

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, July 22, 2016/Ashadha 31, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

#### Employment in draught affected areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating seriously to promote non-agricultural work in drought affected areas;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard till now; and

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

#### Minimum living income for farmers

543. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly income of a farmer in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average agricultural debt per household;

(c) the steps taken by Government to write off the loans of farmers in the country during the last two years and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government intends to constitute an Income Commission that could suggest ways to ensure a minimum living income for farmers; and

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

#### Suicide by farmers in West Bengal

544. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of peasants have committed suicides in West Bengal in the last one year;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken to prevent such incidents?

#### Import of refined edible oil

545. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether refined edible oil is being imported in the country in large quantity;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the quantity of crude and refined edible oil imported during the last two years;

(c) whether domestic refining companies are suffering heavy losses because of increasing import of refined edible oil, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the import duty of refined edible oil and introduce other measures to support domestic industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far?

#### **Improper use of pesticides and insecticides**

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding losses incurred due to improper use of pesticides and insecticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to educate farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production of pulses**

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

(a) the total production of pulses in the country, during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the details of consumption deficit of pulses; and

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the production of pulses in the country to meet their demand?

#### **Doubling the income of farmers**

†548. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the

Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced to double the income of farmers of the country in the next five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether necessary steps are being taken towards increasing the income of the farmers by double and whether positive results of such steps are coming, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Welfare schemes for farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to introduce various beneficial schemes in the agriculture sector for the welfare of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a provision has been made that the compensation for loss of crops to the farmers would be credited in their bank accounts; and

(c) the details of productive schemes and the variety of new seeds which have been made available to the farmers this year?

#### **Development of improved varieties of various crops**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 93 improved varieties of various crops have been developed in the field of agricultural research during the last eighteen months;

(b) if so, the details of crops and varieties thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the help of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and States' Extension System has been taken to extend these improved varieties to the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

**Development of technologies for enhancing agriculture productivity**

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

(a) whether Government has recently signed MoUs with certain countries in the field of agriculture and allied sectors, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity?

**Bringing onion under MSP regime**

552. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently prices of onion in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country nosedived between one to two rupee per kilo forcing the onion growers to throw their crop on roads or distribute free of cost to people, whereas onion was being sold more than twenty rupee a kilo in National Capital and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to bring onion under MSP regime and compulsory market intervention in case of bumper crop, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Establishing regional office of Coconut Development Board in Maharashtra**

553. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any regional office of the Coconut Development Board is presently functioning in coastal Maharashtra to promote production of coconuts in the State, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to establish a regional office of Coconut Development Board in Maharashtra, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Steps to make barren land fertile**

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the report of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), according to which 105.49 million hectare land of the country has turned barren and 25 per cent area has turned into desert;

(b) whether this turning of barren land is impacting Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab the most;

(c) if so, the reasons for the land turning into barren;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to make the barren land fertile and check the further turning of land into barren, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Ill effects of excess use of fertilizers and pesticides**

555. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides is adding excessive carcinogens in both land and food produce which is causing irreparable damage to the health of the land and the people;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such practices;

(c) the amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed during last five years, State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) whether Government has commissioned a survey to study the ill effects of excessive use of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Projects under ICAR**

556. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation and utilization of funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last five years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that completion deadlines of several projects under ICAR have been extended midway during project execution;

(c) if so, the details of such projects along with the reasons for extension of their completion period and the cost overrun thereof, project-wise; and

(d) the details of projects initiated but not completed till date along with the date

of initiation and the expected date for their completion, project-wise?

### **KVKs in Telangana**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that three proposals from State Government of Telangana for starting Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Medak, Adilabad and Khammam have been received in the Ministry;

(b) if so, when the proposals were received and the action Ministry has taken on each of such proposal; and

(c) the status of functioning of the existing KVKs in Telangana?

### **Integration of agriculture markets**

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

(a) the details of agriculture markets in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to integrate all agriculture markets by March, 2018;

(c) if so, details of the road-map prepared for their integration; and

(d) how Government plans to achieve the goal set for integrating agriculture markets in the absence of a provision for electronic trade in agriculture produces in many States?

### **Amendments in APMC Act**

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

(a) the details of States which have amended their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts so as to allow electronic trading;

(b) whether in the absence of such amendment in many States, they are not able to sell the farmers' produce through electronic sale in mandis;

(c) if so, how Government is planning to persuade the States to amend their respective APMC Acts for win-win situation for farmers and sellers; and

(d) whether Government will consider giving single licence to anyone willing to trade through National Agriculture Markets (NAM) in local mandis, if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Use of Geo-Spatial technology in agriculture sector**

560. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed any MoU with ISRO to use Geo-Spatial technology in agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how this technology will help to increase the crop yield and profitability of farmers?

#### **Revamping the mechanism for MSP**

561. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to revamp the current mechanism of MSP declaration of crops;

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

(c) the proposed key changes to make this mechanism more farmer friendly?

#### **Implementation of NHM**

562. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts covered under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to expand the NHM to non-covered districts as well, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

#### **Allocation of funds under National Livestock Mission**

563. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the animal husbandry sector is rapidly emerging as the largest incremental contributor to farm incomes across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has received proposals from State Governments for the increased allocation of funds under the National Livestock Mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

**Implementation of Soil Health Card scheme**

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

(a) whether the Soil Health Card scheme launched by Government is running with a very slow pace, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of Soil Health Cards issued so far, State-wise?

**Expenditure of funds allocated under Price Stabilization Fund**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated under the Price Stabilization Fund are not put to proper use inspite of sky-rocketing prices of agri-horticultural commodities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the State-wise allocation and expenditure particulars of the fund during last year?

