

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, January 2, 2019/Pausha 12, 1940 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Commerce and Industry; Home Affairs; Labour and Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Steel; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 160

Improving air connectivity in Himachal Pradesh

2241. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several non-operational airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to operationalise airports with the involvement of private sector and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to operationalise such defunct airports in Himachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan to operate services from ready airports with the help of State Governments;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to improve air connectivity and infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh?

Audit at Chennai airport

2242. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has raised concerns over the security of airports and other aviation infrastructure in the country following an audit at the Chennai airport by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the aviation security regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to improve its rating in the field of aviation infrastructure in the country?

Dues of Jet Airways towards vendors and employees

2243. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Jet Airways which owes money to vendors and employees; and

(b) whether Government would help Jet Airways to raise funds to tide over the crisis and to pay salary to its employees?

Increase in airprox incidences

2244. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:
SHRI N. GOKULA-
KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rising incidence of planes getting too close for comfort in the crowded skies in the country;

(b) if so, the number of A and B level airprox incidences for the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of serious near misses or airprox has touched seven by October, 2018 up from five in all of 2017;

(d) is so, what are the steps taken by all the authorities and agencies concerned to keep the country's skies safe; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Aviation safety audit

2245. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the latest International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) audit results, India's score declined to 57.44 per cent from 65.82 per cent earlier;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken

to make aviation safer and perform better in the upcoming audit; and

(c) what parameters are country lacking in according to the ICAO audit?

Parking/entry fee at Bhubaneswar airport

2246. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) under which provision a parking/entry fee is collected from vehicles at the main entry road of Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar and whether any other airport in the country collect such fee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the timing of the parking slip is tampered at Bhubaneswar airport and what step has been taken to prevent such malpractice; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the allowed time limit of free parking for the convenience of the air passengers?

Funds infused into Air India

2247. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds infused into Air India by Government during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19;

(b) the details of the operating profits of Air India Express and Air India SATS for the year 2017-18; and

(c) the share plans to manage interest payments and repay debt without Government's financial assistance?

Arbitrary increase of airfare

†2248. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aviation companies have increased airfare upto 86 per cent due to repair work on the runway of international airport, Delhi from 15th November 2018;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check such arbitrary increase of fare, if not, the reasons therefor?

Proposal to build another runway at Delhi airport

2249. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that planes coming to Delhi have to circle over the city for a long period resulting in wastage of fuel and creating pollution; and

(b) whether there was a proposal to build another runway at Delhi airport, if so, by when it will be functional?

Status of Jagdalpur airport

2250. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Jagdalpur airport, inaugurated by the Prime Minister on June 2018;

(b) whether the airport is operational, the details on the number of flights thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air Odisha, which was given the contract to connect Jagdalpur with Raipur and Visakhapatnam had promised to cap fares at ₹ 1,700 but

was selling tickets at ₹ 3500-4000 per ticket as reported by news-media; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of runway of Mysore airport

2251. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received request from the State Government of Karnataka for expansion of runway of Mysore airport and for bearing the entire cost including the land acquisition by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has considered and approved the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Arbitrary cancellation of flights by airlines

2252. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has collected data regarding the problems faced by passengers due to arbitrary cancellation of flights by the airlines;

(b) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to address the problems faced by travellers along with the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering ways to reduce cancellation of flights by the airlines; and

(d) if so, the details of the strategy formulated in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expansion of air connectivity

†2253. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of air connectivity programme for connecting cities with air services in the country during the past three years; and

(b) the details of the action plan for further time-bound air connectivity along with the details of targeted cities?

Improving regional connectivity in Kerala under UDAN scheme

2254. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to improve regional connectivity including the State of Kerala under the UDAN scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kannur airport is included in the UDAN scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of airports proposed to be connected with Kannur airport?

Cancellation of licences of airlines under the RCS

2255. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of unserved and underserved routes granted to airlines for operation, State-wise and year-wise since 2017 under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS);

(b) the details of cancellation of licenses of airlines for serving on these routes, State-wise and year-wise since 2017;

(c) the detail of such routes in Maharashtra which do not have any airlines serving them due to cancellation of their licenses by the Ministry;

(d) what are the reasons behind airlines not being able to sustain business on such routes; and

(e) what policy direction will Government take to improve presence of airlines on such routes?

Action against drunk pilots

†2256. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director (Operations) Air India, Captain tested positive in breath analyser test in November, 2018;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Captain was penalised in the year 2017 for not undergoing pre-flight breath analyser test;

(c) the number of pilots of Air India and private airlines caught drunk during duty hours since 2015 till now and the action taken against them;

(d) whether Government will make provision of strict punishment to stop pilots from consuming liquor during duty hours; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of direct flight services between Bhubaneswar and Surat

2257. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken necessary steps for introduction of direct flight services

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

between Bhubaneswar and Surat as per the proposal of the Chief Minister of Odisha; and

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

Running of small airstrips by AAI

2258. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government will bear entire operational cost and engagement of personnel for running of State owned small airstrips through Airports Authority of India (AAI) under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) except security and fire services arrangement which could be provided by the State Governments?

Flight duty time limitations of the pilots

2259. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law which allows pilots to fly for more than eight hours;

(b) whether there is deliberate variations in flight duty time limitations of the pilots resulting in fatigue;

(c) whether there is any law which can save the pilots from fatigue; and

(d) if so, the number of cases when pilots were required to fly for more than eight hours?

