BSNL**

†2314. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nowadays, the consumers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are fed up with its services; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government for redressal of their problems?

#### **Difficulty in surrendering of telephone connections of private operators**

2315. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it is difficult to surrender telephone connections of private operators, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the policy of TRAI for surrendering of mobile/landline telephones?

#### **Realisation of arrears from companies**

2316. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has to realise arrears from many companies;

(b) if so, the company-wise details of the amount of arrears, as on date; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to realise the arrears?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Digitization of ration cards**

2317. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether digitization of ration cards is in progress across the country to plug PDS leakage;

(b) if so, how many States have achieved or going to achieve 100 per cent target in this regard; and

(c) whether this would also help in the better implementation of the National Food Security Act and if so, the details thereof?

### **Creation of storage capacity**

2318. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the deficit in procurement of foodgrains in the country and the expected time period by which the same will be filled;

(b) the details of existing capacity for storage of foodgrains along with the details of creation of additional capacity in the last five years, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the details of Schemes and Programmes run by the Ministry to encourage private players for creation of storage capacity in the country along with details of actual creation of storage capacity under them during last three years, State-wise and district-wise?

### **Measures to check inflation**

2319. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation for the last three months as per the Consumer Price Index;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check inflation in order to bring down food prices; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to co-ordinate with Governments of various States to solve the aforesaid problem?

### **Remunerative price for sugarcane growers**

2320. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the factors taken into account for finalising the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and the institutions involved for the purpose, particularly for Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government has received requests/representations from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra for hiking the FRP for sugarcane during the current sugar season, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government has issued any advisories/directives to the States for ensuring remunerative price to sugarcane growers and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of States thereto?

### **Non-lifting of paddy by rice millers**

†2321. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that rice millers of Chhattisgarh, by way of not lifting the procured paddy, are acting arbitrarily and exerting pressure due to which paddy is not being lifted;

(b) whether the non-subsidised LPG connections connected to DBTL have been found to be fake and whether this matter will be probed in detail; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide five Kg gas cylinders to the BPL card holders?

#### **Wastage of foodgrains**

2322. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper storage facilities, large quantity of foodgrains get damaged every year and become unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains damaged during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken by Government to ensure that foodgrains are preserved properly?

#### **Implementation of Shanta Kumar Committee Report**

2323. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of work of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been digitised pursuant to the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee;

(b) the progress made on the other recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) whether the Ministry has rejected any of the recommendations of the Committee?

#### **Sharp rise in price of mustard oil**

2324. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of mustard oil has registered a sharp rise recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the price and ensure availability of edible oils in the country?

#### **Assistance under CRF/SDRF and NDRF**

2325. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider for enhancing input assistance extended under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to calamity affected farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government and if not, the reasons therefor in this regard?

#### **Distribution of expensive essential commodities under PDS**

2326. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to control the increasing high prices of essential foodstuffs, especially pulses and vegetables, including checking hoarding, increasing procurement and encouraging greater production;

(b) whether Government will distribute these expensive essential commodities to economically weaker sections through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(c) if so, the details of foodstuffs distributed through PDS, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's plan to further bring these high prices under control?

#### **Measures to curb price rise of pulses**

2327. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that barring Chana Dal, retail prices of all pulses are above ₹ 100 per Kg. across the country;

(b) if so, month-wise movement in prices of pulses during April-October 2015;

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb price rise of pulses; and

(d) how far have these moves helped in reducing prices of pulses in the country?

#### **Rise in prices of essential food items**

2328. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of many essential food items have increased hugely in recent times;

(b) whether it is due to scarcity or hoarding;

(c) the reasons for price rise; and

(d) why public distribution system is not utilized to curb price rise and to ensure availability of essential articles at reasonable price?

#### **Mechanism for fixing MRP**

2329. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no mechanism to fix the MRP of various products in a rational way;

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to set up such a mechanism; and

(c) the reasons behind leaving such a vital policy decision on the will of the manufacturers?

#### **Direct subsidy to sugarcane growers**

2330. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to give subsidy directly to the sugarcane growers in the 2015-16 crop season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total subsidy outgo on this account for the season;

(c) whether sugar export subsidy was given to millers in the previous two seasons

to help them clear cane dues to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the cane dues were cleared by this subsidy?

#### **Production of sugar**

2331. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crushing operations of current sugar season 2015-16 have started;

(b) if so, how many mills in various States have started operating and what is the production of sugar in terms of million tonnes;

(c) the quantum of sugar exported so far in the sugar season and that expected in the next six months; and

(d) the action taken by Government to facilitate smooth crushing operations so that the crisis that happened last year is averted?