**Effect of Neem coated urea on Indian soil**

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

(a) whether any country-wide study has been made with regard to the impact of Neem coated urea on Indian soil; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

**Allocation of funds for micro irrigation scheme**

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

(a) whether micro irrigation scheme has gained acceptance amongst the farming community across the country;

(b) whether the said scheme is being implemented in the ratio of 60 : 40, i.e. 60 per cent by Central Government and 40 per cent by State Governments;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from State Governments to allocate more funds for the said scheme;

(d) whether Government has also received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

**MSP for agricultural produces**

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

(a) whether Government has taken appropriate measures to provide adequate MSP for major agricultural produces in the country, including pulses of various kinds;

(b) if so, the details of MSP for various produces, as-on-date;

(c) whether Government has any plans to increase the MSP and compensation packages provided for farmers;

(d) the funds allocated from 2011 to till date for support of farmers and compensation packages provided to Tamil Nadu, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of millions of small and marginal farmers and compensation package, per acre land, during any calamity or floods?

**Umbrella projects for SC/ST farmers**

†569. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of umbrella projects running in agriculture sector for farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the details of allocated budget and amount spent under the said projects, State-wise?

**Production of kharif crops**

570. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on good production of kharif crops this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, production report for this year, sector-wise; and

(c) the action proposal of Government to cope up with negative situation, if any?

**Compulsory licence and royalty on sale price of seeds**

571. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn the notification calling GM developers to compulsorily license their proprietary traits on demand;

(b) whether Government has also rolled back the decision not to charge any royalty exceeding 10 per cent of the maximum sale price of seeds;

(c) the key features of Licensing and Formats for GM Technology Agreement Guidelines; and

(d) by when does Government propose to put out a formal confirmation on compulsory licence and royalty on sale price?

**Policy to improve agriculture sector**

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any special policy to improve the worsened situation of agriculture and to promote agriculture sector through achievement of white and blue revolutions and fast pace of horticulture; and

(b) whether any steps are to be taken to improve mandi system and to improve dilapidated expansion system of basic infrastructure under this policy to provide fair prices to farmers for their produces, if so, the details thereof?

**Formation of National Policy for co-operative societies**

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

(a) the details of co-operative societies functioning in the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate a National Policy for the development and upgradation of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

co-operative societies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be formulated?

**Implementation of National Policy for Farmers, 2007**

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

(a) the salient features of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 and the status of its implementation in Telangana;

(b) the role assigned to State Governments in implementation of this policy; and

(c) whether this policy has taken into account recommendations of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee, if so, the details of the recommendations covered by the policy?

**Investment in agriculture and allied sector**

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

(a) the total investment in agriculture and allied sector under public and private during 2014-15 and 2015-16;

(b) the subjects included in the allied sector;

(c) the investment in agriculture and allied sector, sector-wise; and

(d) the amount invested in Telangana during the above period?

**Regulation of excessive use of pesticides**

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

(a) the details of pesticides being used in the country;

(b) the regulatory mechanism that the country has to regulate the excessive use of pesticides;

(c) the details of agencies that are working to control use of pesticides and maintain residuary levels of pesticides in various foods;

(d) whether these agencies are working under different Ministries thereby causing problem in co-ordination; and

(e) if not, the coordination mechanism that these agencies have and to what extent they have succeeded in containing excessive use of pesticides in the country?

**Small and marginal farmers in Puducherry**

577. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Agriculture Census 2010-11 the number of small and marginal farmers in Puducherry have gone up from 28,000 to 31,000 compared to 2005-06;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to protect these small and marginal farmers in Puducherry; and

(c) the annual income of these farmers during the last five years, year-wise and the efforts being made to double their income in the next five years as promised in the Budget?



#### **Decontrol of sugar sector**

578. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers' body has pitched for decontrol of the sugar sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

#### **Organic farming**

579. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has decided recently to give a boost to organic farming by implementing various schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes to be introduced;

(c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated methodologies in organic farming; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these are likely to be implemented?

#### **Study visit on agricultural activities**

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

(a) whether a delegation of the University of Wisconsin of USA visited Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in Hyderabad to study the aspects of agriculture related activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Sale of unsafe and spurious aluminium foils**

581. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has laid down parameters for the manufacturing of aluminium foils for wrapping food items and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that unsafe and spurious aluminium foils are being sold openly in Delhi;

(c) the number of aluminium foil samples lifted by Government for checking during the last two years and how many of them have been found impure and unfit for wrapping food items; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to educate consumers about ill effects of using sub-standard/spurious/impure aluminium foils?

#### **Improving the farming of pulses and oilseeds**

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any special plan to promote the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds and to increase the productivity thereof;

(b) whether oilseed crops have been exhibited in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras of 300 districts of the country under this scheme;

(c) whether seeds and technical assistance has been provided to the farmers under this scheme; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details of assistance given to the farmers and efforts made to increase the productivity under the plan?

#### **Utility of E-NAM for farmers**

583. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any programme named as E-NAM (E-National Agriculture Market) in recent past;

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

(c) the details of terms and conditions, plan outlay and funds allocation in this regard along with its utility for the farmers?

#### **Launching of NAMs in the country**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has launched 21 National Agriculture Markets (NAMs) in the country;

(b) if so, details of the States where NAMs have been launched;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is planning to integrate four hundred mandies across the country by August this year; and

(d) if so, the progress of the same, with a particular reference to Telangana?