Inclusion of routes under UDAN scheme in Rajasthan

2260. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to include more routes under UDAN scheme;

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

(c) whether any route touching the State of Rajasthan is proposed to be included under UDAN scheme; and

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

Growth in Indian aviation market

†2261. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the most rapidly growing aviation market in the world and whether there has been considerable increase in air traffic and domestic air passengers during last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the domestic and international sectors identified for promotion of aviation services during next three years;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the ambit of UDAN scheme in Uttar Pradesh particularly from Meerut to other small aircrafts in order to increase air connectivity with the other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in air passengers

†2262. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of passengers travelling through airways

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

across the country by the year 2025 estimated by Government;

(b) in view of the above increase, the steps taken by present Government for infrastructure development;

(c) the number of new airports constructed in the country and the number of new airports that will be constructed and old airports whose capacity will be increased in future; and

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

Upgradation of airports

2263. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans for upgradation of a few and selective airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons/criteria for selecting a few airports only;

(c) the steps being taken by AAI to upgrade the airports to meet the growing demand and future challenges; and

(d) the time by when the upgradation work would be completed?

Privatisation of airports

2264. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of privatisation of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response for the privatisation of airports;

(d) the details of the airports privatised till date; and

(e) the details of the procedure adopted for privatisation of airports in the country?

Categorizing SEZs under infrastructure sector

2265. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to categorise Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of SEZs in attracting foreign and domestic investments and their contributions in exports?

Bilateral trade agreements with foreign countries

2266. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with whom India have long term bilateral trade agreements; and

(b) the bilateral trade agreements signed by India during PM's visit abroad during the last three years, the details thereof and the likely additional benefits India will get by signing such agreements?

New Industrial Policy

2267. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to unveil the New Industrial

Policy with considerable change in the old policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sops and concessions being provided to domestic industries to compete with the global industries, the details thereof?

Benefits of Agricultural Export Policy

2268. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any new Agricultural Trade Policy aimed at fixing farm export limits even during low supplies; and

(b) if so, how the farmers and the country will be benefitted?

Impact of Chinese imports on domestic production

2269. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese imports have resulted in India cutting down its production or shutting down production completely in certain sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to take steps to monitor sub-standard Chinese imports and if so, the details thereof?

Cess on all types of construction activities

2270. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1 per cent cess is to be

levied and collected on all types of construction activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even if average daily wage is ₹ 300 per day, then cess collection should be ₹ 4,000 per worker/year;

(c) why many States are not collecting this amount and some are collecting just ₹ 477 per worker/year; and

(d) how Government will be able to implement social security schemes to building and other construction workers with this meagre amount?

Finalisation of new Agricultural Export Policy

2271. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 has been finalised;

(b) whether Government is aware that certain agricultural products such as rubber, banana, cashew, pepper and cardamom are excluded from the Agricultural Export Policy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any request from Government of Kerala has been received regarding the exclusion of the above products to be included in the district cluster, if so, the details thereof?

Impact of trade war between US and China

2272. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current trade war between the US and China is bound to have its impact on the import and export of other countries, including India;

(b) if so, how does Government propose

to maintain its trade relations with the US as well as China; and

(c) whether retaliatory tariffs increased by both the countries will impact the import of raw material by India from the two countries, particularly China?

Retaliatory import tariffs on products from the US

2273. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to impose retaliatory import tariffs on the US products;

(b) if so, the details of the products;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the details of the revenue Government anticipates to earn as a result of the tariffs being imposed?

Affirmative action in the private sector

2274. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is holding deliberations on affirmative action in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the proposals for affirmative action and the initiatives taken so far by the private sector?

Report on SEZ policy

2275. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Group of eminent persons constituted by

Government has submitted its report regarding study of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy of India;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether Government has taken any step on the report submitted on the SEZ policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of tea industry

2276. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the tea gardens in the country are non-functional and are on the verge of closure, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering to give financial packages to revive the tea industry, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Engineering Clusters under IIUS

2277. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up Engineering Clusters under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) in the country;

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

(c) the funds sanctioned/allocated/ released and utilised so far for the said clusters, State/UT-wise and cluster-wise; and

(d) the details of the progress made in this regard so far?

Increase in export of organic products

2278. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a constant increase in export of organic food products from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what organic products are having good market in foreign countries and what is the volume of exports and its value during the last three years?

Trade restrictive measures by WTO members

2279. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the World Trade Organisation have applied as many as 137 new trade restrictive measures, including tariff hikes and quantitative restrictions during the one year period starting October, 2017; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign investments in startups

2280. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian startup companies are unable to attract foreign investments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of investments which came from foreign investors in startups during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government is taking any step to boost foreign investments in Indian startups?

Compensation package for coffee farmers in Kerala

2281. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering any compensation package for the coffee farmers in Kerala for the severe losses occurred due to heavy rains and floods;

(b) if so, whether any detailed report on the loss is available, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any financial allocation is proposed for the compensation package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Import of agricultural commodities

2282. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of agricultural commodities such as pulses, edible oils, wheat and apple are on the rise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the volume of imports of each of the aforesaid commodities during the last four years?

Progression of agricultural terms of trade

2283. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progression of the agricultural terms of trade for the country, from 2014 to 2018;

(b) the State-wise break up of

agricultural exports, from 2014 to 2018, the details thereof;

(c) whether since 2014, Government has prohibited the export of any agricultural products;

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

(e) whether since 2014, Government has signed international deals and MoUs for the import of agricultural products; and

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

FDI in Defence

2284. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Foreign Direct Investment in Defence received by India from 2014-2018, and details of major investors thereof;

(b) the State-wise distribution of this FDI and major investors thereof;

(c) the speciality-wise distribution of FDI in Defence and major investors thereof;

(d) list the fields of technology transfer that deals under (a) include, the details thereof, deal-wise;

(e) based on answer to (b), what is the expected job creation in State of Punjab under said projects; and

(f) which Indian companies are involved in FDI projects listed under answers to (a) and (e), details thereof, deal-wise?

