

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, November 25, 2016/Agrahayana 4, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

Implementation of Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

†1121. SHRI RAM VICHAR
NETAM: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Grameen
Bhandaran Yojana;

(b) the details of the amount earmarked
and allocated under this scheme by the
Government during last three years and the
amount utilized by the States, State-wise;
and

(c) the details with regard to achieving
the scientific storage capacity in the
country, State-wise and Union Territory-
wise, including Chhattisgarh?

Development of whitefly resistant seeds

1122. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH
DHINDSA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government is taking
to eliminate the whitefly attacks, in terms
of research and development of whitefly
resistant seeds and pesticides which cause
minimal distress to soil fertility;

(b) whether there has been any campaign
undertaken to educate farmers about
healthy farm practices, farm sanitation and
crop-rotation to reduce whitefly attacks, if
so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of damage caused to cotton
crop and other crops due to whitefly attacks
in last three years, both in terms of yield
and monetary losses?

Implementation of PMFBY

1123. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made against
Government target of bringing 50 million
farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal
Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for kharif crops in
2016-17;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the percentage increase of farmers who have opted for crop insurance under the scheme in 2016-17 vs. 2015-16;

(c) the total cultivable area under insurance this year and the percentage increase or decrease in area under the scheme as compared to 2015; and

(d) the total sum insured this year and the percentage increase or decrease in the sum insured under the scheme as compared to 2015?

Implementation of PMFBY

1124. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many farmers have opted for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) voluntarily, the total value of cover taken voluntarily vs. involuntarily;

(b) the number of farmers who have complained about the involuntary deduction of premium from their Kisan Credit Card account, State-wise;

(c) how many such cases have been reported this financial year and action Government is planning to take to address this situation;

(d) the measures undertaken to maximise the insurance coverage for SC/ST/women farmers and number of such farmers insured this year, State-wise; and

(e) the percentage difference of such farmers this year in comparison to 2015?

Insurance cover to farmers' loans

†1125. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is also considering to insure the loan of farmers;

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

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

Providing financial security to farmers

†1126. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to incorporate all types of risks for providing financial security to farmers under the new crop insurance scheme;

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

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

Educating farmers to adopt modern techniques

1127. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is the major source of livelihood of rural people;

(b) whether most of the farmers are still following age old practices of cultivation;

(c) if so, the measures taken to educate farmers to adopt modern techniques of farming to yield good crops economically;

(d) whether around 15 per cent of rural families are landless; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to distribute uncultivable land to them to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

enable them to convert such land cultivable to earn their livelihood?

Absence of marketing and storage facilities to farmers

1128. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of sound marketing facilities, farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for disposal of their farm produce;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide sound marketing facilities to farmers;

(c) whether adequate storage facilities are also not available to farmers to store their farm produce and as such they are compelled to store their produces in open;

(d) the quantum of farm produces damaged during the last two years due to non-availability of storage facilities; and

(e) the measures taken to construct godowns at Panchayat level to check wastage of farm produces?

Blue Revolution

†1129. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is preparing any scheme namely Blue Revolution so as to enhance income from export of fish and other aquatic creatures from ₹ 33,441 crores to ₹ one lakh crore in the next five years; and

(b) whether this scheme would not adversely affect aquatic life and environment?

Exporting alive bovine and buffaloes

†1130. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to increase income by exporting alive bovine and buffaloes; and

(b) if so, whether its adverse effects on rural agriculture have been assessed?

Providing insurance literacy to farmers

1131. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any measures to provide insurance literacy to farmers regarding agriculture related news and schemes;

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

(c) the total number of farmers provided with crop insurance, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has any plans to introduce measures to reduce premiums payable by farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of monocrotophos pesticide

1132. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monocrotophos pesticide has been described as of high acute toxicity by the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO);

(b) whether this pesticide is still in use in the country while it has been banned in several countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not banning this pesticide in the country?

