

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

Farm subsidy to farming community

481. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much farm subsidies and grants have been allocated by Government to the farming community since the last five years;

(b) whether the poor and marginal farmers are not being benefited by the subsidy, if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government is considering any method to introduce new schemes/programmes to provide direct benefit to the farming community, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of KVKs

482. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have demanded to set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in their States, if so, the steps taken by Central Government in this regard; and

(b) whether Central Government is considering to create awareness among farmers to cultivate agricultural produce according to the climate and soil conditions of the area through various ways, if so, the details thereof?

Agreements for agricultural cooperation

483. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed agreements with other countries to enhance agricultural cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last five years and the current year along with the objectives thereof?

Use of toxic pesticides in the country

484. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC), functioning under the Ministry, approves introduction of new pesticides in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that many highly toxic pesticides, such as DDT and Endosulfan, which are either banned or severely restricted in most parts of the world, are produced and extensively used in the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Selling of agricultural produces under one licence through online market

†485. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have the option of selling their produces only at local Mandi at present, for which separate licence is needed at district level in every State, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government has, for changing the present system, given its approval to online National Agricultural Market under which farmers can do their business in all Mandis of the country with one licence, if so, the details thereof?

Decline in agricultural production

486. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's farm sector shrank for the first time in five years ending 31 March, 2015;

(b) if so, the details of decline in foodgrains production as on 31 March, 2015; and

(c) the reasons for negative growth of agricultural production in the country?

Fertility of soil in Karnataka

487. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evaluated the fertility of soil/arable land in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the purpose and the extent of deficiency of micronutrients noticed in the State, district-wise;

(c) the details of the schemes and projects under implementation to check the declining fertility of agricultural land and improve the fertility of soil for increasing agricultural production in Karnataka; and

(d) the success achieved thereunder during the current year?

Electronic marketing platform for farmers

488. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR
BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether low prices of key crops have battered farmers across the country in the past years;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to bring regulation for 585 Mandis across the country on board the electronic platform in the next three years, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has mooted creation of a National Agricultural Market through an electronic marketing platform to help farmers get better crop price, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Central sector scheme for promotion of a National Agricultural Market will be set up through the Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund, if so, the details thereof?

Rebate on HSD oil for fishermen

489. SHRI AAYANUR
MANJUNATHA:
SHRI MANSUKH L.
MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishermen are not getting the benefits of rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) Oil;

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

(c) whether Government has decided to remove the BPL condition for fishermen; and

(d) if so, the time by when the said decision is likely to be implemented?

Vacancies in institutes under ICAR

†490. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many permanent posts are lying vacant in various research institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in various States including Bihar, if so, the details thereof, institute-wise;

(b) whether farmers have been deprived of obtaining maximum produce from agriculture and green revolution area due to the posts lying vacant in these institutes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

MSP of paddy

491. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR
SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently declared to increase only 50 paise per kilogram in the MSP of paddy for kharif season 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons and rationale for such a meagre increase in MSP of paddy when thousands of farmers are committing suicide in the country on monthly basis; and

(c) whether Government would review the increase in MSP, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Soil testing of farmers' fields

†492. SHRI NAZIR AHMED
LAWAY:
MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake testing of the soil of fields belonging to thirteen and half crore farmers at a cost of ₹ 600 crore approximately; and

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

Action plan to face drought situation

†493. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:
SHRI NAZIR AHMED
LAWAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has/had

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated any action plan to face the drought situation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of amount provided as assistance to face the drought situation in the last five years, State-wise?

Loan to landless farmers

‡494. SHRI NAZIR AHMED
LAWAY:

MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to grant loans to the landless farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, Government's response to the news published in a reputed Hindi newspaper on 4 June, 2015?

My Village and My Pride scheme

495. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch a new scheme titled "My Village and My Pride", if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to involve all the agricultural experts of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes in the country for effective and deeper reach of scientific farming to the villages, if so, the details thereof?

Crop loans at zero per cent interest to tenant farmers

496. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey about the number of tenant farmers who are tilling fields on contract in Maharashtra and rest of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes to extend crop loans at zero per cent interest and relief package to such farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Bacterial rot disease in onion crop in Maharashtra

497. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that onion growers of Maharashtra have been adversely affected by bacterial rot disease in onion crop, if so, the details thereof; and

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

Development of agriculture marketing infrastructure

‡498. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for development of agriculture marketing infrastructure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to repeal APMC Act in order to improve agricultural market;

(c) whether farmers' access to agricultural market will increase with the co-operation of private sector, if so, whether any study has been carried out in this regard; and

(d) whether there is any plan to make

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

an integrated market at national level, if so, the details thereof?

Contingency plans for drought prone districts

499. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the Meteorological Department revising its monsoon forecast downwards from 93 per cent, to 88 per cent, Government is fully prepared to tackle the situation of lower crop yields this Kharif season;

(b) whether ICAR has been preparing and upgrading contingency plans for over 520 drought prone districts in the country in co-ordination with State Governments; and

(c) whether ICAR is also constantly engaged in production and creation of stocks of drought resistant seeds, if so, the details thereof?

Farming by conventional tools

500. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and marginal farmers carry out agricultural operations by hand using simple and conventional tools and implements like wooden plough, sickle, etc. resulting in huge wastage of human labour and low yields per capita labour force;

(b) if so, steps taken to mechanise agricultural operations to prevent wastage of labour force and to make farming convenient and efficient;

(c) whether agricultural implements and machinery are crucial inputs for efficient

and timely agricultural operations, facilitating multiple cropping and thereby increasing production; and

(d) if so, efforts made by Government to encourage farmers to adopt technically advanced agricultural equipments to economise agricultural production processes?