#### **Special package for fisheries sector**

585. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide comprehensive special package to State Governments for diversification of fisheries;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals from State Governments for reduction of trawling pressure in the Palk Bay;

(c) whether the scheme for diversification of bottom trawlers to Tuna Long liners has been pending with the Government for nearly a year; and

(d) whether Government has received a representation from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the action taken by Central Government thereon?

#### **Online registration of drug producers with NPPA**

586. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain top drug producers have not registered their products on the online database of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and have failed to submit the mandatory disclosures;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against defaulting drug producers for violation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order?

#### **Capping the cost of essential medicines**

587. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of 42 essential

medicines, used in treatment of various ailments, have been capped by the Government thereby reducing their cost by upto 15 per cent; and

(b) if so, the names and other details of these medicines?

**Online disclosures with NPPA by pharma companies**

588. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several top pharmaceutical companies have violated the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 by not providing the necessary disclosures on the online database;

(b) if so, the names of all such defaulting companies;

(c) whether such a violation defeats the price regulation exercise carried out by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and is against consumers interests; and

(d) the steps taken by NPPA to bring these violators to book along with response thereto?

**Operationalising closed fertilizer factories**

†589. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of closed down fertilizer factories who have been paid their dues and salaries;

(b) the number of fertilizer factories lying closed at present and the total expenditure likely to be incurred on their revival; and

(c) the present status of re-operationalising closed down fertilizer factories in Sindri and Barauni and the investment required therefor?

**Supply of chemicals and fertilizers to the State of Odisha**

590. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha has forwarded a request in the recent past for supply of chemicals and fertilizers for the use of farmers in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has provided the chemicals and fertilizers as requested for, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that if farmers are not supplied with adequate chemical and fertilizers on time during the season, the production and the productivity will suffer severely?

**Production and use of liquid fertilizers**

591. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide any assistance/facilities for production of liquid fertilizers in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government also proposes to launch any campaign to encourage widespread use of liquid fertilizers across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof as also the achievements made as a result thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Collaboration of PSUs in revival of  
fertilizer plants**

592. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to involve Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to collaborate in the revival of fertilizer plants in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of fertilizer plants presently under consideration of the Government for such collaboration and revival along with the steps taken for revival of those plants which are left out?

**New Urea Policy**

†593. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented a new policy regarding urea supply so that adequate and time-bound supply of urea may be ensured in the far-flung areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is helping in maintaining a balance between demand and supply of urea at Block level throughout the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Non-framing of guidelines on Net  
Neutrality**

594. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the reasons for not framing guidelines on Net Neutrality by Government despite passage of a considerable time?

**Policy to permit and support digital  
mobile payments**

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

(a) whether Government is considering regulation or a national policy to permit and support digital mobile payments in India; and

(b) if so, the expected completion date for such a policy?

**TV white space**

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

(a) whether unused/underused TV spectrum or TV 'white space' exists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the future potential of it;

(c) whether Government has entered into agreements with private organisations or has plans to do so far the utilisation of this spectrum, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to link this TV white space with the Digital India initiative?

**Steps taken by Government to reduce  
call drops**

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

(a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;

(d) whether Government has allowed installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and

(e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

#### **Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks**

598. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gramin Dak Sevaks proposed to be recruited in Jharkhand and in the country during the financial year 2016-17;

(b) the action being taken against agents who are allegedly collecting large sums of money from people with the promise of facilitating appointments as Gramin Dak Sevaks in Jharkhand; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure a transparent and non-discretionary system of recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks?

#### **Technology provided to private companies by BSNL/MTNL**

†599. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom companies operating in the country are provided transponder/technology through MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons that their own mobile phone services are not working properly in the rural areas of the country whereas the private mobile operators are making profits using the technology of the said State companies; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State-operated mobile services are hampered with a view to extend profits to private-operated mobile services?

#### **Time-limit for delivery of Speed Post**

†600. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-limit has been fixed for Speed Post to be delivered from one location to its destination in the country;

(b) if so, whether different time-limits have been fixed for Speed Post to be delivered to its destination in rural areas and metropolitan cities in the country;

(c) if so, whether there is any provision to ascertain the responsibility for Speed Post not being delivered to its destination on time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Unclaimed money lying in Post Offices**

601. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to return the unclaimed money lying in Post Offices under various schemes to their actual owners; and

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding embezzlement of such unclaimed money by Post Office officials, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Survey of TRAI on call drops**

602. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per survey conducted by TRAI between 3 May and 6 May, 2016, nearly all operators in the NCT of Delhi had call drops beyond the stipulated benchmark of two per cent of all calls;

(b) if so, whether Government would bring this to the notice of the Supreme Court since operators are taking shelter under the order of the Supreme Court; and

(c) the findings of TRAI on call drops relating to other cities?

#### **Upgrading Post Offices**

603. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of Post Offices has decreased considerably during the past twenty years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry would consider upgrading Post Offices to a multi-facility provider unit like ATM/Money transfer/foreign exchange etc., to attract more people to make it economically viable and avoid its extinction?

#### **Norms for radiations from mobile towers**

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

(a) whether Government has announced more norms for radiations from mobile

phone towers and hefty penalty for non-compliance of electro-magnetic field standards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the new norms have been implemented and the achievements made as a result thereof?

#### **Introducing Philately as a subject in secondary level curriculum**

605. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has mooted a proposal for inclusion of Philately in curriculum of lower secondary level to create awareness as a hobby and boost sale of stamps among younger generation;

(b) whether, in view of rapid advancement of communication systems, both through telecom and internet, the present postal transmission and delivery system is fast becoming obsolete and out of sync, as borne out by closure of telegram services long back; and

(c) whether Ministry would abandon above proposal and concentrate on sprucing up services under Speed Post meant to carry commercial promotional material and documents by surface/air?

