

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, July 24, 2015/Sravana 2, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Increasing MSP for paddy and relief package for sugar industry

*46. SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has
worked out a plan to increase the Minimum
Support Price (MSP) for paddy and a relief
package for the beleaguered sugar industry
to help tackle farm distress, if so, the
details thereof; and

(b) the extent to which the MSP for
paddy would be increased?

Tatkal Special Train Service

*47. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will
the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government proposes to
launch Tatkal Special Train Service;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof
along with the routes identified for the
purpose; and

(c) by when the new service is likely to
be operational?

Incentives to private sector for opening Food Parks

*48. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will
the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open Food
Parks to control wastage of food, if so, the
details thereof;

(b) whether the process has since been
initiated, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether certain incentives are
proposed to be given to the private sector
entities, who show interest in this initiative,
if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of recommendations of Committee set up for restructuring of Railways

*49. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether a Committee was set up for restructuring of Railways, and if so, whether the Committee has submitted its final report recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations;

(d) by when these recommendations will be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Self-reliance in fertilizers

*50. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a section of the fertilizer industry has urged Government to look into their problems and help the industry as well as to prevent imports;

(b) if so, whether production of fertilizers was suspended by several companies and the shortfall had to be met by imports; and

(c) if so, whether under the "Make in India" initiative, Government proposes to take any steps to protect the fertilizer industry and make the country self-reliant in fertilizers, if so, the details thereof?

Connectivity problems faced by MTNL and BSNL consumers

*51. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the connectivity problems faced by MTNL and BSNL consumers, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether steps have been taken to upgrade the technical infrastructure for improving the service, if so, the details thereof?

Profitable price to onion growers

†*52. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is apprehension of adverse impact on local farmers in the country due to import of onions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the remedial steps being taken by Government to ensure adequate profitable prices to the onion growers for their produce?

Suicide by farmers

*53. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many farmers have committed suicide in the country during the last three years;

(b) the figures for each year and for States where more farmers have committed suicide; and

(c) whether it is a fact that lack of support to poor and small farmers by way of greater inputs and better support price for their produces, is the main reason for burgeoning suicides?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee

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

(a) whether Government has received Sam Pitroda Committee recommendations on upgrading railway infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government has accepted any of its recommendations; and

(c) by when Government proposes to implement these recommendations?

High Speed Railway System on Delhi-Jharkhand route

*55. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched joint feasibility study on High Speed Railway System on Delhi-Jharkhand route; and

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

Opening of post offices in backward and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh

†*56. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is still a dearth of post offices in the backward and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to open post offices at those places, if so, the details thereof and the number of post offices likely to be opened in the current year;

(c) whether Government is having any scheme to provide modern facilities like e-mail, internet and computer in the backward and rural areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when these facilities would be made available in rural areas?

Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors

*57. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the much-delayed project to build the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors has been approved with a revised cost estimate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will Government finance the project and what is the time-frame to complete it?

SC/ST Employees' Welfare Associations in PSUs under Railways

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

(a) the details of PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry;

(b) the details of SC/ST persons employed in various groups in these PSUs;

(c) the details of SC/ST Employees' Welfare Associations formed by SC/ST persons working in these PSUs;

(d) the details of facilities extended/ provided by Government/PSUs for the SC/ ST Welfare Associations viz., office accommodation etc.; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the ways and means in which PSUs/ Government involves SC/ST Welfare Associations in the administrative/ developmental activities/management of the PSUs?

Gauge conversion projects in Gujarat

*59. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many surveys were proposed for gauge conversion of railway lines in Gujarat during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2012-13 to 2014-15;

(b) how many surveys of gauge conversion have been started and completed;

(c) by when survey of remaining projects would be started and completed; and

(d) the details of gauge conversion projects on which construction work has started?

Improvement of railway network in Jharkhand

*60. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway network of Jharkhand will be improved in the next three years and the Ministry is contemplating to transform Ranchi into a world class railway station; and

(b) whether keeping in mind that the patients from Jharkhand go to South India in large number for treatment, Railways are contemplating a daily express train between Ranchi and Trivandrum *via* Chennai and introduce a similar train from Dhanbad?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th July, 2015
Ashadha, 26, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	:	46, 52, 53,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	50,
Communications and Information Technology	:	51, 56,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	—
Food Processing Industries	:	48,
Law and Justice	:	—
Railways	:	47, 49, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60.
Textiles	:	—