Contingency plan in view of poor monsoon forecast

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

(a) whether in view of forecast of poor monsoon this year, Government has prepared any contingency plan to help farmers, particularly in the rice growing belt of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of acreage and seeds etc.; and

(c) whether Government would consider cloud seeding in a big way to induce precipitation during July-August?

Development of weavers' cooperatives through NCDC

502. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has specific schemes aimed at the development of weavers' cooperatives being implemented through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of such cooperatives in Himachal Pradesh which have been benefited thereunder and funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for the same?

Decrease in the agricultural production

†503. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the plan to give a fillip to the agricultural production in the country;

(b) whether Government is providing any direct assistance to farmers to increase agricultural production, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been a decrease in the agricultural production last year, especially in the production of pulses, if so, the measures being taken by Government to meet this shortage and the details thereof?

Cultivation of GM crops

504. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been no significant socio-economic benefits to farmers cultivating GM food crops and they have incurred huge debts because of the capital-intensive practice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the view of each State in this regard including Andhra Pradesh?

Improving crop productivity and efficiency

505. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in the country are consuming more of fresh and processed horticultural products which indicate

enormous potential and scope of horticulture, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a need to improve crop productivity and efficiency in the value chains; and

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

Damage to crops due to unseasonal rains

506. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rains in the month of March have damaged crops and orchards in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) if so, the estimated loss caused to the farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have sought financial help from the Ministry to compensate the farmers for the losses; and

(d) if so, the details of funds released to these States till the end of April, 2015?

Per capita availability of foodgrains

507. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita foodgrains availability in the country has been declining over the years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of performance of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in augmenting the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Compensation to farmers of
Maharashtra**

508. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers of Maharashtra are resorting to distress sale of their produces after being hit by drought and unseasonal rains in the State, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) the amount of compensation provided to the farmers whose standing crops like wheat, jowar, chickpea, as well as mango orchards, vineyards and pomegranates, have been destroyed; and

(c) whether losses due to this calamity have been estimated and any strategy devised to compensate the farmers adequately, if so, the details thereof?

**Utilization of funds allotted under
NHM**

509. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked and released under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during the last three years, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government has carried out any verification of the quality of utilization of funds by the ultimate beneficiaries; and

(c) whether any irregularities have been noticed, including in the State of Karnataka, if so, the action taken thereon?

**Criteria for reviewing MSP of major
foodgrains**

510. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MSP calculations for major foodgrains have been revised and adjusted for inflation in the last ten years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the last ten years of MSP of foodgrains and inflationary changes;

(c) the mechanism *vide* which the MSP is reviewed along with the criteria and the time period for reviewing the same; and

(d) the details of revised MSPs of major foodgrains in each year, since 2011?

Boosting up of irrigation facilities

511. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to further boost up irrigation facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers in West Bengal

512. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicide by farmers have increased in West Bengal since 2011;

(b) the total number of farmers' suicide in the State, year-wise since 2011; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government to curb such incidents?

**Relief package for farmers' suicide
prone areas**

513. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any relief package has been announced for the suicide prone areas in the country for the benefit of farmers, particularly for Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the districts likely to be covered under the package?

Suicide by farmers due to burden of loan

†514. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in the country have taken agricultural loans not only from banks but also from moneylenders;

(b) if so, the number of farmers and the amount taken by them in the form of loan from banks and moneylenders, the separate details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government believes that due to burden of loans, the data of farmers' suicide is increasing; and

(d) if so, the number of farmers who have committed suicide in last one year and the number of farmers out of the above who had taken loan from moneylenders, the details thereof, State-wise?

Farm technologies for farmers

515. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has developed many farm technologies meant for farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to take these farm technologies up to the farmers, particularly farmers in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the response to these farm technologies from farmers?

MSP for Rabi crops

516. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering for hike in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rabi crops by 30 per cent profit on the cost of production; and

(b) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has also taken a decision in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Fast-tracking of National Crop Insurance Scheme

517. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on fast-tracking the National Crop Insurance Scheme in the light of recent agricultural crisis in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the incentives being proposed by Government to the farming community to cope up with the crisis?

Floriculture in the country

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

(a) the total area of land on which floriculture is done in various States of the country, including Madhya Pradesh, the State-wise annual details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the area under floriculture is decreasing every year;

(c) if so, the schemes formulated/ proposed to be initiated by Government to promote floriculture in various States of the country, including Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide better marketing facilities to the floriculturists?

Allowing foreign fishing trawlers into Indian waters

519. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to allow foreign fishing trawlers into Indian waters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor keeping in view the resistance from traditional fishermen; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of traditional Indian fishermen and other affected sections and also to drop the plan to allow foreign fishing trawlers into Indian waters?

Benefits of Government schemes to tenant farmers

520. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of tenant farmers, who obtain land on lease for cultivation, are not entitled for farm loan, Kisan Credit Cards and other relief packages such as crop insurance etc., if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) the corrective steps taken by

Government to ensure that benefits of various Government schemes are available to tenant farmers?

Recommendations of CACP to increase MSP of wheat and paddy

521. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has accepted the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to increase the MSP for wheat and paddy;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and accepted by Government; and

(c) the notified MSP and the estimated procurement of foodgrains by FCI in 2015?

Making milk production profitable

522. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rearing of livestock for milk production is not a profitable venture, especially for small and marginal farmers; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government has prepared any action plan so as to make milk production profitable by giving subsidy in feed, medical and life insurance for small and marginal farmers?

Fixing MSP with 50 per cent profit margin

523. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to offer Minimum Support Price (MSP) with 50 per cent profit margin, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would provide a time-frame for implementing it?