#### **Delivery of Gangajal by post**

606. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to send Gangajal by post to the public; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Supreme Court order on call drops**

607. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the Supreme Court order on call drops raising questions on TRAI's powers and working; and

(b) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

**Use of Radio Link Technology by telecom companies to hide call drops**

†608. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of hiding call drops and frauds against customers through Radio Link Technology by telecom companies have come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being examined by the telecom regulator; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in incidents of call drops**

†609. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom operators are using Radio Link Technology (RLT) to hide call drops;

(b) whether Government has carried out investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware that incidents of call drop have increased in last few months; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect the consumers from losses due to call drops?

**Demand and production of sugar**

†610. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a high possibility of decrease in the production of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step to increase the production of sugar and to fulfill its demand; and

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

**Rise in price of tomatoes**

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

(a) whether price of tomatoes has risen sharply in the past months; and

(b) if so, the prices of the same from 1 July, 2015 to 1 July, 2016?

**Bringing brand ambassadors within purview of Consumer Protection Act**

†612. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of misleading claims

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in the advertisements of several popular products have come to light recently even as these products are being endorsed by famous personalities/brand ambassadors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the brand ambassador does not come under the ambit of Consumer Protection Act currently, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to bring the brand ambassadors within the purview of Consumer Protection Act, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Help Desk for consumer under PDS**

613. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge nationwide network of PDS is inter-connected through computer;

(b) if so, whether all information about the availability of stock of all items supplied through PDS is uploaded in the public domain and updated regularly;

(c) whether there is any proposal to launch 24x7 Call Centres/Help Desks for consumers to seek any kind of information about the availability of stock or to make any complaint against any PDS functionary regarding their services or otherwise; and

(d) if not, how does the Ministry propose to provide information to the consumers about its departments for their benefit?

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

614. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether digitization of ration cards has been completed by all States in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some States are unable to meet the deadline set by the Centre, if so, the details of those States; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to give more time to those States to complete the digitization drive of ration cards?

#### **Misleading advertisements**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advertising Standards Council of India has received complaints against one thousand advertisers;

(b) the kind of complaints received against advertisers and the segments for which maximum complaints were received; and

(c) whether companies provided any kind of help to consumers fallen in trap of misleading advertisers?

#### **Difference between farm gate and retail prices of foodgrains**

616. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide difference between production cost/farm gate price and retail prices of foodgrains in the market;

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by Government to check the retail prices?

#### **Digitization of records under PDS**

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

(a) the number of States that have digitized the records of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;

(b) whether there has been a delay in digitization of records, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated and utilized for end-to-end computerization envisaged under the Twelfth Five Year Plan of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in last three years in Uttar Pradesh and the targets achieved for the same, district-wise and component-wise; and

(d) the details of number of households who receive subsidies *via* cash transfers through Aadhaar in the country, district-wise?

#### **Containing the prices of pulses**

†618. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to contain the prices of pulses and to take action against hoarders of pulses;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard till now;

(c) if so, the details of action taken and the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government desires to contain the increasing prices of pulses?

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

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

(a) whether prices of urad and tur dal have shown a steep increase in March, 2016 as compared to that in March, 2015; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, if any, by Government to control the prices of these pulses, the details thereof?

#### **Rise in prices of essential commodities**

620. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, edible oils, vegetables, milk etc. during the recent few months;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken, including importing foodgrains and releasing them in open market, to check the constant price-rise; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

#### **Exorbitantly high prices of pulses**

621. SHRIMATI SARAJINI  
HEMBRAM:  
DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA  
RAO:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses are exorbitantly high in the market;
- (b) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to curb the high price-rise of pulses, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the various reasons for the steep-rise in prices of pulses; and
- (d) whether stringent action has been initiated against the hoarders and black marketeers, if so, the details thereof?

**Procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains by FCI**

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

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

- (a) the total amount received by Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy allocation from Ministry of Finance in the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the outstanding dues of FCI by the end of financial year 2015-16 and estimated for the year 2016-17;
- (c) the amount spent in financial year 2015-16 and estimated for the current year, for carrying out foodgrains' procurement, storage and distribution operations; and
- (d) the measures taken to ensure that FCI meets its financial commitments without hindrance and carry out smooth operations of foodgrains' procurement, storage and distribution?

**Rise in prices of tomato**

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

- (a) whether prices of tomato have risen upto 200 to 300 per cent during April to June, 2016;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same; and
- (c) the reasons for failure of Government to check rise in prices of tomato, pulses and other edible items in the country?

**Cancellation of fake ration cards**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has cancelled 1.6 crore fake ration cards so far, which would result in an estimated saving of ₹ 10,000 crore annually in subsidy bill;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the total number of ration cards in the country and the number of fake ration cards out of it, the details thereof?

**Creation of additional storage capacity for foodgrains**

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

- (a) the requirement and availability of storage capacity along with quantum of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

foodgrains reported damaged during last three and current year for lack of proper maintenance and rodent infestation, State-wise, including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) whether Government has made any action plan for creation of additional storage capacity through farmers' participation under subsidy scheme, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether additional funds are proposed to be provided by various agencies, including NAFED, for the purpose, if so, details thereof; and

(d) steps taken to ensure better co-ordination between various agencies involved in procurement and storage of foodgrains to check damage to foodgrains?

#### **Implementation of NFSA**

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

(a) the number of States currently implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, the district-wise details for each State;

(b) the amount of funds allocated for implementation of this Act since 2013 and the actual expenditure incurred, year-wise details thereof;

(c) the reasons for incomplete implementation of this Act in majority of States; and

(d) the time-line set by Government for universal implementation of this Act and steps being taken to expedite its implementation by all States?