#### **Import of pulses to check their prices**

2332. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to import more pulses to check their prices in near future, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the domestic production of pulses during the last three years; and

(c) whether domestic production of pulses has come down in the current year, if so, to what extent?

#### **Requirement and supply of foodgrains**

†2333. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the commodity-wise requirement of foodgrains and pulses, and the measures taken for their supply during the year 2015-16 in the country and the status of the consumer retail prices along with the measures taken for their distribution, and price control?

#### **Delivery of poor quality foodgrains under PDS**

2334. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there have been complaints regarding poor quality of foodgrains being delivered under PDS, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken/plans to take any measures to ensure delivery of high quality foodgrains under PDS?

#### **Strengthening marketing arrangements for pulses**

2335. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has any procurement mechanism for pulses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government for strengthening marketing arrangements for pulses to encourage

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

farmers to shift more acreage towards pulses?

#### **Monitoring of price-rise**

2336. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that the food miles, that is the distance covered from field to stomach, is large and day-by-day expanding which is thereby increasing the prices of vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken or to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any regulatory/monitoring agency to monitor and regulate the demand and supply of vegetables and fruits to keep their prices under control, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such monitoring agency is likely to be set up?

#### **Shortage of edible oils**

2337. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether current high market price of edible oils, particularly mustard oil, is due to its shortage; and

(b) whether this shortage is manipulated, if so, the corrective measures taken to meet the situation?

#### **Non-supply of ration on time**

†2338. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living below poverty line do not get monthly ration of food on time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for their not getting food ration on time; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to open new shops if people get their food ration late due to shortage of Public Distribution System shops and the details thereof?

#### **Strict enforcement of anti-hoarding laws**

2339. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to ensure that anti-hoarding laws are strictly enforced to thwart any attempt to malign the Government; and

(b) the number of officials punished/ chargesheeted for slackness in the discharge of their duties in this regard during the last three years, State-wise?

#### **Production of sugar**

2340. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world's largest

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

consumer of sugar and the biggest producer of it after Brazil;

(b) if so, whether various State Governments are trying to out-do each other in providing incentives to their sugarcane growers;

(c) if so, whether India has been producing more sugar than it needs for the past five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is working on a multi-year plan to boost sugar export to deal with local over supply, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme**

2341. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme is in force;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether construction of godowns is being done under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the target set and achieved under this, State-wise, during each of the last three years and this year?

#### **Leakages and corruption in PDS**

2342. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the leakages and corruption in the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) whether Government plans to change or modify the system using technology;

(c) if so, the details of the same, including cost and time-line; and

(d) if not, how Government plans to ensure distribution of foodgrains to all citizens?

#### **SC and ST category employees in the Department**

†2343. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total sanctioned strength of employees group-wise, *i.e.* from Group 'A' to Group 'D', in the Department of Food and Public Distribution;

(b) the number of posts sanctioned for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes out of total sanctioned posts according to reservation policy of Government; and

(c) the reasons for not having sanctioned strength of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees in the Department according to reservation policy of Government?

#### **Rise in prices of pulses**

2344. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government has taken/ considered taking to keep the prices of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

pulses stable in view of the fact that the prices of pulses spike every third year; and

(b) the number of cases of hoarding of pulses filed in each State during last three years and the current year?

**Direct transfer of food subsidy**

2345. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a scheme for direct transfer of food subsidy provided under the Public Distribution System into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the said subsidy would be indexed against inflation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the relative merits and demerits of the said scheme?

**Implementation of NFSA**

2346. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

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

(a) whether a large number of States have not yet implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with

the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure the implementation of the Act across the country?

**Progress under Vision Document 2015**

2347. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vision Document 2015 envisaged to triple the size of investment in the processed food sector by 2015 by getting investments to the tune of ₹ 1 lakh crore;

(b) if so, the date of release of the Vision Document and the progress made to achieve the targets since then, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Document envisages to increase the level of processing of perishables from 6 per cent to 20 per cent by 2015; and

(d) the reasons that the Ministry could not spend the amount granted to it during the Eleventh Plan and first three years of the Twelfth Plan?

**Major schemes of the Ministry in West Bengal**

2348. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the major schemes of the Ministry being implemented in West Bengal;

(b) the manner in which these schemes are monitored;

(c) the major problems being faced in implementing these schemes; and

(d) the manner in which these problems are being tackled?