Contingency plan to deal with El Nino factor

524. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outlook for this year's rainy season has turned bleaker with Meteorological Department releasing its El Nino prediction, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what contingency plans Government has put in place to deal with El Nino factor?

Sustainable use of natural resources

525. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of World Bank has given any recommendations to help Indian agricultural research by making it more responsive to the technology needs at the grassroots; and

(b) if so, how the farming systems in the disadvantaged rain fed regions of the country like Marathwada and Vidarbha where a large number of farmers are resorting to suicides due to poverty level being high, would get the intended benefits and relief envisaged in NATP through sustainable use of natural resources land and water?

Setting up of an online National Agricultural Market

526. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an online National Agricultural Market, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how this is going to benefit farmers, especially small and marginal farmers;

(c) whether this scheme will be implemented in all the States or States have the option to adopt it or not; and

(d) whether this scheme would wipe out the role of a select few traders who often have monopoly over Mandis?

Effect of adverse climate on agriculture

†527. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country selected by Government for providing assistance to those farmers who are facing the adverse climatic conditions like drought, flood and depleting water level, the details thereof;

(b) the number of districts selected in Bihar along with the details of schemes formulated for these districts; and

(c) whether Government would conduct any study to assess the effect of climate on agriculture in these districts, if so, the details thereof?

Demand and supply of fertilizers

528. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of the demand and supply of fertilizers during the last one year, item-wise;

(b) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of fertilizers, thereby affecting the productivity of agriculture; and

(c) the measures Government has taken or proposes to take to cut down this gap?

New urea production plants

529. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes establishing ten more urea production plants in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Naphtha fed urea units have urged Government to continue with the existing system of subsidy after the expiry of 100 days period; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide LNG to Naphtha fed urea units if it does not want to continue with the subsidy benefit, if so, the details thereof?

Supply of urea to States

530. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in a position to meet the demand for urea during the current agriculture season, particularly in States, like Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details regarding available stocks and anticipated demand in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively; and

(c) whether Government considers it prudent to allow liberal urea imports and ending the present practice of canalized imports through agencies like STC and MMTC?

Illegal diversion of subsidised urea

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

(a) whether it is a fact that highly subsidised urea is being diverted for industrial use leading to its shortage for agriculture, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made it mandatory for all domestic manufacturers to produce and importers to import neem coated urea to be used for agriculture in order to curb its illegal diversion, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy as well as foreign exchange likely to be saved as a result thereof?

Shortage of urea and revival of fertilizer plants

†532. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan to meet the shortage of urea and to check its black-marketing in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of fertilizer plants shut down in the country and since when;

(c) whether Government proposes to start these closed plants again in the interest of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government has formulated a new urea policy, if so, the details thereof?

Revamping Greenfield and Brownfield fertilizer plants

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

(a) the number of proposals received by Government for revamping Greenfield and Brownfield fertilizer plants after the declaration of New Investment Policy, 2012 and subsequent approval of New Urea Policy, 2015;

(b) the details of the projects with details of investment, location and ownership; and

(c) whether approval has been accorded to all such projects for implementation and if so, the details thereof?

Revival of closed fertilizer units of FCIL and HFCL

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

(a) whether Government has decided to fast-track the revival of all closed public sector fertilizer units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) at Ramagundam, Talcher, Sindri and Gorakhpur and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reasons for not considering the fast-track revival of the two closed units of HFCL at Durgapur and Haldia?

Over-dependence on China for API

535. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the modalities, guidelines and norms chalked out by Government to check, monitor and reduce India's reliance on China in importing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) used in Pharmaceutical industry;

(b) the total quantity and amount involved in import of API from China at present;

(c) whether the Pharmaceutical sector in the country is suffering due to too much dependence on China for supply of API, that would lead some day to drug shortage, if so, details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the reliance on China and to increase indigenous development of crucial raw material for varied important industries?

Supply of fertilizers to farmers of Uttar Pradesh

†536. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether urea is not being made available in sufficient quantity to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that urea fertilizer companies have been shut down during the last two years due to which farmers are facing difficulties in getting this fertilizer and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the authority responsible for their closure?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revival of sick fertilizer plants

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

- (a) the total number of fertilizer plants in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) the number of fertilizer plants functioning and defunct;
- (c) whether there is any programme to revive the sick fertilizer plants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the cost involved and the time-schedule?

Supply of chemicals and fertilizers to Odisha

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

- (a) whether Government of Odisha has forwarded a request to the Central Government for supply of adequate chemicals and fertilizers;
- (b) whether other States, having almost equivalent extent of gross cropped area, have been allocated fertilizers much more than the allocation made to Odisha; and
- (c) whether in view of delayed supply of fertilizers severely affecting the productivity of crops, the Ministry would assure timely supply of chemicals and fertilizers to Odisha so that the scope for increasing foodgrains' production and productivity is upheld?

SC/ST Welfare Associations in PSUs

539. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

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

(b) the details of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe persons employed at various posts in these PSUs;

(c) the details of SC/ST Employees Welfare Associations formed by employees of SCs/STs working in these PSUs;

(d) the details of the facilities extended by Government/PSUs to these Associations, such as office accommodation, etc.; and

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

Expansion of Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited

†540. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of fertilizer/urea units operating in Rajasthan at present;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for production capacity expansion and modernization of Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date since when the production capacity of expansion of the said fertilizer/ urea unit is pending with Government for approval and at which stage along with the date by when it will be approved?

Funds crisis in fertilizer industry

541. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether fertilizer industry is facing crisis of funds leading to shortfall in production, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has set any targets for production of fertilizers during the Twelfth Five Year Plan and the requirement of fertilizers by farmers, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to revise the pricing policy for sale of fertilizers and if so, the details thereof?