Development of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

2285. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor on the lines of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) through 100 per cent grant funding by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT);

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

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

Industrial incentives for Andhra Pradesh

2286. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the demand of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for industrial incentives at par with North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Opposition of RCEP Free Trade Agreement

2287. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is growing opposition to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Free Trade Agreement from various Government Departments;

(b) whether RCEP members are putting pressure on India to open its market for more than 90 per cent of traded goods, while they remain reluctant to India's proposal allowing free movement of Indian skilled professionals in RCEP region;

(c) whether there is growing clamour from industries such as iron and steel for India to either exit RCEP or resist its early conclusion and at same time keeping geo-strategic interest in mind; and

(d) if so, what steps Government is taking to protect India's interests?

Support to Special Economic Zones

2288. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in general is supporting or discouraging the role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) today, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the States in the country currently maintaining SEZ including the years of functioning, State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the recently constituted SEZ Policy Review Committee has submitted any suggestions; and

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

Policies under Commerce and Industry

2289. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRA-BUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many well laid down policies with a proper policy document pertaining to different subjects under the Ministry are already in place, what are the details about

the name of the policy and its date of adoption;

(b) whether any new or additional policies pertaining to the subjects under the Ministry were formulated and/or finalised during 2014-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any structured mechanism of periodically reviewing all the existing policies, if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of Soya Deoiled Cakes

2290. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh is a major port in case of Soya Deoiled Cakes (DOC) export and Indian exporters face major problems of congestion at Darshana Land Port, Bangladesh and in turn major revenue is also lost; and

(b) what action is being taken by Government of India?

Exempting pulses from import

2291. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to exempt pulses from import in view of high rise in domestic production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the incentives being given to the exporters or; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase export of pulses and earn foreign exchange?

**Losses to coffee and spices plantations
due to floods in Karnataka and
Kerala**

2292. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of loss occurred to coffee and spices plantations in Kodagu, Karnataka and Kerala has been made in view of heavy rains and floods in the regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to provide some incentives and relief to coffee and spices growers to help them establish their plantation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how much time it will take by the coffee and spices growers to attain financial stability?

Attracting foreign investments

2293. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to put in place proper mechanisms including easy regulations and less paper work for global funds to invest in the country in the area of infrastructure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Minister has held multiple meetings in recent months with several global sovereign wealth funds, insurance funds and pensions funds from countries like Japan, Australia, Canada, Singapore, South Korea, etc. to attract investment in our country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Import of pulses

†2294. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and price of pulses imported by Government agencies during each of the last three years and the current year and whether these agencies have been provided subsidies for this purpose under this head; and

(b) the profits earned by the said agencies through such transactions during the said period?

**Report of Task Force on e-Commerce
policy**

2295. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up to finalise the contours of the policy regarding 'e-Commerce' sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Industrialisation in rural, backward,
hilly and remote areas**

2296. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided/proposed to be provided by Government to promote industrialisation in rural/backward/hilly and remote areas in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for setting up of forest based industries in the country,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

State-wise details thereof including Jharkhand;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct any study for identification and declare industrially backward regions/ States/districts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with any State specific policy/scheme formulated in order to create favourable investment environment in the country, the State-wise details thereof?

Steps to protect interest of small tea growers

2297. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government is taking to protect the interests of small tea growers in Assam;

(b) whether it is estimated that about one crore people are engaged in tea farming and small and marginalised tea growers sell their products and the same product is resold by MNCs at twenty times higher rates; and

(c) whether Government has planned any mechanism to give optimum benefit to small tea growers?

Guidelines for Free Trade and Warehousing Zones

2298. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exclusive rules and guidelines are being made for Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZ) for actual users of FTWZ services *i.e.* client/ customers of FTWZ unit service provider, Indian/Foreign suppliers and buyers to

make FTWZ concept a success and hassle-free; and

(b) whether Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) issuance and sanctioning of duty drawback can be extended to competent authority in FTWZ in order to promote exports through FTWZ units?

Promotion of industries in rural and backward regions

2299. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote industries especially in rural and backward regions of the country in public sector;

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

(c) the State-wise details of the proposals received by the Central Government from State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government in this regard?

Implementation of new Industrial Policy

2300. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any action plan for implementing the proposed new Industrial Policy for promoting manufacturing and economic growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor for its delayed implementation?

Separate cells to trace missing children in Delhi

†2301. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing number of missing children in Delhi, separate cells have been constituted in every police station to trace them;

(b) the number of children gone missing during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases registered regarding exploitation of children during the last three years, the percentage of people with regard to whom agencies were successful in getting them punished; and

(d) the details thereof?

Road rage incidents in Delhi

†2302. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of road rage are on the rise in Delhi, if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to check the incidents of road rage in Delhi;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to shortage of police force on roads of Delhi, such incidents are on the rise constantly; and

(d) the number of police personnel working *vis-a-vis* the number of posts sanctioned in Delhi Police along with sanctioned strength of Delhi Police?

Population of India

†2303. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become a country with the highest population in the world;

(b) the present population of India as per Aadhaar number and the number of children, adults and old out of this number; and

(c) the number of children born every year as per census data of 2011 and in view of this the difference between population and mortality ratio every year and the quantum of population growth in the country on this basis?