**Steps to minimize post harvest losses**

2349. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any study to ascertain the quantum of post harvest losses incurred by the farming community in agriculture and allied sectors during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of measures taken to check post-harvest losses;

(d) the details of Mega Food Parks approved so far along with their present status;

(e) the details of quantum of grant-in-aid given to Food Parks; and

(f) whether any audit of these Food Parks has been undertaken to check diversion of grant-in-aid and if so, the details thereof?

**Absence of warehousing and processing facilities**

2350. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has details of the total production of fruits in the country during the last five years;

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

(c) the quantum of fruits perished due to the absence of warehousing and processing facilities during the last five years, State-wise?

**Incentives to FPIs**

2351. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides incentives for setting up of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount disbursed for the purpose during last year, State-wise, including West Bengal;

(c) the number of new Food Parks developed in the country during last three years;

(d) the year-wise details of exports made by the specially designed Food Parks during last three years; and

(e) whether Government has developed mechanism to ensure the standard of processed food prepared by such industries?

**Status of Food Processing Industry**

2352. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned by the export of processed food items during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of funds invested in different food processing industries during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of food processing units assisted by Government during the last three years, State-wise, including Gujarat and Jharkhand?

**Disposal of bail applications of undertrials**

2353. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bail applications of undertrial prisoners in cases not punishable with death or imprisonment for life, keep pending and are not being decided for long weeks and months;

(b) if so, the reasons attributable to this inordinate delay in their cases;

(c) the steps being taken by Government, in consultation with judicial administration, to remedy this situation along with the details thereof?

**Setting up of new courts including special courts for women and children**

2354. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to increase the number of courts in the country to deal with the backlog of pending cases, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up special courts to deal with cases of crimes related to women and children, if so, the details thereof?

**Implementation of Uniform Civil Code**

2355. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has initiated any discussion with the stakeholders and planners to implement Uniform Civil Code, if so, the details thereof?

**Speedy disposal of cases by Lok Adalats**

2356. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recently conducted Lok Adalats, 3.51 lakh cases have been cleared;

(b) if so, whether Lok Adalats are doing a tremendous job in clearing the pendency of cases; and

(c) if so, why NALSA, State Lok Adalats and District Lok Adalats cannot conduct Lok Adalats once in a week so as to achieve the objective of reducing pendency of cases?

**New Benches of Odisha High Court at Bhawanipatna**

2357. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open Permanent Benches of High Courts in different States of the country;

(b) the proposals received from the State in this regard, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will consider to set up Permanent Bench of the High Court of Odisha at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district within the KBK area in Odisha; and

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

### **Pendency of cases in various courts**

‡2358. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of advocates appointed by Government in various courts in Rajasthan for pleading on its behalf, indicating the names of the courts as also the names of those courts where advocates are yet to be appointed along with factual details thereof;

(b) whether a large number of cases pertaining to Central Government are pending in the courts;

(c) if so, the number of pending cases in various courts as-on-date; and

(d) whether Government is formulating any scheme for speedy disposal of these cases, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Fast Track Courts in Odisha**

2359. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in Odisha;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allocated for them to remain operative;

(c) how many of them have stopped functioning and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government proposes to make such FTCs operational once again?

### **Early disposal of divorce cases**

2360. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the action taken by Government for urgent and

speedy disposal of divorce cases in view of the fact that it involves very lengthy process which not only creates financial burden on divorce petitioners but also adds to the burden on judicial system, the details thereof?

### **Vacant posts of Judges of High Courts**

2361. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of High Court Judges in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) how many of them are vacant, as on 31 March, 2015; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women Judges in the High Courts of above States, as on 31 March, 2015?

### **Disposal of cases of corporate disputes**

2362. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the delay in litigation process and disposal of cases related to corporate disputes;

(b) if so, whether these delays have hurt the business sentiment in the country; and

(c) whether Government plans to set up special courts for corporate cases in the country, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Progress under e-Courts Mission  
Mode Project**

2363. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the progress of computerization of district and subordinate courts under e-Courts Mission Mode Project in Punjab, Union Territory of Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) the number of courts in each of the above States in which LAN, hardware and software have been installed under the project;

(c) the total cost incurred for the purpose; and

(d) by when all other courts would be covered under it?