Adequate supply of fertilizers and action against hoarders

†542. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to maintain adequate supply of fertilizers full of nutritious constituents, as per their demand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of demand and allocation of different fertilizers in the country, year-wise, State-wise and fertilizer-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent hoarding of fertilizers and the number of hoarders against whom action has been taken along with the details thereof?

Jan Aushadhi Stores

543. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned to open 3000 Jan Aushadhi Stores during the Twelfth Plan period but as per the

Parliamentary Standing Committee report only 170 such outlets have been opened;

(b) the latest number of Jan Aushadhi outlets opened;

(c) the reasons for such a poor implementation and negligence regarding such an important decision which is useful for the citizens;

(d) whether Government still aims to fulfil the target; and

(e) if so, a month-wise time-frame for opening of such outlets?

Profit margin on sale of medicines and medical equipments

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

(a) whether some pharma companies are making huge profits on medicines and medical equipments;

(b) if so, the details of the actual production cost and the MRP that is printed;

(c) whether Government intends to stop such malpractices;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide medicines at affordable rates to the people?

Mechanism to keep prices of medicines affordable

545. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is no mechanism to keep a tab on the difference between the actual cost of production and the retail prices of medicines at present, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is considering to cap prices of all medicines at the time of launch of products/medicines, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop gold-plating of medicines by pharmaceutical companies as well as to ensure that prices of all medicines in the market are kept at a reasonable level?

Life saving drugs pricing policy

†546. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed not to change the present policy regarding fixation of prices of life saving drugs;

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

(c) the success achieved in the implementation of National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy?

Problem of call drop

†547. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

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

(a) the steps being taken by the Ministry against various telecom

companies to overcome the problem of call drop in the country;

(b) the localities in Lutyen zone of Delhi region facing problem of call drop;

(c) the action taken so far by Government against various telecom companies in the cases of call drop; and

(d) the facts thereof?

Review of the functioning of TRAI

548. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the steps taken by the Ministry to review the functioning of TRAI and revamp its functioning, if necessary, following the one sided consultation report on Regulatory Framework for Over the Top Services?

New IT products and technologies

549. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Government to achieve the goals of good governance;

(b) whether Government proposes to launch new IT products and technologies to strengthen the existing ones;

(c) the time by when all the villages in the country, including Jharkhand, are likely to be connected by mobile and broadband services to achieve the goal of digital and transparent governance; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Projects for IT development

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

(a) whether Government has recently decided to start various projects like production of electronics items, opening of BPOs and software parks, commissioning of ultra-modern mobile towers, IT centres and free Wi-Fi facilities in the country, particularly in Bihar;

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

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to start such projects and if so, the details thereof?

Multiple stakeholders in telecom services

551. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision making on critical issues including regulatory mechanism related to telecom services in the country, have many stakeholders like the Department of Telecommunications, the Telecom Commission, TRAI, Telecom Service Providers and the Ministry of Defence thereby delaying timely action and depriving seamless services to hundreds of millions of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to set up a single-window system or a centralised regulatory authority that is independent, transparent, stable, accountable and adaptable?

Developing Mumbai as IT centre

552. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bengaluru is among the top three global centers of technology and has become a magnet for Multi-National Companies attracting huge investment;

(b) whether it is because of availability of variety of talent pool there; and

(c) whether Mumbai, besides being a financial capital of the country, can also be developed as a replica of Bengaluru IT centre, so as to attract huge investment?

Recharge facility for MTNL users

553. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL provides recharge facility for mobile users of Delhi visiting Mumbai and *vice-versa*, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether customers of MTNL, Delhi, visiting Mumbai and *vice-versa* are facing problems in recharging their mobile phones through coupons/retail outlets/Sanchar Haats, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL provides benefits to consumers using services between Delhi and Mumbai and *vice-versa*, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in improving MTNL services?

Boosting Information Technology

554. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to boost Information Technology (IT) during the current year at National/State levels, particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) whether Government has received proposals from State Governments to open Information Technology Institutes for advance computer and communication technology at the National level;

(c) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

(d) the time by when such Institutes are likely to be made operational in the country, State-wise, including Maharashtra and Karnataka?

Rehabilitation plan for farmers and agricultural labourers

†555. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan for rehabilitating the farmers and agricultural labourers to save them from the crisis caused to their livelihood due to constant decrease of agricultural land on account of division of agro lands among the families of farmers in the agricultural sector; and

(b) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country, State-wise?

Non-working of BSNL mobile services at Dharchula, Uttarakhand

†556. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the BSNL mobiles are not working in the bordering tehsil, namely Dharchula in Uttarakhand, where borders are connected with Nepal, Tibet and China;

(b) whether any complaint was received earlier also by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for not restoring mobile services by BSNL so far; and

(d) by when mobile services will be restored at Dharchula by BSNL?

BSNL services

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

(a) whether a large number of qualified temporary employees in BSNL are being relieved from service despite a large number of posts remaining vacant;

(b) whether Government is aware that services of BSNL are lacking in many aspects for want of sufficient number of employees and inordinate delay in purchasing up-to-date technologies and equipments; and

(c) whether Government would ensure more professional leadership and availability of sufficient funds to BSNL so that it competes with other organizations on level playing field?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Modernizing the Department of Posts

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the market share of postal services in comparison to the courier companies in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of market share of the courier companies and the Department of Posts at present; and

(d) the steps being taken to modernize the Department of Posts?

Action plan to strengthen Department of Posts

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been sharp rise in the business of courier companies due to corruption, shirking of work and negligence prevailing in the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, whether it should not be considered to either shut down or to hand over the postal department to private parties; and

(c) whether Government is having any action plan to strengthen the Department of Posts, so as to enable it to compete with the courier companies?