Providing information of existing market to farmers through SMS

†1133. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any system to provide information of the existing market to farmers through SMS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the procedure adopted to provide this information; and

(c) the details of scheme proposed by Government to provide information of the existing market prices to the farmers *via* SMS and by when this scheme will be implemented throughout the country?

Managing capital collected by Multi-State Cooperative Societies

†1134. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government proposes under Sections 21, 39, 54, 78, 79, 80, 81 and 82 to delegate powers to the State's Registrar Co-operative Societies for managing and controlling the capital collected by Multi-State Co-operative Societies in Rajasthan, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of fund under RKVY and NFSM

1135. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the budget provision (allocation) under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during 2015-16 and 2016-17, year-wise?

Remunerative price to farmers cultivating Tur and Urad dal

1136. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tur and Urad dal are widely used in the country irrespective of economic status;

(b) whether festival season triggers rise in consumption of these pulses and their prices;

(c) whether these pulses are not generally preferred by farmers for cultivation because of low returns on MSP and poor market conditions; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to pay special attention in the areas of cultivation and also to ensure a fair return for farmers by hiking MSP and procurement?

Grant of arrears to Kuttanad package

1137. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government will take urgent steps to grant arrears to be paid to Kerala for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Kuttanad package projects KEL-1, 2, 3 and 4 amounting to ₹ 91.01 crores?

Assistance to NGOs and SHGs associated with agriculture sector

1138. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) associated with agriculture sector in the country, including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and NGO-wise;

(c) the details of the work done by these NGOs; and

(d) whether Government proposes to review/has reviewed the working of such NGOs and if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Training to farmers under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

†1139. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to impart training to farmers under the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana regarding scientific storage system in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total number of farmers who have been imparted training in the country including Maharashtra in the last three years?

Scientific utilization of water in Maharashtra

1140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra, including drought prone Marathwada region, has got normal to above normal rainfall during the monsoon of the current calendar year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government proposes to issue an advisory to the farmers and others of Marathwada region and other regions of the State through the Government of Maharashtra for the scientific utilization of available water to avoid drought conditions; and

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

Awareness among farmers regarding PMFBY

1141. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) have been deployed to estimate crop losses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has mechanisms to verify the accuracy of these estimates to ensure that the companies that provide crop insurance under the PMFBY do not take advantage of farmers; and

(c) whether Government plans to launch awareness schemes to educate farmers on the agri-analytics (Internet of Things (IoT) devices in agriculture) technology so as to keep them updated?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increasing coverage under PMFBY

1142. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has started on a slow note in 2016 Kharif season;

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

(c) the remedial measures being taken to increase the crop insurance penetration during the Rabi season?

Implementation of NFSM in Jharkhand

1143. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated and released by the Central Government in financial year 2015-16 and in the current financial year under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Jharkhand;

(b) the targets proposed to be achieved in Jharkhand under the scheme during financial year 2015-16 ;

(c) out of the amount released in financial year 2015-16, how much has been utilized by Jharkhand; and

(d) the mechanisms put in place in the Ministry to ensure that expenditure is being incurred for the purposes intended and that the objectives of the scheme have indeed been met?

Subsidy for production of organic manure

†1144. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to provide subsidy for production of organic manure to those herdsmen not involved in agricultural activities on the lines of subsidy being provided for production of chemical fertilizers and manures ;

(b) if so, the details of the said plan; and

(c) whether any fund has been allotted for this plan in the last three years, if so, the State-wise and year-wise details of the amount allocated?

Decline in production of coconut

1145. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pests and diseases are affecting country's coconut production this year, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps the Ministry is taking to popularize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) to minimize declining trend in coconut production/cultivation; and

(c) whether in view of the medicinal and nutritional value of coconut water in many diseases like dengue and other abdominal problems, Government is taking measures to control its consumer prices, the details thereof?