**Delay in construction of Conference  
Hall**

2364. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways Promotee Officers Federation under Delhi Division, Northern Railway has given tender of ₹ 25 lakh for construction of a Conference Hall, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether work for the Conference Hall has been pending for the last two years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether investigation would be conducted by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for irregularities in the work and action taken against responsible persons, if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**Allocation of fund for medical  
tourism**

2365. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount designated for medical tourism by the Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC); and

(b) whether such a scheme is exclusively available in the East Zone or will it be available to the rest of the country, if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

**Pending railway projects in  
Chhattisgarh**

†2366. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh and since when;

(b) whether survey of Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur *via* Bematara, Kawardha, Mandala railway line was sanctioned in 2013-14 and the survey of Raipur-Jabalpur *via* Khairagarh, Kawardha, Bodla railway line was sanctioned in 2012-13;

(c) if so, the target set for completion of the survey;

(d) whether doubling work of Jagdalpur-Koraput railway line and construction of Jharsuguda-Bilaspur flyover/bypass is pending and Bilaspur-Anuppur, Jharsuguda-Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon-Nagpur railway lines are overloaded; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the traffic load on these lines?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Captive power plants to reduce spending of Railways**

2367. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from spending ₹ 20,000 crore on purchase of diesel for traction during last financial year, Railways spent around ₹ 13,000 crore on sourcing electricity for traction;

(b) whether Nabinagar captive power facility of Railways in Bihar is partly to be commissioned with the 250 MW unit going on stream later this fiscal; and

(c) whether Railways have also worked on a project for setting up a second captive power plant at Adra in West Bengal, which together with the Nabinagar captive power facility, will save more than ₹ 5000 crore every year for railways on power bills?

**Electrification of NF Railway**

2368. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed allocation for electrification of Northeast Frontier (NF) Railway zone in the budget 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned till now; and

(c) the present status of the railway track electrification projects of NF Railway?

**Railway stations with ambulance and first-aid facilities**

2369. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Railways to provide critical first-aid and ambulance access to people injured while using the suburban and long distance services across the country;

(b) the number of stations that are fully equipped to provide critical first-aid and ambulance access, station-wise; and

(c) the time-frame by when all stations will have such facilities?

**Pending railway projects**

†2370. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway routes pending for gauge conversion in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the length of railway routes converted into broad gauge during the last Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the target determined for gauge conversion during the current Five Year Plan, particularly for Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of the sections to be completed till the end of the current fiscal year?

**Coach factory in Kanjikode, Kerala**

2371. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to start the coach factory in Kanjikode, Kerala, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the present status of the project?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Employing hygienic technology to clean train toilets**

2372. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of sweepers employed performing manual scavenging in Railways, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(b) whether sweepers are mandated to wear gloves and protective equipments, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether sweepers are provided with hygiene awareness workshops, if so, details thereof and number of workshops held in the past three years, State-wise, if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) whether technology is employed to clean train toilets and tracks, if so, details thereof, details of trains using it and percentage of tracks cleaned through technology, if not, reasons therefor?

**Fund to finance key railway projects**

2373. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to redevelop 400 stations through open bids called the 'Swiss Challenger' method, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are also considering to create a US \$ 30 billion fund with the World Bank to finance key railway projects and if so, the details thereof?

**New railway projects in Telangana and Odisha**

2374. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state when Railways will consider to sanction eleven new projects, namely — Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh)-Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh, Bargarh-Nuapada *via* Padampur (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), Khurda Road-Raj Athgarh by passing Bhubaneswar (59 kms), Jeypore-Nabarangpur, Rayagada-Gopalpur *via* Gunupur-Bhismagiri and Digapahandi and Gunupur-Therubali-Rayagada (79 kms)?

**Dynamic fare system**

2375. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have announced to introduce dynamic fare system for all trains and all classes;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that poor people and middle class cannot afford dynamic fares in Railways which is mainly used by them for travel; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

**Resource mobilisation measures**

2376. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways' deficit is likely

to increase in the coming years if no additional resource mobilization measures are initiated;

(b) if so, whether Railways' financial problems are likely to worsen in view thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bullet train corridor**

2377. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final feasibility study on the proposed project to build a bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether Government plans to partner with foreign Governments or organisations to build this corridor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Rail Neer Scam**

2378. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Rail Neer scam unearthed by CBI recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that ₹ 27 crore cash was seized from an accused's residence;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the accused has more than 70 per cent of Railway catering contracts in his kitty; and

(d) the details of irregularities done by the said accused and the action Government proposes to take against him?

#### **Number of unmanned railway level crossings**

2379. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings across the country;

(b) whether Government has established a nation-wide database of the number of fatal accidents occurring at the unmanned railway level crossings, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to install warning systems at the unmanned railway level crossings to prevent fatal accidents?