Debit cards to post office account holders

‡560. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:
Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to provide debit cards to the account holders of post offices;

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

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

BSNL comeback through data services

561. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:
Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector telecom pioneer Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) after losing out during the voice boom for six years between 2006 and 2012, has now planned to make a strong comeback with data services as its prime focus;

(b) whether to make up for the scarcity of spectrum, BSNL is likely to capitalize on its landline and optical fibre assets through Wi-Fi for digital penetration;

(c) whether BSNL proposes to tie up with private players for operating its hotspots; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Telephone facilities to Gram Panchayats

†562. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided telephone facility to all Gram Panchayats, especially in the backward and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats, particularly in Maharashtra, which have not yet been provided with telephone facility, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide better telephone facility to Gram Panchayats?

Hotline facility for elderly persons

563. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether providing hotline facility for communication to lonely elderly persons, particularly women, will be considered to contact police and hospitals, during distress or otherwise;

(b) if so, whether it would be possible to provide such facility free of cost or at minimal charges; and

(c) if not, the charges for providing hotline facility to such people?

Facilities to senior citizens in telecom services

564. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facilities in telecom services have been provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to senior citizens in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to bring down the qualifying age of senior citizens for availing the facilities; and

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

Expansion of telephone and mobile connections by MTNL and BSNL

565. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of telephone/mobile connections provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are irregular in the country, including Jharkhand;

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

(c) the details of the amount spent and the available additional resources for the expansion of telephone and mobile connections in the country, including Jharkhand?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Digital India campaign

566. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the plans and exact schemes to take the Digital India vision to the rural areas;

(b) the budget allocation for each rural region, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to include schools/colleges in Digital India campaign?

Status of TRAI consultations for Over-the-Top services

567. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the TRAI consultations on Regulatory Framework for Over-the-Top services;

(b) the details of the consultation process followed by the Ministry, prior to drafting the report on Net Neutrality submitted to TRAI; and

(c) the date-wise details of the number of meetings conducted with experts, civil society activists sought before drafting of the report?

Implementation of Digital India initiative in Goa

568. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Digital India initiative is going to be implemented in Goa;

(b) if so, whether Government has made an assessment of the functioning of the State Government websites;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government websites are not updated in Goa and people are deprived of important information mandated under the Right to Information Act; and

(d) the items on which information is to be made available to the people of Goa, as required under the RTI Act?

Post Bank of India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up a Post Bank of India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is planning a non-payment bank structure for Post Bank of India, if so, the details thereof?

Decision on Net Neutrality

570. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision on the issue of Net Neutrality; and

(b) if not, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

Export of raw sugar

571. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to give incentives for raw sugar export, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to increase export subsidy upto 1.4 million tonnes of raw sugar to ₹ 4,000 per tonne, if so, the details thereof?

Quality and consumer price of indigenous and imported food items

†572. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the details of the measures adopted and system introduced to assess the justification and criteria for quality and consumer price of indigenous and imported food items?

Distribution of foodgrains to poor and needy people

573. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced distribution of foodgrains to the poor and needy people, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of households added in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme under Public Distribution System (PDS) in last one year;

(c) the details of subsidy given for PDS in last one year, State-wise including West Bengal;

(d) whether Government has any plan to directly provide nutritious food to the

BPL families in the country; and

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

Import of pulses

574. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has tried to find out the reasons for increase in the prices of pulses in the recent past;

(b) whether it is a fact that to tide over the situation Government is planning to import pulses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Violation of manufacturing standards by MNCs

575. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Multi-National Companies (MNCs) have violated the regulatory and manufacturing standards recently;

(b) if so, the number of cases filed in the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission/Consumer Forum against the adulteration/sub-standard products of MNCs such as Maggi and other eatable products;

(c) if so, whether Government has also filed cases against the accused MNCs, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the action taken by Government against the accused MNCs?

Rise in prices of pulses and edible oils

576. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR
SINGH:

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

(a) whether prices of pulses and edible oils have increased sharply during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof since April, 2015 and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the reasons for failure of Government to check rise in prices of pulses and edible oils in the country?

PDS rice scam in Chhattisgarh

577. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR
SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether a ₹ 36,000 crore PDS rice scam has been reported in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would initiate inquiry by an SIT in the alleged scam, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

Benefits of food security guarantee

†578. 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 the benefits of

the food security guarantee are not reaching to the consumers timely in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to provide the above benefits timely; and

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

Procurement of crops from backward and tribal areas

†579. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugarcane and other Kharif crops that has been procured, particularly from the backward and tribal areas of the country, including Maharashtra, during the last three years;

(b) the number of farmers benefited from this move particularly in the backward and tribal areas, State-wise; and

(c) whether Central Government has taken any steps for providing remunerative prices to farmers for their crops, particularly belonging to the backward and tribal areas of the country?

Implementation of DBT scheme

580. SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to directly transfer the food subsidy to consumers to restrict fake beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has estimated that the subsidy bill could fall by 20 per cent a year if the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme is fully implemented; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the DBT scheme fully?

Rise in prices of pulses

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

(a) whether prices of pulses have risen by up to 64 per cent in last one year, if so, whether Government has ascertained reasons for the same, the details thereof;

(b) the details of measures taken to rein in the prices to keep inflation down amid forecast of deficit monsoon;

(c) whether Government has maintained data as to how much the price of a particular pulse has increased during last one year, if so, the details thereof, pulse-wise; and

(d) the prevailing wholesale price of M-31 sugar in open market together with price of said sugar prevailed in market during January-June, 2015?