Medical officers appointed for each prison

2304. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise list of the total number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of medical officers appointed for each prison in the country;

(b) the standard medical officer-prisoner ratio as accepted nationally and State-wise distribution of medical officer-prisoner ratio prevailing in the country;

(c) the State-wise list of total number of gynaecologist appointed for each prison in the country and ratio of gynaecologist to women prisoner in each State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the infrastructure of medical facilities in prisons, including appointment of doctors, pharmacists and paramedic staff in prisons?

Security personnel martyred combating with terrorists

†2305. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of security personnel martyred while combating with terrorists in Kashmir and other parts of the country guarding borders or serving their duty during last three years;

(b) whether Government has made any provision to make memorials of the martyred personnel in their villages, to provide the best education to their children and to provide Government job to one member of the family of the martyred personnel; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to provide above facilities to the families of martyred personnel?

Poor recovery in theft cases in Delhi

2306. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to

Unstarred Question 238 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12 December, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has become incompetent to recover in theft cases;

(b) the reasons for poor percentage of recovery in theft cases by Delhi Police even after elapsing of an year or two from the date of registration of FIRs;

(c) the fresh steps Government/Delhi Police would take to improve its recovery ratio; and

(d) the fresh measures Delhi Police would take to recover, particularly in FIR No. 4/2018, Barakhamba Road police station?

Law to plug gaps in criminal justice system

2307. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of acquittals in criminal cases is on the rise over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) what are the main reasons behind such acquittals; and

(d) the steps taken to bring in such a law to plug the gaps in the criminal justice system?

Organisations banned under UAPA

2308. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organisations that were banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) during the last three years along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of citizens detained under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

UAPA during the last three years along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has removed any organisation from the list of banned organisations under the UAPA during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has released any citizen detained under UAPA in the last three years, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

Ration allowance of personnel of security forces

2309. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the daily ration allowance of personnel of central security forces and when was it last revised; and

(b) whether Government has any data on the causes of non-combat deaths of security forces personnel?

Benefits to paramilitary forces at par with defence forces

2310. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced in the media on 29th September, 2018 that the benefits available to defence personnel will be given to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) *i.e.* CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal), Assam Rifles and CISF at par;

(b) when was it announced in the media; and

(c) why notification has not been issued so far and the reasons for delay?

Cheating and touting against foreigners in NDMC area

2311. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of cheating and touting against foreigners by taxi/cab drivers have increased near five-star hotels in NDMC area of Delhi;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of such incidents reported and action taken against touts for the period 2014—18;

(c) whether Government has issued any order/policy for authorities responsible for law and order regarding restraint on bad behaviour by taxi/auto drivers in such area; and

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

Relief package for Gaja cyclone

2312. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that coastal Tamil Nadu was severely affected by Gaja cyclone;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Government has urged to provide relief package for destruction of livelihood of victims;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for Prime Minister not visiting the affected areas?

Militants killed in operations in J&K

2313. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than

136 militants were killed in recent operations in Jammu and Kashmir from 25 June to 5 December, 2018;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over 350 people, including some security personnel were injured during counter-terror operations and stone throwing incidents in the Kashmir Valley since 25 June, 2018; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as many as 51 militants were killed in the 80 days period from 25 June to 14 September, 2018 while 85 were killed between 15 September and 5 December, 2018?

National Database on Sexual Offenders

2314. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has rolled out the first National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NDSO is a central database of sexual offenders in the country which will be maintained by the NCRB;

(d) whether it is also a fact that at present, the database contains 4.4 lakh entries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Thriving illegal arms market

2315. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal arms market is thriving in different parts of the country posing serious security threat;

(b) if so, the details of illegal arms

seized during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether illegal arms manufacturing factories are still operating in the country with connivance of authorities;

(d) if so, the details of such factories, State-wise;

(e) whether Government has issued a notification to create a National Database of Arms Licences system to which all arms licence holders will have to register by April, 2019; and

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

Suspension of FCRA Licences

2316. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has suspended the licences under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of more than 150 Non-Governmental Organisations for six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these NGOs have failed to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks which have integrated their system with Public Financial Management System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Medical facilities provided to border guarding forces

2317. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the personnel of the border guarding forces are made to work for 16-18 hours a day;

(b) what are the medical services provided to border guarding forces;

(c) whether the personnel of border guarding forces are not satisfied with medical facilities provided at border locations;

(d) whether it is a fact that hardship allowance for personnel of border guarding forces is lower as compared to member of the Armed Forces, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures are being taken by Government to improve the working hours and medical facilities of the border guarding forces?

Funds for Capital city of Andhra Pradesh

2318. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has promised all help including a world class Capital city for the residual State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has released an amount of ₹ 2500 crore only against the request made to Central Government for assistance of ₹ 43,000/- crore for construction of Capital city and necessary infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Neutralisation of Khalistani terror module

2319. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Khalistani terror module in the State of Punjab have been neutralised and

a large number of terrorists have been arrested and if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that recent grenade attack on religious congregation in Amritsar was the handiwork of Khalistani outfit supported by New York based Sikh advocacy group and Pakistan's ISI and if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

Illegal arms factory in Delhi

2320. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Crime Branch of Delhi Police recently busted an illegal arms factory in Karawal Nagar in Delhi which has been working for the last several years; and

(b) if so, the details of arms recovered from that factory and the number of persons arrested for running it?