Involving private sector in growing pulses overseas

1146. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither area under pulses growth has increased nor productivity has shown any upward trend during each of the last three years in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country resulting in import of pulses under open general licenses; and

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal to approach private sector to grow pulses overseas with a guaranteed buy-back arrangement, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide by farmers

1147. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers' suicide has risen upto 40 per cent in the year 2015 in comparison to that of 2014, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers committed suicide in 2016 till 31 October, 2016, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for sharp increase in farmers' suicide in the country; and

(d) the details of measures Government has taken in view of the unprecedented suicides by farmers?

Long term policy to tackle drought

1148. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have faced serious drought condition and acute shortage of water for farming community and livelihood during last three years;

(b) if so, the details of observations made by the Government on this serious crisis in the many parts of the country;

(c) whether Government is considering any long term policy for making sufficient water availability for agricultural

production in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is also considering to encourage use of latest technology for judicious consumption of water for agricultural production, if so, the details thereof?

Demand for funds to Telangana under NCDC

1149. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs and Minister from the State of Telangana has met the Minister recently, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether the delegation has requested the Minister of releasing additional funds of ₹ 600 crores under National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to Telangana for releasing loans to women societies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Production of oil-seeds

1150. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country spent ₹ 66,000 crores last year for importing vegetable oil alone;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Minister to encourage production of oil- seeds such

a peanuts, sesame, mustard, sunflower, etc. in dry land areas to reach self-sufficiency; and

(c) the status of productivity of edible oils compared with other countries of the world?

Development of commercial horticulture

1151. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under development of commercial horticulture through production and Post-Harvest Management Scheme for each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) whether the Board has taken a decision not to provide financial assistance during the current year to the southern States of the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

Development of new variety of garlic

1152. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is working on development of big clove garlic varieties which can respond to short winter of peninsular India;

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

(c) the time by which newly developed varieties of garlic are likely to be made available to farmers for cultivation?

Impact of GM mustard on organic farming

1153. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if GM mustard is approved for cultivation, it would have adverse impact of India's impressively growing organic farming sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of KVKs

1154. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has finalized to set up 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many KVKs are going to be set up in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the performance and status of the existing KVKs in the country, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

Suicide by farmers

†1155. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

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

(a) whether in view of the cases of suicide being on the rise Government's attention has been drawn towards the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

reasons which are forcing the farmers to commit suicide day after day;

(b) whether Government is carrying out any study to understand the economic burden of the farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, since the rising incidence of suicides by farmers is an extremely painful and complex issue?

Availability of new variety of Arhar Pusa-16

1156. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 has been developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) which will be ready in 4 months in place of traditional variety which takes almost 8-10 months to be ready for harvesting, if so, the details thereof along with its main features; and

(b) the time Government is likely to take to make available the seeds of the new variety of Arhar Pusa-16 to farmers in view of huge gap between the production and demand of Arhar dal within the country?

Integration of agricultural markets

1157. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are nearly 150 principal market yards and about 110 sub-market yards in Telangana;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to integrate agriculture markets

under the National Agriculture Market scheme;

(c) if so, how many of the above markets have been taken up for integration and by when all the 260 plus are going to be integrated; and

(d) the efforts being made to persuade the other States which have not brought amendments to their APMC Act?

Price protection to farmers growing Kharif crops

1158. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the output of Kharif crops in Maharashtra and rest of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the bumper crops is likely to result in nosedive of prices of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the precautionary measures Government proposes to take to protect the interests of farmers of Maharashtra and rest of the country?

Increase in production cost of cotton crops

1159. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the input cost per hectare for the cotton growing farmers have increased in the last five years;

(b) if so, the average contribution of the Genetically Modified (GM) seeds, in percentage to this input cost; and

(c) the number of cotton growing farmers' suicides in the country in the last five years, State-wise?

Conversion of agricultural land to other uses

1160. SHRI PREM CHAND

GUPTA:

SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under agriculture in the country has decreased due to growing urbanization and population pressure;

(b) if so, the percentage of area under agriculture for last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the Government's action plan to minimize conversion of agricultural land to other land use patterns, the details thereof?

Promoting organic manure

†1161. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides subsidy to farmers for procurement of organic manure also, on the lines of subsidy given by it on chemical fertilizers/manure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of amount allocated for the said purpose in last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for promoting organic manure?