Consumer awareness programmes

582. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of consumer awareness programmes sanctioned by and pending with the Central Government during the last five years, across the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds provided for the said programmes during the last five years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has achieved the desired results; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Request by Uttar Pradesh for assistance from Sugar Development Fund

583. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request/proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh relating to the problems/condition of sugar industry in the State and for assistance from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF); and

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

Payment of dues to sugarcane growers

584. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of reduction in sugarcane production in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether agriculturists are not getting MSP, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the total amount of farmers' dues payable by mill owners in these States in 2013-14 and 2014-15; and

(d) the action Government is taking to solve the issue of non payment of dues to farmers?

Allocation of wheat and rice to tea garden workers

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

(a) whether tea garden workers are allocated rice and wheat under TPDS;

(b) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme from the State of West Bengal, district-wise;

(c) whether Government is planning to discontinue the TPDS to the tea garden workers, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries likely to be affected once the allocation has been withdrawn?

Recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee

586. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to accept some of the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that so far only eleven States have rolled out the National Food Security Act, but none has the requisite infrastructure in place, if so, the details thereof?

Fake BPL ration cards

587. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL ration card holders in the country, State-wise;

(b) the criteria to issue BPL ration cards;

(c) whether Government has received complaints that BPL ration cards have been issued to non-beneficiary people, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the mechanism to check fake BPL

ration cards and whether Government proposes to fix a plate with the note that this House is of BPL card holder, with number of the card and number of beneficiaries; and

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

Finalization of National Building Code 2015

588. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to finalize the National Building Code 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will help to obtain single window clearance for construction projects, if so, the details thereof?

Crisis in sugar industry

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

(a) whether any representation has been received from Indian Sugar Mills Association on the financial crisis in the sugar industry and sugarcane growers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to solve the crisis in sugar industry and to resolve the crisis of payment of arrears to sugarcane growers; and

(c) the funds earmarked/proposed to be earmarked to meet the crisis and to make arrear payment to sugarcane growers?

Prices of pulses in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi

590. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the retail price of different pulses in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi as on 31 May, 2014 and 31 May, 2015, market-wise?

Setting up of Food Processing Units and Food Parks

591. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of Food Processing Units in the country resulting in farmers not getting the right price for their produce,

(b) if so, the facts and reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to prepare a blueprint to identify the locations for setting up of food processing units in the country, if so the details thereof; and

(d) the number of proposals cleared by Government for setting up of Food Processing Industries/Food Parks during 2014 and 2015, State-wise?

Reservation for women in legislature and urban local bodies

592. SHRI AHMED PATEL: 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 the State Assemblies;

(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; and

(c) the details of the States where 50 per cent reservation for women in the urban local bodies is already in place?

Opening up of legal services sector

593. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to gradually open up the legal services sector to foreign players, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the litigation sector will remain the exclusive domain of Indian lawyers, if so, the reasons therefor?

Legal Aid Clinics

594. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Legal Aid Clinics in all the villages of the country to help the poor strata of society;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the main aim of the clinics would be to help solve disputes without allowing them to mature into litigation in courts or otherwise; and

(d) whether women lawyers are proposed to be given preference for appointment in such clinics, if so, the details thereof?

Representation of Bar Council in selection for higher judiciary

595. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules framed under the new National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) have been notified;

(b) whether any normative ratio for appointing judges for higher judiciary from Bar and subordinate judiciary has been prescribed, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the Bar gets fair representation in the selection for higher judiciary under NJAC?

Repeal of outdated laws

†596. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether outdated laws in the country are being repealed;

(b) if so, the number of laws which have been repealed so far along with the details thereof;

(c) the categories and sectors to which those repealed laws belong; and

(d) the number of people whose benefit is ensured upon repealing of such laws along with the details thereof?

Disparity in salaries of FHEL and CONCOR workmen

597. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fresh and Healthy Enterprise (FHEL) is a subsidiary

of Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) and they work under Railways;

(b) if so, whether salaries of officers of CONCOR and FHEL are same, whereas the salaries of workmen have anomalies, if so, why;

(c) whether CONCOR has recently increased wages of its employees but employees of FHEL are deprived of it, if so, why; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring the workmen of both the companies at par, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Double tracking of Konkan Railways

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

(a) whether all types of required survey regarding double tracking of Konkan Railway route have been completed;

(b) when was the survey commenced and completed;

(c) whether the construction cost of laying tracks and related civil work has been estimated;

(d) whether estimate of the cost of electrification has been made;

(e) the total cost involved in all types of work of double tracking; and

(f) whether source of funding for the project has been worked out, and if so, the details thereof?

Sreedharan Committee report

599. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Sreedharan Committee constituted by Government to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in decision making in commercial areas including tenders in Railways has since submitted its final report;

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

(c) whether Government has since examined the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, what further action Government proposes to take to remove corruption in Railways?

Declaring projects of strategic importance as National Projects

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

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating on declaring the projects of Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern region which are of strategic importance as National Projects;

(b) if so, which are the projects of Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern region likely to be included in national projects;

(c) whether the Accountant General, Ministry of Finance has sanctioned the allocation of additional funds for these projects;

(d) whether Railways is facing serious financial crisis; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance to provide financial resources to complete these projects, which are incomplete in want of financial resources?

Suggestions of Bibek Debroy Committee

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

(a) whether Bibek Debroy Committee has suggested Railways to set up a Government SPV to own railway infrastructure, and delink it from Railways;

(b) whether it also suggested an Indian Railway Manufacturing Company to replace all existing production units and another holding company for railway stations;

(c) whether it also suggested setting up a regulator with statutory backing and independent of Railway Ministry and Railway Board for fixing tariff, determining cost of services, managing track access, setting technical standards among other things, after private players were allowed to run freight and passengers trains; and

(d) if so, the views of Government thereon?