Custodial deaths

2321. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of custodial deaths that have taken place in the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there exist any schemes for training and increasing social sensitivity of police personnel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there is any proposal for the same?

New approach to combat extremism

2322. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to take fresh look at its approach to combat extremism in view of recent killing of a sitting Member and ex-Member of Legislative Assembly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons killed in extremist violence during the last three years, State-wise?

Laser fencing on Indo-Pak border

†2323. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the target of Government for installation of laser fence on Indo-Pak border and the area to be covered under this; and

(b) by whom the work of laser fencing is being carried out and the time by when it will be completed?

Compensation to farmers of Kerala for loss of crops

2324. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of compensation given to farmers of Kerala who have lost their crops and agricultural lands in the recent floods in Kerala; and

(b) how many farmers have been benefited so far?

Enforcing NRC in States other than Assam

2325. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the experience of Government in enforcing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam;

(b) whether there are any other States that have indicated their desire to enforce the NRC in their own States; and

(c) what is Government's view on enforcing the NRC in those States and in the vulnerable North- Eastern States who desire to adopt the same policy?

Reviewing of existing policies in the Ministry

2326. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many well laid down policies with a proper policy document pertaining to different subjects under the Ministry are already in place and what are the details about the name of the policy and its date of adoption, regarding these policies;

(b) whether any new or additional policies pertaining to the subjects under the Ministry were formulated and/or finalised during 2014-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any structured mechanism of periodically reviewing all the existing policies, if not, the reasons therefor?

Security to senior citizens

†2327. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase in the number of cases involving various kinds of torture, crimes and harassment by family members meted out to old aged persons/senior citizens in the country has been reported;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of cases reported, arrests made and conviction, gender-wise and State-wise details thereof during last three years and current year;

(c) whether the steps have been taken to improve the rate of conviction in such cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the various other steps taken by Government to prevent such cases and provide security to senior citizens in future?

Boundary dispute between Manipur and Nagaland

2328. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute in the boundary between Manipur and Nagaland, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the system in place for resolution in such kind of differences in general;

(c) whether Dzukou Valley is a part of Manipur, if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether some unruly elements in the neighbourhood block the people from Manipur entering the Valley; and

(e) if so, the details of actions contemplated to solve such crises?

List of enemy lands in Telangana

2329. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India has directed the Government of Telangana to submit a detailed list of enemy lands that are available with the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken views of the State Government in this regard and how the sharing will be done?

Deaths in prisons

2330. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of natural and unnatural deaths in prisons during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and prison-wise;

(b) whether a judicial inquiry was initiated in each case;

(c) if so, State-wise and year-wise list of the number of cases in which judicial inquiry was initiated and their current status, for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and prison-wise;

(d) if no judicial inquiry was initiated in any case, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the list of State-wise cases where compensation has been recommended by the NHRC during the last three years and whether the compensation has been paid?

Plan to attack cargo and oil tankers in high seas

2331. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani terrorist group L-e-T planned a 26/11 type attack in the port, cargo and oil tankers in high seas with better sea strike capabilities and deep diving training technique;

(b) whether in view of the same, country is equipped better to face any such eventuality; and

(c) whether Government is aware about the 'samudri jihad' concept of the Pakistani terrorist groups?

Pay parity between contractual and regular employees of NDMC

2332. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDMC has taken/taking steps to ensure pay parity between its contractual and regular employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to complement the judgement passed by Supreme Court in State of Punjab and Others Vs. Jagjit Singh and Others with regard to equal pay for equal work in NDMC;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken steps to ensure equal pay for equal work to contractual employees as mandated in Section 25(2)(V)(a) of Contractual Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Rape kits in police stations

2333. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 to 30 per cent of sexual assaults take place in shelter homes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to buy 79 lakh rape kits and distribute these across the country;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering that all the police stations in the country should have at least three rape kits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Withdrawal of paramilitary forces from LWE areas in West Bengal

2334. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to withdraw the Central Paramilitary Forces posted in the areas of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what steps Government is going to take in this context; and

(c) what prompted Government to take this step?

Creation of employment opportunities

2335. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of employment opportunities created by Government during the last four years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the details of number of unemployed people in the country since last four years and whether it is increasing year-by-year;

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

(d) whether Government has set any target to control the increasing unemployment in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Payment to contractual labour through cheque

†2336. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 there is a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

direction to pay the factory and contract labourers through cheque;

(b) if so, whether the contract labourers working at thermal power station, Chachai in Amarkantak in the district Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh are being paid through cheques;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken on the complaints received in this regard?

Low wage employment in the country

2337. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog in one of its report has stated that underemployment is a major problem in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to curtail low wage employment in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Job loss in formal sector

2338. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent Government data, more than 23 lakhs jobs in formal sector have been lost during September, 2017 till June, 2018;

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

(c) the reasons for the same; and

(d) the details of the jobs lost during June to December, 2018 in formal sector, sector-wise and State-wise?

Wage disparity in private sector

†2339. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the concerns raised in the recently released report pertaining to national employment and unemployment survey as well as National Sample Survey Office figures, which point to an alarming wage disparity in private sector;

(b) the strategy chalked out by Government to bridge the widening wage gap in the country and whether it proposes to set a cap in salary on the lines of minimum wages; and

(c) whether the disparity in the salary of contractual/hired and permanent Government employees is justified?

Increasing cases of bonded labour

†2340. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in cases of bonded labour have been registered in the country;

(b) the details of the cases of bonded labour which have come to notice in the country during the past three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to eradicate bonded labour and whether Government would consider to take steps for rehabilitation of such bonded labourers; and

(d) the details of the cases registered regarding bonded labour during the past three years, State-wise?