Production of saffron in Jammu and Kashmir

1162. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of saffron has

increased with the implementation of National Saffron Mission in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of increase in production in the last four years;

(c) if not, the reasons for the poor production; and

(d) the steps being taken to revive saffron production in the State?

Production and demand of pulses

1163. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of pulses in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the domestic production of pulses is not able to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the gap between demand and supply, and import of pulses during last three years; and

(d) the details of efforts being made to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the demand of pulses?

Bumper production of pulses

1164. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's output of pulses is likely to surpass previous records and also the Government's earlier estimate at 20-21.5 million tonnes this crop year (July 2016-June 2017); and

(b) whether the current Kharif output, estimated to set new bumper level of 8.5-9.5 metric tonnes against Government's estimate of 8.7 metric tonnes will help curtail the import of pulses, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Import of edible oil

1165. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been the largest importer of edible oil for many years;

(b) if so, whether the import bill last year was over ₹ 65,000 crore;

(c) whether the Solvent Extractors' Association has predicted that India could import huge quantities of oil-meals used as livestock feed; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to step up production of oilseeds and to reduce the import bill?

Setting up of KVKs

1166. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:
SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in each district of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise number of farmers being assisted in such Kendras up to October, 2016?

Supply of fake and poor quality seeds

1167. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has received complaints of supply of fake and poor quality seeds to farmers;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to address the issue;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide relief to farmers affected by such seeds; and

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

Achievements under Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1168. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set and achievements made in States/Union Territories including Chhattisgarh under the Jan Aushadhi Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government is planning/proposing to open these stores in all AIIMS, famous hospitals and medical colleges of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry in collaboration with the Health and Family Welfare Ministry to open these stores in AIIMS, famous hospitals and medical colleges of the country?

Availability of basic fertilizers

1169. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic fertilizers required by farmers for different crops are not readily available, if so, the reasons therefor and what Government is doing about this; and

(b) whether the fertilizer subsidies are being smoothly transferred to farmers' accounts in all the States?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revival of closed units of HFCL and FCIL

1170. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government has decided to revive all closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) through Public Sector route except Durgapur and Haldia plants; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of Seed Banks

1171. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

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

(a) the total number of Seed Banks established in the country by the end of August, 2016 and September, 2016, respectively State-wise;

(b) the proposed target of setting up Seed Banks in the country during the current year;

(c) the number of new Seed Banks to be opened in Odisha during 2016-17; and

(d) the details of these Seed Banks?

Disinvestment target for public sector fertilizer companies

1172. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned extensive disinvestment target for public sector fertilizer companies, if so, plant-wise details of target for the funds to be generated with time-line;

(b) whether Government has plans to approach PSUs/Ratna companies for disinvestment of such sick units as first option, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many corporates have shown their interest for the same, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the unrevivable plants and whether Government has plans to sell them, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact assessment of opening of Jan Aushadhi outlets

1173. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi outlets opened between the period 2014-16 all over the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has set any regional targets, as also areas of emphasis while promoting the opening of such outlets, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has conducted or contemplated any study of the impact assessment of this Scheme, if so, the mechanism of doing the same, if not, when and how will the Government conduct such study?

Issues hampering growth of fertilizer sector

1174. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues hampering the growth of fertilizer sector;

(b) whether Government has made any evaluation and formulated any comprehensive plan for the growth of fertilizer sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

fixed for this scheme for the coming three years; and

(c) whether any programme is being implemented with a view to spread awareness regarding Jan Aushadhi Scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Details of medicines supplied through Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1175. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing Jan Aushadhi Scheme for providing affordable medicines to people;

(b) if so, the number of districts in the country including Maharashtra where it has been implemented and the details of the generic medicines provided through this scheme;

(c) whether Government has decided to operationalise this scheme in the whole country, if so, the details thereof; and

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

Spreading awareness regarding Jan Aushadhi Scheme

†1176. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the success achieved so far of the Jan Aushadhi Scheme initiated by the Central Government has been encouraging, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the State-wise details of Jan Aushadhi stores opened so far and the goals

New Drugs Policy

1177. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new Drugs Policy;

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

(c) how it would be beneficial to consumers, especially the common man?