Integrated Sub-urban Railway Network in Ahmedabad

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

(a) whether Railways have proposed to develop Integrated Sub-urban Railway Network in Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

Stations to be developed as Model stations in Telangana

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that thirteen stations in Telangana have been identified to be developed as Model stations;

(b) if so, the details of each of the thirteen stations identified;

(c) the status of modernization of each of the above thirteen stations, station-wise; and

(d) by when they are likely to become Model stations as envisaged under the scheme?

Premium express trains incurring operational losses

604. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixteen premium express trains, including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam Cheruvu are incurring operational losses per trip, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the losses ranged between ₹ 33,204 and ₹ 10,90,480 for each of such trains, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take multiple reform initiatives, including rationalization of work force, setting up an independent regulator and re-organisation of railway services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Provision of RO system for drinking water at railway stations

605. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of passengers are consuming unsafe drinking water at various railway stations in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Railways thereon;

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal to provide Reverse Osmosis (RO) system operating through solar power for purifying and filtering of contaminated water at railway stations to avoid water-borne diseases; and

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

Running of Rajdhani train

606. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is an undeclared policy of Railways to run one Rajdhani train connecting the capital of the country to the State capital;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware that the newly formed capital of residuary State of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation does not have such connectivity of Rajdhani train; and

(c) if so, why the Ministry cannot run a train, which is the need of the hour between Guntur and Delhi via Vijayawada?

Modernisation of railway stations

607. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have proposed to modernise all railway stations in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether Railways propose to construct any new railway station in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

Transfer policy of Railways

608. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:

DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has provision that employees should not be transferred during the last two years before superannuation;

(b) if so, whether there have been cases of transfer of Health Inspectors with two years of service in North Eastern (NE) Railway, Gorakhpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof during last two years;

(d) whether representations from MPs regarding above cases are pending with NE Railway;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to sympathetically consider such cases in implementation of transfer policy?

Student privilege pass in AC class

609. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:

DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways provide student privilege pass in AC class, irrespective of entitlement to railway employees escorting their wards studying in Oak Grove School, Jharipani (Northern Railway), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is need for providing similar pass in all trains to railway employees along with their wards studying

in other educational institutions in the country to enable comfortable and safe journey of students, which will motivate them to feel proud and serve the country; and

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

Railway Museums in NE Railway

†610. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway museums situated at NE Railway headquarter, Gorakhpur;

(b) whether there is any plan to build more museums under NE Railway/ headquarter, Gorakhpur in future;

(c) if so, the places where they are proposed to be located;

(d) whether the said museum is proposed to be constructed in front of Shatabdi gate of mechanized factory of NE Railway, where there are two residences of group 'C' employees namely residence no. 92 and which have been reconstructed from employees development fund; and

(e) the date when decision of converting this residence into museum was taken and when its reconstruction was done?

Doubling of railway lines

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

(a) whether any suggestions/requests have been received with regard to the doubling of the railway lines of Muradabad-Ramnagar and Rampur-Kathgodam;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) by when the doubling work of the railway lines of Muradabad-Ramnagar and Rampur-Kathgodam is expected to be complete?

Investment for long term development

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

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to invest five hundred billion dollars in Railways in the coming ten to twelve years for the long term development of the country;

(b) the quantum of investment made in Railways in the last one year and the quantum of domestic and foreign capital therein;

(c) whether an investment of five hundred billion dollars is possible in view of its current status; and

(d) the number of railway projects pending due to shortage of funds and the future plan of the Ministry to complete them?

Inspection of railway stations in Kerala

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

(a) whether Railways have sent any team of officers to Kerala to inspect railway stations and interact with passengers to know their problems;

(b) if so, the findings of the team; and

(c) the follow up action taken by Railways, so far?

Electrification of railway lines under Lucknow and Varanasi Divisions

†614. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sections under Lucknow and Varanasi Divisions under North Eastern Railway still lacking in electrification;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Ministry for electrification of these sections in which Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Nautanwa-Gonda Loop line (Broad Gauge), Gorakhpur Cantt.-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Paniahwa-Valmiki Nagar (Broad Gauge), Chhitauni-Tamkuhi Road New Lines, (Broad Gauge) Bhatni-Salempur-Barhaj-Indara-Phephna-Aunrihar-Varanasi (Broad Gauge), Mankapur-Katra-Ayodhya-Faizabad (Broad Gauge) and Gonda-Bahraich-Mailani Jn. fall; and

(c) the details thereof?

Train connectivity to national capital

615. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large population of Sheikhpura, Nawadah, Hisua and Wazirganj in Bihar have no direct train for national, capital;

(b) whether there is any plan for extension of Train No. 12397 and 12398 upto Kiul Junction *via* Nawadah-Sheikhpura or running Train No.12349 and 12350 *via* Kiul-Sheikhpura-Nawadah-Gaya, keeping in view the inconvenience to the passengers of the area;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when the extension or diversion will be announced; and

(d) if not, will Government consider to run/divert a train *via* Kiul-Sheikhpura-Nawadah-HisuaWazirganj-Gaya upto New Delhi and back?

FDI in Railway coach manufacturing sector

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

(a) whether Government has permitted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in railway coach manufacturing sector, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of precautions that Government had to put in place, if it had permitted FDI in railway coach manufacturing sector, to ensure that private players are liable/committed to the maintenance of the railway coaches, during its life time; and

(c) if such precautions are not made therein, the reasons therefor?

Pulling out of German Bank from Railway's modernization project

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a leading German Bank has pulled out of a loan commitment for Railways' modernization project being executed by a consortium;

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

(c) the total cost of the project and the total loan amount the bank had committed to lend;

(d) by when the project was scheduled to be completed; and

(e) how Government is going to generate funds and execute the project?