#### **Hallmarking of gold and silver items**

627. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER

AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for mandatory hallmarking of gold and silver items, if so, the details thereof;

(b) to what extent it will ensure purity of the metal items;

(c) whether Government has set up recognized Hallmarking Centres all over the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Procedure for cancellation of Aadhaar registration**

628. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a procedure for residents to cancel their Aadhaar registration and delete the collected biometric data;

(b) if so, the details of steps involved; and

(c) the number of people who have cancelled their Aadhaar registration till date?

#### **Setting up of Common Service Centres**

629. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Common Service Centres (CSC) aimed to be set up in every Gram Panchayat (GP);

(b) whether the target to set up CSCs in GPs in Phase I has been achieved;

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

(d) whether it is a fact that recently, Government has approved CSC Phase II to set up 2.5 lakh CSCs in various States and UTs;

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be set up; and

(f) the services that are likely to be provided through CSCs in GPs?

#### **Pillars of Digital India campaign**

630. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each pillar envisaged under the Digital India campaign;

(b) the details of schemes proposed to be pooled under the Digital India campaign;

(c) the short and long-term plans to implement each of the above pillars;

(d) whether any international cooperation has been sought for Digital India campaign, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any agreement has been signed between India and the USA relating to Digital India during the recent visit of the PM to USA, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Transformation of National Informatics Centre**

631. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for transformation of National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether a High Level Committee has been set up in this regard which has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government has accepted the findings of the Committee for implementation;

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

(f) whether the transformation of NIC would result in employment generation in the electronics and computers field, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Research Centres for development of handicraft market**

632. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open Research Centres for development of handicraft market in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the places identified for opening such Research Centres, including the time by when these Centres are likely to be opened; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for making the handicrafts competitive in the international market?

#### **Legal boundary for cyber crimes**

633. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to define any legal boundaries for cyber crimes, trespassing and breaching under sections of Information Technology

Act, 2000 and existing cyber laws and to curb cyber crimes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the effective steps taken by Government to provide legal strength to State Governments and Courts to book and prosecute those who commit cyber crimes;

(c) whether Government is formulating any new guidelines for Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunal (CRAT); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of pending cases in CRAT?

#### **Financial, technological and logistic support to FPIs**

634. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial, technological and logistic support for setting up of food processing units using herbal, horticulture and floriculture produces, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized for setting up of such food processing units in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the various methods adopted by the Centre to promote and develop herbal, horticulture and floriculture produces: and

(d) the funds allocated, disbursed in the last five years in this regard?

#### **Voting rights to NRIs**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to give voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) whether the Election Commission has made any recommendations to this effect;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Election Commission;

(d) whether Government has examined security angle in this respect; and

(e) whether any demand to this effect was made by NRIs during PM's visit to USA or otherwise, the details thereof?

#### **Funds for e-Courts project of High Courts**

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

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

(a) the total funds allocated to various States in the Budget for e-Courts project of their respective High Courts in the last three years;

(b) the number of States which have released funds to their respective High Courts for buying new hardware and also for adequate technical manpower;

(c) the progress made in respect of modernization of various High Courts;

(d) the total amount that remained unspent so far due to non-implementation of the project; and

(e) the details of the States in which the project has not made any progress?

#### **Uniform Civil Code**

†637. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to adopt Uniform Civil Code in the country in the last two years; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether suggestions have been invited from the members of various communities and organisations in order to consider all aspects of the action being taken to adopt Uniform Civil Code, the details thereof?

**Demand for constitution of AIJS**

638. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 1000 universities/colleges are imparting legal education;

(b) if so, the number of graduates/post-graduates coming out of these colleges;

(c) the percentage of students joining the profession of advocacy;

(d) whether there is a demand for constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) to attract more and more people towards legal profession;

(e) if so, the outcome of the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Court held in April, 2013; and

(f) the details of views expressed by each State and High Court on AIJS?

**Vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts**

639. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any post of Judge is presently vacant in the Supreme Court and High Courts, if so, how many, court-wise;

(b) when did these posts become vacant;

(c) whether there is any unusual delay in appointment to these posts; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay?

**Legal Aid Clinics**

640. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Law Colleges/Universities are required to have Legal Aid Clinics under Section 24 of the regulations relating to National Legal Services Authority (NLSA);

(b) if so, whether all these have such clinics;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) what is being done about it?

**Empowering the Election Commission to revoke/countermand elections**

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

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the Election Commission seeking legal powers to revoke any election (Assembly/Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha etc.) in case there is credible evidence of use of money to bribe voters; and

(b) if so, whether Government is ready to bring in an amendment to Section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to empower the poll watchdog with statutory powers to enable it to countermand polls in case it is established that money has been used to influence voters, the details thereof?

**Speedy disposal of cases of undertrials**

642. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of undertrials in prisons has

been recorded as 50 lakhs across the country;

(b) if so, the status/details of court backlogs in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware of the very low disposal rates of cases in different courts of the country; and

(d) if so, the plan/proposal of Government to dispose of the cases of undertrials speedily?

#### **Strike by Judges of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

643. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Judges of the Subordinate Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana went on strike recently by taking mass leaves, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

#### **Appointment of Judges by High Court of Telangana**

†644. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 130 Judges have been appointed by the High Court of Hyderabad in Telangana;

(b) whether mass leave of fifteen days has been taken by 200 Judges in protest of the suspension of 11 Judges by the High Court of Hyderabad;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government for the compliance of the orders of High Court of Hyderabad?