Establishment of State ESIC and EPFO Boards

2341. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to reduce the burden of Central Government organisations viz; EPFO and ESIC with a view to manage social security corpus in place of EPFO and ESIC to increase the subscribers five-folds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

National Policy for Agricultural Labourers

2342. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH
TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a National Policy for Agricultural Labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details along with its salient features thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the policy is proposed to be implemented?

Violation of Minimum Wages Law

†2343. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference between minimum wages paid by Central Government and State Governments, if so, the scheme of Central Government to give higher minimum wages;

(b) whether by violating Minimum Wages Law of Central and State Governments payment agreement done in the year 2015 using pressure tactics is legal;

(c) if that is not legal, whether the ₹ 140/- per day agreement signed by Beedi employers with labour organisations involved in these works in Solapur Beedi industry is legal; and

(d) if not, whether Government will take action on them so that every Beedi worker gets minimum wages from Beedi employers?

Access to hospitals under ESIC to all citizens

2344. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give all citizens access to hospitals under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also offers subsidised/free medicines as well as out-patient and in-patient facilities at a nominal cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reimbursement in case of maternity leave

2345. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to implement a scheme to reimburse employers in the private sector 50 per cent of the wages of the last 14 weeks of maternity leave; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented?

Decline in women labour force

2346. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is dramatic decline in women's labour force participation rates as compared to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the policies with regard to it?

Employment and unemployment rate

2347. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey about the employment and unemployment rate in the country during the last four years;

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

(c) what is the current employment, unemployment and underemployment rate of the country, the details of the same, State-wise?

ESI hospitals in Tamil Nadu

2348. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any schemes and measures to expedite the allocation of funds for the health and welfare of employees and ESI hospitals in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has provided adequate funds for the development of ESI hospitals and health insurance of labour population in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount disbursed in the last four years till date by the Centre for the same; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to extend health services in the Tier-II cities/towns of Tamil Nadu having sizeable labour population?

Shortage of employment opportunities in Maharashtra

2349. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the fact that Maharashtra in particular Marathwada, Vidarbha and Madhya Maharashtra regions are facing severe shortage of employment opportunities in the absence of Government jobs and non-generation of employment opportunities in the agricultural sector due to consistent drought conditions in these regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken/ proposes to take to generate sufficient employment opportunities in the State in particular in these three backward regions?

**Implementation of Pradhan Mantri
Rojgar Protsahan Yojana**

2350. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) since 2016, year-wise;

(b) average income of PMRPY beneficiaries, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of net Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) payroll additions that is constituted by PMRPY beneficiaries?

**Scheme to partially reimburse
employers for maternity
benefits**

2351. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme framed for reimbursing employers the salary for seven out of 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than ₹ 15000/- per month;

(b) when will the scheme be implemented;

(c) the details of all stakeholders who were consulted by Government before formulating the scheme;

(d) the expected outlay of scheme for first year, State-wise and how Government plans to arrange the finances for it; and

(e) why women earning less than ₹ 15000/- per month are not covered and whether Ministry will formulate separate scheme for them, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Status of women employment in the
unorganised sector**

2352. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to increase the proportion of women in general and Muslim women in particular among the highly skilled workforce of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps has Government taken to ensure a safe working place for women in unorganised sector, in the absence of a sexual harassment act for this sector; and

(d) whether Government has recorded any reduction in the pay-gap between men and women in the unorganised sector employment?

**Creating self-employment
opportunities in the
country**

2353. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the various efforts made and results achieved to create employment and self-employment opportunities in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) the results achieved specially in Kerala?

**Implementation of National Child
Labour Project**

†2354. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation with regard to implementation of National Child

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Labour Project (NCLP) and grants-in-aid project of NGOs has been carried out with regard to benefits to be provided to the children freed from child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on these schemes, separately during the last three years?

Vocational training opportunities under the NCLP

2355. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vocational training opportunities provided to adolescents after their withdrawal from hazardous occupations and processes and number of Special Training Centres (STCs) opened under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP);

(b) whether there are many guidelines in place by which funds released to District Project Society by Government accounted for;

(c) whether reports made by the Vigilance Committee are available in the public domain; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017

2356. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what step Government has taken to establish creches in Government departments in the country after implementation of the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017;

(b) how Government will ensure that

creches are established in private and establishments in the country and what monitoring mechanism it has in this regard; and

(c) whether Government proposes to share the cost burden of providing creche facility with the employers to discourage potential employers from reducing hiring of women?

Jobs to unemployed youth

†2357. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed people who have been given jobs by the Central Government during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is resentment among youth against Government due to joblessness in the country; and

(c) the target fixed by Government to provide jobs to unemployed youth during the next six months?

ILO conventions on collective bargaining

2358. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to ratify the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions No. 87 and 98 regarding collective bargaining which are one of the Fundamental Conventions of ILO;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there would be a need to amend any domestic law in order to comply

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with the aforesaid conventions and if so, the details thereof and whether Government plans to make these amendments?

Bonded labour

2359. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether child and bonded labour is still prevalent in the country despite stringent laws in force in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the mechanism to identify bonded labourers or child labour in the country and the details of the extant policy and schemes in place to tackle the issue of bonded/child labour; and

(c) the total number of child and bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated during the last four years, State/UT-wise?