India-Bangla Rail Extension project

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

(a) the status of India-Bangla Rail Extension project;

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

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

(d) if so, the status thereof?

PPP model for development of Railways

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

(a) the status of putting PPP model in development of Railways;

(b) the status and effective action plan in resolving the disputes between Government and private partners in such a development model; and

(c) the status of capacity enhancement and laying of tracks in the underdeveloped regions of the country under this model?

Upgradation of basic amenities at Korukkupet railway station

620. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Korukkupet railway station in North Chennai Parliamentary constituency will be upgraded with all basic amenities such as clean drinking water, sanitation, platform and railway line cleanliness;

(b) whether a subway would be constructed to connect either end of the railway gate no. LC 2, near Korukkupet railway station for easy and safe flow of passenger traffic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of ROB at Korukkupet Railway Station

621. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern Railway is planning to construct a Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Korukkupet railway station gate no. LC 2 in North Chennai Parliamentary Constituency and R.K. Nagar Assembly Constituency at the earliest;

(b) whether Southern Railway have got plans in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when it will start?

Deployment of guards and construction of underpass at unmanned level crossings

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

(a) the details of unmanned railway level crossings in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether Railways propose to deploy guards or construct underpass at

unmanned railway level crossings in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when guards are likely to be deployed or underpass be constructed at all the unmanned level crossings in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

Passengers travelling in different classes of trains

623. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average number of passengers travelled during 2013-14 and 2014-15 in Sleeper, 3AC, 2AC, First and First AC classes;

(b) whether there is any increase in Sleeper, 3AC, 2AC, First AC class coaches during 2013-14 and 2014-15 in different trains running throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Gauge conversion projects in Gujarat

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

(a) the number of survey reports for gauge conversion in Gujarat are vetted with Zonal Railway, as on date;

(b) when did Zonal Railway submit these survey reports to Railways and Planning Commission for further action; and

(c) the progress made to provide broad-gauge connectivity to Amreli, as on date?

Anil Kakodkar Safety Review Committee

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Anil Kakodkar Safety Review Committee had recommended for setting up of an independent safety organization, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways are considering to set up a safety organization as recommended by the said Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Railway Safety Fund

626. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Safety Fund set up to finance safety works at level crossings has been adequate;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to augment the fund and expedite the sanctioned works;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide an effective 24/7 electronic security and surveillance at railway stations and trains and to combat any untoward incidents to save commuters from threat from terrorists and anti-social elements; and

(d) the total amount allocated and spent in the last five years for these electronic security and surveillance measures, zone-wise?

Unscheduled arrival and departure of trains

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

(a) whether the unscheduled arrival/

departure of a large number of trains have been taking place and causing inconvenience to passengers during the last one year, if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(b) whether Railways have taken remedial measures to deal with such situations, to prevent inconvenience to the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Vacant seats in premium trains

628. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premium trains are running with many empty seats; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to offer concessions to fill up vacant seats in premium trains?

Automatic freight rebate scheme

629. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to start an Automatic Freight Rebate Scheme, offering incentives to customers; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

Methods to prevent railway accidents

630. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of accidents on account of

collisions and derailments in last two years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of implementation of more efficient anti-collision devices like TCAS and TPWS in the railway network ; and

(c) whether the Ministry is considering other new methods like ultra sonic detection of rail fracture to prevent derailments?

Reducing deaths on Mumbai Suburban Railway Network

631. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the measures adopted under the 'Final Mile' Wadala experiment campaign by the Central Railway have been successful in reducing deaths on the Mumbai suburban railway network, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether these measures have been replicated in other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Train between Jodhpur and Chennai

†632. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains being run by the Ministry between Jodhpur and Chennai at present; and

(b) the load of passengers on this route and whether Government proposes to increase the frequency of trains between Jodhpur and Chennai, if so, by when?

Kalaburagi-Bidar railway line project

633. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Kalaburagi-Bidar

railway line will be completed and trains will run to meet the need of the area; and

(b) by when Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) Railway Division will begin its work from Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) so as to meet the local needs of Railways?

Easing pressure from Dehradun railway station

634. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's plans to reduce the pressure on Dehradun railway station;

(b) whether any plans/survey is going on to link Vikasnagar-Chakrata with Dehradun-Delhi railway lines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of sufficient funds for various projects

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

(a) whether Railways have not allocated sufficient funds for projects for which surveys were already made, particularly in Telangana;

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

(c) the steps being taken to allocate sufficient funds for each project?

Development of handicraft sector

636. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the current Five Year Plan for promotion and development of handicraft sector;

(b) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the projected employment growth in the handicraft sector, State-wise?

Promotion of handloom industry

†637. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to promote handloom industry in the country by giving encouragement; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes of Government in this regard?

Promotion of handicrafts sector

638. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handicrafts sector plays a significant and important role in the country's economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it provides employment to a vast segment of crafts persons in rural and semi-urban areas and generates substantial foreign exchange for the country; and

(c) if so, whether there is any plan/scheme to promote the handicrafts sector of the country; if so, the details thereof?

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

Financial assistance to JCI

639. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of raw jute purchased by the Jute Corporation of India (JCI), both through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and commercial operations during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;

(b) the details of financial support extended to JCI by Government to provide MSP to farmers of raw jute during the last three years; and

(c) the details of schemes taken up by JCI, Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) and National Jute Board to support producing high grades of raw jute and manufacturing of diversified jute goods?

Effluent treatment plant under RR-TUFS

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

(a) the details of funds spent under RR-Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) from 1 April, 2014 till date;

(b) whether installing of Textile Effluent Treatment Plant is also an integral part of RR-TUFS;

(c) if so, the details of the amount spent in this regard from 1 April, 2013 till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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