#### **Protests by judicial officers in Telangana**

645. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of protests by judicial officers in Telangana over allocation of lower court Judges to the Telangana State without bifurcating the Andhra Pradesh High Court;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to resolve the issue;

(c) whether the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh has allotted land and provided infrastructure for a separate High Court in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Central Government to expedite the same as also to settle the issue amicably in consultation with the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad?

#### **Reforms in Election Commission of India**

646. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received proposals for reforms in the Election Commission of India (ECI);

(b) whether ECI has demanded constitutional protection for all the three Election Commissioners;

(c) whether ECI has demanded that its financial budget be charged to Consolidated Fund of India;

(d) whether ECI has demanded an independent secretariat for itself;

(e) the reasons given by ECI for these demands;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) the stand taken by the Ministry on these demands along with the reasons therefor; and

(g) if the Ministry has made no decision so far, by when it is likely to decide on these demands?

**Reservation for women in legislatures and Urban Local Bodies**

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

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

(b) the steps taken in the past one year to provide for 50 per cent reservation for women in the Urban Local Bodies, if any?

**Vacancies in High Courts**

648. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are huge vacancies in various State High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the vacancies existing in various States, including the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the time-frame, if any, fixed by Government to fill up those vacancies?

**Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**

649. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is examining the feasibility of conducting assembly and

Lok Sabha polls simultaneously on the basis of the opinion of Central Election Commission that the proposal is not insurmountable;

(b) whether apart from provisioning additional funds of around ₹ 10,000 crore for procuring additional EVMs and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems, there is a need for a constitutional amendment to make it possible to synchronise the elections both in States and the Lok Sabha; and

(c) whether holding both elections together will provide political parties to dovetail the local/regional issues with the policies at the Centre?

**Steps to reduce the burden of pending cases on courts**

650. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to unburden the High Courts and the Supreme Court from huge load of pending cases;

(b) whether Government mulls increasing the age of superannuation for High Court Judges from the present 62 to 65 years and for the Supreme Court Judges from 65 to 67 years, if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps Government proposes to take for quick disposal of pending cases in higher courts and even in lower courts?

**Pending railway project in Bihar**

†651. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) whether Government has planned to convert the railway line from Kosi railway bridge to Saraigarh *via* Sakri to Nirmali into broad gauge but the work is still incomplete after so many years;

(b) whether there is no operation of trains from Ghoghardiha station to Nirmali station of Samastipur division for several years, the reasons therefor;

(c) the length of bridge in metres proposed to be constructed over Bhutahi Balan river, flowing in the east of Kisinipatti Kosi embankment situated in the east of Ghoghardiha station, details thereof; and

(d) time-limit to start broad gauge line?

#### **Track capacity for operation of express trains**

†652. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for coming three years in respect of track capacity of Railways for operation of express trains in the country and the status of section-wise annual programme and implementation according to it; and

(b) in the above context, the annual programme of coming three years in respect of supply of new coaches according to the express railway passenger trains?

#### **Emergency quota in trains of Bihar**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there was considerable emergency quota in sleeper class and third AC class in train nos. 12558,

12566, 12554, 12562, 12204, 12394, 12402, 12368 and other trains, moving to and from Bihar before the year 2009, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether emergency quota has been reduced in these trains by discriminating against Bihar, if so, the extent of quota reduced in these trains from 2009 till now; and

(c) whether a letter from an MP has been received to increase the emergency quota, if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

#### **Vacancies in safety-related posts**

654. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of safety-related posts are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the Zone-wise vacancies in this regard; and

(c) what are the plans to fill up the vacancies?

#### **Facilities for passengers of sleeper and general coaches**

†655. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite promises by the Government, no facilities are available for the passengers of sleeper as well as general coaches in almost all the trains, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the facilities announced by Government for passengers of sleeper and general bogies wherein implementation has also started?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Unmanned railway level crossings**

656. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of unmanned railway level crossings upgraded as manned railway level crossings during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of unmanned railway level crossings to be converted into manned railway level crossings in the next two years, State-wise?

**Wi-Fi facility in Rajdhani trains**

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

(a) how many Rajdhani Express trains have been provided with Wi-Fi facilities by Railways so far, the State-wise and Zone-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to extend this facility to rest of the Express trains like Shatabdi, Duronto etc.; and

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

**Freight dues to be paid to Railways**

658. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dues for freight transport to be paid to Railways during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for huge sums to be collected according to CAG reports;

(c) whether there is a laxity in collecting such dues and whether there is a mechanism

to ensure its collection, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways have freight dues every year; and

(e) what was the annual average amount due in recent years?

**Commercial utilization of railway station premises**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that premises/buildings of railway stations are proposed to be utilized commercially, if so, the details and status thereof; and

(b) whether it would be covered under existing Rail Development Authority regulations or it would have to be amended for that purpose?

**Elevated corridors to overcome congestion and land acquisition process**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to construct elevated corridors to overcome rail traffic congestion and get rid of the protracted land acquisition processes, if so, the details and status thereof; and

(b) whether and by when the pilot project is likely to start for this?

**Development of railway stations**

†661. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is working on a plan to develop railway stations situated in various regions and making them Wi-Fi enabled;

(b) if so, the names of the railway stations to be developed, State-wise/division-wise; and

(c) the funding source available with Government for this action plan and steps being taken to make this programme successful by making commercial use of railway properties and private sector participation?

#### **Electrification of railway lines in Uttarakhand**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for electrification of Moradabad-Ramnagar and Rampur-Kathgodam railway lines located in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, since when this proposal is pending and at what level; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Railways does not consider this railway line as profitable?