Lack of technology in MSME sector

2360. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of access and investment in technology hinders the ability of MSMEs to compete in global markets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Revival of MSME sector

2361. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which were

shut down during the years 2017 and 2018, till date after demonetisation; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to revive the MSME sector which was worsthit by demonetisation?

Reduction of sales, production and job opportunities in Khadi sector

2362. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sales, production and the job opportunities has been reduced in Khadi sector during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) what steps Government has taken to modernise the Khadi sector; and

(d) how many new institutes have been set up under Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in last three years including in the State of Kerala?

Gas pipeline network to Myanmar

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

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to expand gas pipeline network to Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the cost to benefit ratio;

(d) the details of total amount that would be invested for the network; and

(e) by when the project will be completed?

Distribution of dealership of new petrol pumps

2364. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Petrol Dealers' Association (AIPDA) has moved court against Government's decision to distribute dealership of 55,000 new petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 80 per cent of the total Retail Outlets are under sales and the dealers are losing financially; and

(d) if so, whether Government has any plan to compensate them or allow them to leave the dealership, by returning their assets?

Difference in retail price of petrol/ diesel sold to other countries

2365. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the retail price of petrol and diesel per litre in terms of US dollar in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan during September, October, November and December, 2018, date-wise and country-wise details thereof;

(b) the retail price of petrol and diesel per litre in terms of US dollar in Mumbai and Delhi during the said months, city-wise and date-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had proposed/written to bring

petrol and diesel under GST to Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with date thereof; and

(e) the response of Ministry of Finance in this regard?

Technical glitch in Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG subsidies

2366. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government promised transfer of LPG subsidies directly to the bank account of the beneficiary, if so, State/UT-wise details of total connections along with transfer of subsidies;

(b) whether Government is aware regarding the technical glitch which is hampering the direct transfer, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) year/month/State/UT-wise details regarding the LPG subsidy burden on Government?

Rise in petroleum imports bill due to fall in rupee value

†2367. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that possibility is being expressed regarding the rise in petroleum imports bill owing to fall in the value of rupee against dollar;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to take any step to check the rising oil bills; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it will be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of Qatar leaving OPEC

2368. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has weighed the likely impact on global oil market with Qatar breaking away from the cartel of 15 countries that produce about 45 per cent of world's oil and sitting over 80 per cent of its proven oil reserves;

(b) whether India has good trade relations with Qatar from where it secures most of its LNG supplies through Petronet LNG; and

(c) whether India has widened its purchase base to Latin American/Caribbean oil fields apart from investing in African oil blocks?

Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility at Chandikhole

2369. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made for the proposed Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Chandikhole, Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits accrued and employment generated?

Rise in ONGC's domestic natural gas production

2370. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC's natural gas production has hit an all time

high to about 70 million standard cubic meters per day as it doubles up efforts to raise domestic output to curb imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ONGC produced about 64 million metric standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) of gas in November last year and this year the output is close to touching 70 mmscmd; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

High operating cost of Indian refineries

2371. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian refineries are facing high operating cost, high logistics cost and have no plug and play system for utilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for the same?

Reduction in production by OPEC and its allies

2372. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decision by OPEC and its allies to cut oil production by 1.2 million barrels per day starting January, 2019 can potentially increase prices and add to the country's woes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the reforms initiated by Government and US dollars 300 billion slated to be invested in the Indian hydrocarbon sector in the next ten years across the value chain, India's

production will be able to keep pace with its rising demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Targets under PMUY

‡2373. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of subsidy being provided to common consumers along with the State-wise details of LPG connections provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) since its inception till date; and

(b) the details of the targets fixed for the next three years under the scheme?

Shale oil deposits in the country

2374. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the shale oil deposits in the country, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) data on shale oil harnessed in the country till now;

(c) whether the Ministry has set any targets for shale oil production in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Uniform rate of petroleum products across the country

2375. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States and Union Territories have urged the Union

Government to provide petrol, diesel and other petroleum products at uniform rates across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has increased/decreased prices of petroleum, if so, the details thereof?

Increase/decrease in prices of petroleum products

‡2376. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase/decrease in the prices of petrol, kerosene, LPG and other petroleum products by Government during the last two years;

(b) whether such increase or decrease was affected in accordance with global prices of crude oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Status of PMUY

2377. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government claims that under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) many LPG connections have been provided, if so, how many cylinders have been refilled under PMUY; and

(b) whether it has an impact on usage of kerosene, if so, the details thereof and the district-wise details of Maharashtra during the last 12 months?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Petrol/diesel exported to other nations

2378. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is exporting refined petrol to 15 nations at ₹ 34 per litre and refined diesel to 29 countries at ₹ 37 per litre;

(b) if so, why petrol and diesel is available for the domestic market at such a high price, what is the difference between the basic cost of petrol and diesel after refining cost and retail selling price of petrol and diesel; and

(c) to what extent would the retail selling price of petrol and diesel be decreased if it is brought under the ambit of GST?

Gas connections in Gujarat under PMUY

†2379. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the works completed so far in districts of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), district-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of families allocated free LPG connections in Gujarat, district-wise under PMUY during the last three years;

(c) the details of works proposed under Ujjwala Yojana in the said districts and the efforts being made in this direction; and

(d) the targets set per year in this regard during the last three years and the extent to which the targets have been achieved?

Delay in commissioning of mega refinery in the country

2380. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deadline for commissioning of the US dollars 44 billion mega refinery on the west coast of India has been extended by three years to 2025;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the work on the world's largest refinery will start only by 2020 as the project is facing land acquisition hurdles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of fuel outlets by OMCs

2381. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the State-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to go for expansion and double the number of fuel outlets over the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of the procedure being adopted and details of the agency being involved for expansion of fuel outlets?