New Urea Investment Policy

1178. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the new Urea Investment Policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that only private players are being invited to set up urea plants under the above policy;

(c) what Government is thinking about increasing the production capacity of urea in central PSUs; and

(d) the demand and supply of urea in the country in the last five years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Definition of life saving drugs

1179. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no definition for life saving drugs, either in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order or in the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the reasons for not defining the term;

(c) how the price of life saving drugs is fixed in the absence of any definition; and

(d) which medicines are considered as life saving drugs?

Revenue through 4G auction

1180. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by Government through the allocation of spectrum for 4G services and names of the companies to which the allocation was made, company-wise; and

(b) the number of Wi-Fi hotspots installed to provide 4G and the expansion aimed during the current year?

Discontinuation of roaming charges

1181. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country at present, company-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to discontinue the roaming charges for mobile subscribers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to direct the telecom operators not to increase STD tariffs and if so, the details thereof; and

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

Telecom services in backward and rural areas

†1182. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to provide telecom services, especially to the backward and rural areas of the country, on priority basis; and

(b) the details of telecom services provided, especially to the backward and rural areas of the country, as on date, and by when telecom services are proposed to be made available across the rural areas of the country?

Regulation of call rates and internet charges by Government

†1183. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to regulate the call rates and internet charges of the mobile network companies;

(b) the reasons for different companies having different call rates and data packs;

(c) whether providing free internet services till 31 December, 2016 by a reputed company is in compliance with the rules; and

(d) whether Government is considering to reduce the rates of internet data plans to take internet services to all the villages and households?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Action taken on call drops

1184. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the Minister of Communications have shown concern over the menace of call drops on various occasions, if so, details of actions taken in this regard and how far the problem has been resolved till date;

(b) whether Government has taken action against erring companies for call drops, the details of penalties imposed and recovered till date; and

(c) the details of permissible limit of call drops and the existing figures of the same, and the time-line by which Government plans to eradicate this menace?

Increasing the speed of internet by BSNL

1185. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is providing broadband services in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by BSNL to increase the broadband internet speed?

Wi-Fi facility at tourist destinations

1186. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide Wi-Fi facilities at hundred tourist destinations across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has identified the places where these services will be provided, if so, the details thereof?

Submission of report by telecom operators on call failures

1187. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will ask all telecom operators to submit reports on the number of call failures on their network on a daily basis;

(b) whether TRAI has made it clear that the call failures at the point of inter-connectivity should be less than 0.5 per cent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are allegations that operators were not cooperating amongst themselves to provide adequate number of inter-connect points for calls originating from their respective networks, if so, the details thereof?

BSNL network in Samastipur

†1188. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated several schemes to improve the communication system and whether any improvement has been noticed in the services of BSNL so far, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how Government is planning to improve the BSNL network in Samastipur district of Bihar, which is often out of order, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Delay in implementation of
BharatNet**

1189. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:
Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats that
have been covered under the BharatNet so
far;

(b) whether there has been a delay in
the implementation of BharatNet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the
measures taken to overcome the issue?

**Improving services of BSNL in Jammu
and Kashmir**

1190. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY:
Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the developments made by the
present Government in improving the
services for subscribers of BSNL landline
connections in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the district-wise details of
developments made so far, particularly in
Kulgam district; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the
BSNL telecom exchange in Kulgam district
as the subscribers of the area are facing lot
of problems on a daily basis?

**Certificate of incorporation to India
Post Payments Bank**

1191. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post
Payments Bank has received the certificate

of incorporation, paving the way for the
postal department's bank to begin
operations in 2017, as announced;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will
be the first Public Sector Undertaking under
the Department of Posts; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the
Department is expected to roll out branches
across the country by September, 2017, if
so, the details thereof?