#### **Collaboration with France for makeover of New Delhi Railway Station**

663. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi Railway Station (NDRS) is likely to get French makeover to decongest and manage the high daily footfall and operation of about 350 trains;

(b) whether a delegation of French

Government and railway officials had visited Delhi Division of Northern Railways and surveyed the NDRS with the intent to collaborate with Indian Railways to redevelop the station on the lines of airports, if so, a detailed report on outcome of the visit; and

(c) whether Government intends to redevelop main stations in each of the metropolitan cities, including Mumbai, on the same pattern, if so, details thereof?

#### **Derailement of coaches on Guwahati-Silchar railway route**

664. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received several complaints of derailment of coaches on the Guwahati-Silchar broad-gauge line;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received since the inauguration of railway services thereon;

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

(d) whether Government has any study report on the technical deficiency of the said railway line; and

(e) if so, the safety report details and the planning for smooth run of Silchar-Lumding train services?

#### **PPP mode in Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor Project**

665. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is going to adopt PPP mode in Dedicated Rail Freight

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Corridor Project, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether fixation of responsibility would be ensured for unnecessary delay in the project, resulting in time and cost overrun?

#### **Deaths due to train accidents**

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

(a) the number of deaths caused due to train accidents, the State-wise, cause-wise, year-wise details for the last five years;

(b) the major causes of deaths due to train accidents:

(c) the number of deaths caused due to accidents on the Mumbai local trains, station-wise, year-wise details of the last five years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to curb such accidents?

#### **Meeting of Joint Committee on high speed rail project**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Committee held talks with Japanese authorities very recently regarding country's ambitious high speed rail project, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has requested for drawing up of a schedule of project implementation and appointment of a General Consultant before finalization of the loan agreement for the said project; and

(c) if so, the response received from the Japanese authorities in this regard?

#### **Changes in Tatkal booking system and waitlist system**

668. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have made changes in Tatkal booking tickets and waitlist system in railway reservations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bullet trains**

†669. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to strengthen Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a plan for operating Bullet trains has been formulated in the country;

(c) the time by when the Bullet train is likely to be operated in the country and the number of trains that have been decided to be operated in the first phase; and

(d) whether a Bullet train passing through Patna, Bihar has been provisioned, if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for its operation?

#### **Pathankot-Jogindernagar railway line**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to convert Pathankot-Jogindernagar railway line into broad-gauge railway line;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the said work is likely to be started;

(c) whether Government proposes to lay a new railway track from Pathankot to Jogindernagar; and

(d) if so, the budget allocated for the purpose and by when the work for laying this new railway track is likely to be started?

#### **Railway projects in Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) the details of railway projects undergoing/proposed to be started soon in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether some of these projects have been delayed and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of new railway lines announced in the last two Railway Budgets for Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the details of projects on which work has been started and the quantum of work that has been completed; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the work on new railway line projects undergoing/proposed to be started in Himachal Pradesh?

#### **Railway crossings on National Highways in Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) the number of railway crossings on the National Highways (NHs) in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Railways propose to

construct Rail over/under bridges at these crossings;

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

(d) the status of the under-construction and proposed to be constructed bridges in Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to complete under-construction bridges and construct new bridges at the crossings which are being manually operated in the State?

#### **Alternate sources of energy generation**

673. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to generate 500 MW of solar energy through rooftop solar panels and 500 MW through land mounted solar panels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are aiming to generate 312 MW of energy through windmill plants with the help of Railway Energy Management Corporation Limited; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to meet 10 per cent of their energy requirement *via* renewable energy by 2020, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Market share of Railways in passenger traffic**

674. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to cap air fares to tier II and tier III cities at ₹ 2,500 is likely

to further erode market share of Railways in passenger traffic;

(b) whether Railways have witnessed a decline in passenger bookings from ₹ 839 crore in financial year 2014 to ₹ 818 crore in financial year 2016;

(c) whether the number of passengers travelling in higher classes have fallen considerably;

(d) whether reduction in travel time and better facility can only restrict eroding trend of rail passengers; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken up by Railways in this regard?

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

675. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations having free Wi-Fi facility, State-wise;

(b) the number of railway stations proposed to be provided with free Wi-Fi connectivity in next two years; and

(c) whether any MoU has been signed with Department of IT in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Railway projects in Tamil Nadu**

676. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects, viz., gauge conversion, doubling, electrification, signalling, laying of new routes currently being undertaken in the State of Tamil Nadu, project-wise;

(b) the details of tentative date of their completion, project-wise; and

(c) the details of the project costs, project-wise?

#### **Railway stations under encroachment**

†677. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main railway stations of the capital of the country, viz., Delhi, Nizamuddin etc., are under encroachment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to do away with this encroachment; and

(c) the number of such railway stations in the country which are under encroachment, the details thereof?

#### **Covering railway stations under CCTV surveillance**

678. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have plan to cover major railway stations of the country under the surveillance of CCTV cameras in order to ensure safety and security of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of the stations where CCTV camera installation has been completed by the end of May, 2016; and

(c) the allocation of funds towards CCTV projects during the financial year 2016-17?

#### **Adarsh railway stations**

†679. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the stations which are to be developed under Adarsh Station scheme in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the amount proposed by Government for Adarsh Station scheme;

(c) the State-wise and Railway Zone-wise details of the funds released under this scheme; and

(d) the details of works done on the stations identified under this scheme?

#### **Tejas and Antyodaya trains**

680. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched/propose to launch high speed trains—Tejas and Antyodaya, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any routes, in the State of Odisha, have been selected for running of the said high speed trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the highest and the average speed of these trains?