Skill Development Institutes in partnership with private sector

2382. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH
TOMAR:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up Skill Development Institutes on Government land in partnership with private players across the country in order to create job opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the institutes are expected to help boost the global competitiveness of key industry sectors by providing high quality skill training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with the industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of ITIs operating in the country

‡2383. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Industrial Training Institutes operating in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to establish new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country and if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the total estimated number of students getting training in these institutes;

(d) the details of the skills being provided in these institutes; and

(e) number of ITIs likely to be set-up, phase-wise?

Skill development in performing arts

2384. DR. SONAL MANSINGH: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether artists from the performing arts like dance, music, theatre, puppetry are beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY);

(b) if so, from which areas, the State-wise details of these artists; and

(c) the kind of monetary and/or other benefits available to them?

Skill awareness study of WEF

2385. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that according to a World Economic Forum study 70 per cent of Indian youth are not aware of Government's 'Skill India' programme;

(b) whether Government has data on the enrolling participation of women in the Skill India programme and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has data on the total percentage of placements from Skill India programme, if so, the details thereof?

Training institutes in West Bengal and Rajasthan

2386. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions providing

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

training in skill development in the State of West Bengal and Rajasthan, district-wise details thereof;

(b) the skills in which the youth in the States of West Bengal and Rajasthan are trained; and

(c) the step Ministry has taken for skill mapping of the skill expertise existing in different parts of the country, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Skill development for minorities under NSQF

2387. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative for skill development for minorities under the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF);

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

(c) whether any step has been taken to rope in industry to provide skills to minorities; and

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

'Skill India' scheme in Gujarat

†2388. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works done so far in the districts of Gujarat under 'Skill India' scheme during the last three years;

(b) the amount of money allocated/ issued/utilised per year under the aforesaid

'Skill India' scheme during the last three years;

(c) the number of people trained and given employment through the above said scheme in the districts of Gujarat, district-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of the works proposed in these districts under 'Skill India' scheme and by when these will be completed?

People displaced due to setting up of steel plants

2389. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons that have been displaced due to setting up of a public or private steel plant in their region, State/ UT-wise;

(b) the measures being taken by Government to ensure adequate rehabilitation of affected persons and the number of displaced persons who have been provided alternate accommodation facilities;

(c) the number of displaced persons who have been given employment under Government schemes and the average wages paid to such persons; and

(d) the timeline by which all displaced persons will be given adequate rehabilitation?

Expansion of steel plants of SAIL

†2390. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel plants of SAIL, which comes under the Ministry are being expanded to increase their production capacity;

(b) if so, whether this work has been completed and the increase in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

production capacity of these steel plants recorded thereafter in comparison to their previous production; and

(c) if not, the time by when these works will be completed and the details of plant-wise increase expected in steel production in the country after its completion?

Weavers registered/enrolled under MGBBY

2391. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weavers registered/enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY);

(b) the number of weavers provided benefits of insurance in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in case of total and partial disability; and

(c) the steps taken to provide the benefits to all the beneficiaries in an effective manner?

Funds allocation towards ATUFS

2392. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the fund allocation towards Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) for both committed liabilities and new cases;

(b) whether Government has disbursed the whole of committed support under ATUFS, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, when Government is going to disburse the funds towards these unpaid committed liabilities; and

(d) whether the delay in payment of committed liabilities has severely stressed the textile industry?

Skilling and up-skilling in textile sector

2393. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned for skilling and up-skilling an estimated ten lakh people in the textiles sector including spinning and weaving;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the target in Kerala;

(c) whether the scheme for capacity building in textiles sector will provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of people skilled so far in this programme?

Export competitiveness and barriers faced by textile companies

2394. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) a list of key export destinations for textiles made in India;

(b) whether Government is aware that Indian textile companies face higher trade barriers compared to other competing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan in key markets such as the US and EU;

(c) the details of steps taken to help Indian companies; and

(d) whether Government is planning Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or other initiatives with major markets to overturn this trend?

Promotion of art

2395. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has an account of national award winning craftsmen in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government provides any kind of support through incubations, employment or funds to conduct and spread the art; and

(c) how does Government ensure that the art is preserved and the details of programmes and schemes for the same?

CBI investigation into bullion deals of HHEC

2396. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered cases of irregularities and misconduct of entrepreneurs who had business of import of bullion with Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC) in the year 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of cases, company-wise;

(c) whether CBI has also examined the transaction details of other bullion parties having business dealings with HHEC before December, 2015 and requested the HHEC to block their payments; and

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

Reduction in fabric production due to increase in yarn price

2397. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fabric production have been reduced by small-time powerloom weavers mainly due to increase in yarn prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to reduce the burden on these loom weavers to help them undertake the desired production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of new textiles mills

2398. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills which are operational in the country, State/UT-wise details thereof;

(b) whether a number of textile mills are lying inoperative/closed in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to set up new textile mills in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Share of textile items in exports

2399. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of textile items in the export market of the country and percentage of foreign exchange earnings from it;

(b) what is the quantum of textile items exported by Government and private sectors during the last three years; and

(c) what steps Government has taken to promote Government participation in production and export of textile items?

Increasing import duty on all textile items

2400. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has doubled the import duty on all textile items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the move has benefited the domestic manufacturers of these products;

(d) whether some countries still enjoy duty free access to Indian markets; and

(e) if so, whether it will adversely impact the domestic manufacturers?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th December, 2018
Pausha 6, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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