

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, December 21, 2015/Agrahayana 30, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Plan to deal with global warming

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

(a) whether due to global warming there
is a serious threat to some major cities and
industrial units in the country;

(b) whether Government has prepared
any concrete plan thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time
limit within which this work would be
completed?

Involvement of religious and social organisations in cleaning of rivers

†*227. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the
Minister of WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA
REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has involved
various religious gurus and religious and
social organisations in its campaign of
cleaning the rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the names of those religious

gurus as well as religious and social
organisations;

(c) the way in which they are going to
participate therein; and

(d) whether Government is also
considering to include other public
organisations to further broaden this
campaign?

PMGSY projects in Madhya Pradesh

†*228. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:
Will the Minister of RURAL
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects/schemes
being implemented in Madhya Pradesh
under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak
Yojana (PMGSY) during the last three
years;

(b) the funds allocated therefor during
the above period; and

(c) whether all the additional projects/
schemes under the above scheme (PMGSY)
have been reviewed and if so, the details
thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deluge in Chennai and other coastal areas

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

(a) whether the rains that created a deluge in Chennai and other coastal districts of Tamil Nadu recently is an effect of global climate change; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the huge floods that has stalled Chennai for more than a month?

Improving operational efficiency of major ports

*230. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to make amendments in the Major Port Trusts Act to change the management structure of major ports to help them function more efficiently and independently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to augment capacity and improve the operational efficiency of major ports?

Toilets for BPL families in Gujarat

*231. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently announced a time-bound programme for construction of toilets for all BPL families in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the BPL families in

Gujarat have been provided toilets under the programme;

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

(d) by when such families in the State would be provided toilets?

Replacement of old power units

*232. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fate of replacement of units of 4,800 MW capacity would be decided by Government on the basis of viability of their repair and maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether units of 5,860 MW capacity would be retired in a phased manner and some of these units would be replaced with supercritical ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

14th Finance Commission's recommendations on grants to Gram Panchayats

*233. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government concurs with the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission to give grants only to Gram Panchayats to the exclusion of Zila and Taluk Panchayats in devolution of funds;

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

(c) what measures Government intends to take to ensure the viability of Zila and Taluk Panchayats; and

(d) whether the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations are being implemented?

Action plan for scientific disposal of e-wastes and bio-medical wastes

*234. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the importance of disposal of e-wastes and bio-medical wastes, the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders, has framed/ proposes to frame an action plan for effective scientific disposal thereof;

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

(c) whether the Central Government has issued/plans to issue any advisory to State Governments/stakeholders in this regard; and

(d) whether Government has any specific data about present capacity of disposal of e-wastes and bio-medical wastes and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Lignite coal production

*235. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the grade, quantity and value of lignite coal produced from various operational mines in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC Ltd.) during the last three years, year-wise and its value in international market;

(b) the total income earned during the above period;

(c) the measures taken by Government to produce more quantity of high grade lignite coal from Neyveli coal mines;

(d) the total quantity and quality of coal supplied to the thermal power stations during the last three years together with its performance in generation of power; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate infrastructural, logistic and technological facilities to NLC Ltd.?

Reduction in ecologically sensitive areas of Western Ghats

*236. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assured MPs from the Western Ghats region that the notification on ecologically sensitive areas would incorporate suggestions of all six States in the earmarked zone and no go area restrictions would not affect basic economic activities including agriculture and plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ecologically sensitive areas are likely to be reduced to nearly 50,000 sq. km. from 56,825 sq. km.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Human-elephant conflicts

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

(a) the number of people and elephants killed in human-elephant conflicts and crops damaged by elephants across the country

during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study about migration pattern movement of elephants in order to avoid such conflicts and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for satellite tracking of select elephants through radio collars, in order to avoid such incidents by providing real time information to villagers about their movement?

Safety net for officials guarding forests and wildlife

*238. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest officials in many parts of the country are guarding forests and wildlife without the much needed safety net, etc.;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the media reports in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government has asked the State Governments to take appropriate action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Creation of additional carbon sink

*239. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030;

(b) whether Government has estimated the annual average increase in forest cover required to achieve this target;

(c) the initiatives being taken by Government for increasing and improving the quality of forest/tree cover in the country; and

(d) what other initiatives are being taken by Government to ensure more carbon sequestration?

Land acquisition for Mukunda Open Cast Colliery project in Dhanbad

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

(a) whether Government is aware that Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Dhanbad had acquired around 1,758 acres in Zone B of Belgaria to set up Mukunda Open Cast Colliery project in 1986;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the said project failed to take off, and, instead of returning the land to farmers, a part of the same was transferred to the Jharia Rehabilitation Development Authority (JRDA) for constructing houses;

(c) whether Government would consider returning the land to the farmers whom the same belonged to; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th December, 2015
Agrahayana 24, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Drinking Water and Sanitation	: 231,
Environment, Forests and Climate Change	: 226, 229, 234, 236, 237, 238, 239,
New and Renewable Energy	: —
Panchayati Raj	: 233,
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