#### **Ready-to-eat food pouches by IRCTC**

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

(a) whether IRCTC is now trying out ready-to-eat food, packed in sealed airtight pouches, originally developed by DRDO for high altitude defence posts and later commercially developed by private companies;

(b) whether IRCTC has plans to manufacture its own food packets based on DRDO technical know-how at half the market cost; and

(c) whether with its adequate infrastructure, manpower and cooking

expertise, IRCTC will be given exclusive catering rights in Rajdhani and Shatabadi trains?

#### **Lease of railway land at throw away prices**

†682. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an information has come to light that Provident Investment Company Limited (PICL), responsible for maintenance of about 250 acres of railway land in Thane district of Maharashtra, has given railway land on lease at throw away prices;

(b) the details thereof and the amount received by Railways as a result of giving land on lease by PICL or whether this amount is with PICL itself; and

(c) the actual status thereof?

#### **Railway projects running behind schedule in Telangana**

683. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects running behind schedule in Telangana under the South Central Railway (SCR);

(b) the details of each of the above projects such as cost, time-limit, etc.;

(c) the progress of Peddapalli-Nizamabad railway line and by when it would be completed; and

(d) the amount allocated in the current year to this project, so far?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Curbing cheating in Railway Recruitment Board examinations**

†684. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to check cheating in examination of Railway Recruitment Board subsequent to certain cases of cheating having surfaced in the said examination;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard till now; and

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

### **Reduction in Tatkal quota**

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the Tatkal booking quota to benefit the common man and increase the normal booking quota because there are many reported cases of its misuse; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction, if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Separate budget for Railways**

686. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to abolish separate budget for Railways;

(b) whether any expert body has made such recommendation;

(c) which body Committee has made

the recommendation and what are the grounds given therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry agrees with the recommendation; and

(e) whether Government has examined the proposal, the details thereof?

### **CCTV cameras at railway stations**

687. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a plan to install CCTV cameras at major railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the estimated cost thereof and whether it comes under Nirbhaya Fund;

(c) whether this facility would be extended to all stations, including category 'C' and suburban stations in towns and cities; and

(d) whether the present system of having CCTVs at major stations would be strengthened and put on the network for surveillance and passenger safety, the details thereof?

### **Time table for goods trains**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced time table for goods trains in Railways for freight train operations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether customers can send their goods and parcels in such trains and if so, the terms and conditions therefor; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) whether such freight trains would be introduced covering all Zonal Railways, the details thereof?

**Revamping railway stations under PPP model**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to revamp railway stations in the country under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Viability Gap Funding (VGF) will also be provided to reduce the risk of investors;

(c) whether model concession agreements have been finalized, if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) how many projects have come through under PPP and what is the present status, the details thereof?

**Connecting Gandhinagar with important towns of Gujarat**

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

(a) the number of trains running from/ or passing through each State;

(b) whether Railways intend to increase the number of trains running from/or passing through Gandhinagar; and

(c) whether Railways are planning to start trains to connect Gandhinagar with the important towns of the State under the "Rajya Rani" Scheme announced in the Budget of 2011-12?

**Train frequency for Gandhinagar**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Gandhinagar is the only State capital served by negligible train frequency;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to provide more trains and eliminate discrimination to the State capital of Gujarat;

(c) how many trains connect Gandhinagar with rest of the country; and

(d) whether Railways have any plans to increase this number?

**Concepts for non-stinking toilets in trains**

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

(a) whether the crowdsourcing concepts for a non-stinking toilet in trains that require less water have generated public response with more than 650 entries on workable solutions;

(b) whether the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has shortlisted the responses and finally chosen a concept submitted by a group of engineers from Coimbatore; and

(c) whether the winning concept involves water usage being next to nil, just about a litre, and arresting the particles that produce odour, if so, the details thereof?

**Opening of new railway reservation centres in Uttarakhand**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Railways would contemplate opening new reservation centres at Dharchula, Jauljibi, Munsiyari, Thal, Kanalichhina, Berinag and Gangolihat of Pithoragarh district and Pati and Lohaghat of Champawat district, keeping in view the geographical condition of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, by when these reservation centres would be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Presentation of separate Rail Budget**

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

(a) whether Niti Aayog has recommended for the abolition of presentation of separate Rail Budget, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take on the recommendation of Niti Aayog?

#### **Revision of TUFs and provision of capital subsidy to textile units**

695. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs);

(b) if so, the new features of the TUFs; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide capital subsidy to new and existing textile units to enable them to bring in modern machinery and increase their output?

#### **Plan to boost Textile sector/industry**

696. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any plan to boost the Textile sector/industries in the country like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **Opening of Textile Parks**

697. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Textile Parks opened during the last two years;

(b) the number of Textile Parks to be opened in the next two years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make any alternate use of vacant land of National Textile Corporation, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Effect of automation on employment in Textile sector**

698. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to increasing automation in Textile sector, which is the second largest employment provider after agriculture, scope of employment is dwindling in this sector;

(b) if so, the details of loss of employment occurred in Textile sector during the last five years; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to arrest this trend, if so, the details thereof?

**Steps to revive Textile sector and to boost production**

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

(a) whether Government has proposed to revive the Textile sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide incentives to boost production?

**Textile booster package**

700. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced a Textile booster package, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any assessment/survey has been done to assess the existing plight of Textile sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details of outcome thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Textile booster package will help the ailing Textile sector and generate employment, investments, etc.?

**Provision of incentives to traditional weavers**

701. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers engaged in traditional weaving industry have become unemployed due to increase in production cost/power tariff in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide electricity at concessional rate and loan from banks to the weavers in the country; and

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

NEW DELHI;  
*The 16th July, 2016*  
*Ashadha 25, 1938 (Saka)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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