#### **Linking Char Dham routes with railway lines**

†2380. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had made an announcement to link the Char Dham routes in Uttarakhand with railway lines;

(b) whether the said announcement is likely to be implemented in near future;

(c) if so, the details of progress made on the announced railway routes; and

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

#### **Change in route of Bagh Express**

†2381. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bagh Express running from Kathgodam is still being run *via* Rampur despite the construction of broadgauge line;

(b) if so, the justification therefor;

(c) by when Bagh Express would run from Kathgodam to Bareilly directly; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Facility of i-ticket for defence personnel**

2382. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to extend the facility of hassle-free collection of i-tickets by defence personnel booked on the Defence Travel System, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that now, the defence personnel can collect the ticket from any counter of Computerized Passenger Reservation System, if so, the other details thereof?

**Rape cases at railway stations and in train compartments**

2383. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rape cases reported since the last one year at railway stations and in train compartments;

(b) whether Railways have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) whether Railways have provided any financial assistance for the rehabilitation of these women and if so, the details thereof?

**Representation for extension of trains**

2384. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have received a representation from people/rail users of Gujarat for extension of trains; and

(b) if so, whether Railways intend to accept the demands in the current year, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Zero-accidents mission**

2385. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents on railway tracks are on the rise;

(b) whether Railways have launched a zero-accidents mission envisaging renewal of railway tracks, more railway bridges, better signalling and rolling out of accident-proof coaches and engines; and

(c) whether Railways have prepared any plan to generate resources to implement the zero-accidents mission, if so, the details thereof?

**Indo-Bangla railway track**

2386. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Indo-Bangla railway, track;

(b) by when it is likely to be opened for train passengers between both the countries;

(c) whether such a project is also under consideration with our other adjoining neighbours; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

**Reduction in consumption of electricity**

2387. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways



were able to reduce the consumption of electricity by around ₹ 400 crore a year through greater efficiency, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways will be able to reduce the cost of over 2,000 MW power that it will purchase by June, 2017, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Railway projects in Kerala**

2388. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects under implementation in the State of Kerala at present;

(b) the status of each project; and

(c) by when they are likely to be commissioned?

#### **Uniform signalling system**

2389. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity in signalling system across all Railway Zones;

(b) if so, the details of prevailing signalling system in various Railway Zones;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with Government to introduce uniform signalling system cutting across the Railway Zones; and

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

#### **Mumbai local trains**

2390. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over-crowded local trains of Mumbai and adjoining areas are claiming precious lives of passengers who have no option but to travel by these local trains;

(b) if so, the details of passengers who lost their lives or were critically injured during the last three years in these trains, year-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

#### **Train service from Kollam to Madurai**

2391. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have finalised its work completion schedule for Kollam-Punalur-Shencottahmetre gauge conversion, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when will the trains from Kollam to Madurai would start their services through the new railway line?

#### **Kakodkar Committee Report**

2392. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a high level Committee headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the report?

**Online tendering processes in  
Railways**

2393. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to make all the railway tendering processes online;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Growth and role of Technical Textiles  
sector**

2394. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Technical Textiles sector;

(b) whether it has shown initial growth and has helped in creation of employment opportunities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to give a good boost to this sector to help in creation of job opportunities, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of Common Facility  
Centres**

2395. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up Common Facility Centres for development of handloom and indigenous textile industry;

(b) if so, the locations identified therefor along with the details of facilities available in such Centres, State/Union Territory-wise, especially in Punjab; and

(c) the time-frame by which the said Centres are likely to be functional to enable the handloom industry stay competitive in global market?

**Improvement in jute polymers  
technology**

2396. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has taken cognizance of improvements in the technology of jute polymers which can be a means to boost the declining jute industry, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Production of jute in West Bengal**

2397. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of jute in West Bengal is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to increase it; and

(c) if not, the production of jute during the last three years in West Bengal?

**Linking handicrafts industry with  
e-commerce**

†2398. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to connect the handicrafts industry with e-commerce;

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

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Assistance to handloom and handicraft sectors**

2399. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the hardships being faced by handloom weavers and artisans of handicrafts sector;

(b) whether Government provides any financial assistance/subsidy to self-help groups/non-governmental organisations through various schemes formulated for handloom weavers and artisans;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the schemes formulated for the purpose along with the names of such institutes/groups as well as the funds allocated to them during the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government for promotion and development of handloom and handicraft sectors in the country?

**Training centres for production of handicrafts**

†2400. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to open training centres for promotion of handicrafts;

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

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

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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