**Appointment of DSAs/MBAs by
MTNL**

†1192. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar
Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has
appointed Direct Selling Agents/MTNL
Business Associates (DSAs/MBAs) to
deliver their services to consumers, the
details thereof;

(b) whether the said DSAs/MBAs are
being provided with commission as per
booking of per connection, the details
thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to enhance
this commission to DSA/MBA as per the
ratio of dearness allowance is under
consideration of Government, the details
thereof; and

(d) whether Government has got DSAs/
MBAs insured keeping in view their field
work, the details thereof?

**Legislative proposal to reform TRAI
Act**

1193. SHRI RAJEEV
CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister
of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

refer to answer to Unstarred Question 607 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2016 and state:

(a) whether Government intends to conduct a public consultation to elicit the views of consumer rights' groups, civil society experts and citizens while examining the legislative proposal to reform the TRAI Act, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution

1194. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been serious complaints about mixing of soil with foodgrains stored for public distribution up to the tune of 50 per cent by employees of warehousing corporation and food supply department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Gap between wholesale and retail prices of vegetables

1195. SHRI K.G. KENYE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite good production of vegetables during April-July, their availability was not upto the mark and hence resulted in high prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tomato, onion, cabbage etc. were got wasted during the last three months; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to ease the gap between retail and wholesale prices of vegetables and to make sufficient market availability thereof?

Procurement of pulses for buffer stock

1196. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAFED and other agencies have started procuring 10 lakh tonnes of pulses for buffer stock, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the available existing buffer stock of various pulses in the country; and

(c) the quantity of pulses proposed to be procured from farmers and proposed to be imported for the buffer stock?

Claims under LSPEF to RSFCSC Ltd.

†1197. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is yet to settle the Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims of the Rajasthan State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation (RSFCSC) Ltd., if so, by when the above claims will be settled; and

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent any request to the Central Government to ensure timely offtaking of foodgrains, if so, by when the above request would be conceded?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Leakages in PDS

1198. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are leakages in Public Distribution System (PDS) in many States; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by Government to plug these leakages in PDS?

Distribution of essential commodities at subsidized rates

1199. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have taken steps to distribute essential commodities at subsidized rates through Government outlets; and

(b) the details of the subsidized price index of pulses and edible oils, State-wise?

Procurement of wheat and rice

1200. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheat and rice during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the total procurement of wheat and rice during 2014-15 and 2015-16, year-wise?

Damage to foodgrains in FCI godowns

1201. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of all those FCI godowns where damage of food stock is a regular affair;

(b) if so, the list of such godowns where the loss/damage to food stock has been occurring for the last five years ending 31 March, 2015;

(c) whether the damage/loss was due to the negligence of the managers of godowns or because of some other reason; and

(d) the reason for the loss/damage to the food stock of every godown for the period mentioned above, year-wise?

Reforms in Decentralised Procurement Scheme

1202. DR R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that there is a need for making reforms in Decentralised Procurement Scheme (DCP), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to implement the Scheme on all India basis, which is at present only implemented and followed by a few States; and

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

Policy measures to reduce pendency of cases

1203. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy measures being taken by Government to reduce the huge pendency of litigation cases in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government, since 2014, to increase the total number of Judges in the country and how much amount has been spent to improve the concerned infrastructure since then; and

(c) the number of new Judges who have been appointed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2014?

Requirement, demand and supply of foodgrains under PDS

†1204. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and other items issued presently under Public Distribution System (PDS) and the number of outlets thereof, State-wise;

(b) with reference to above, the number of persons died of hunger due to scarcity of foodgrains in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) with reference to 'a' and 'b', the difference between requirement, demand and supply of foodgrains through PDS in each of the last three years in the country?

Creation of State Food Commissions

1205. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have created State Food Commissions, so far, as mandated by the National Food Security Act, 2013;

(b) the details of the States where the Commission has been created and the States where it has not been created; and

(c) whether Central Government is providing any assistance to State Governments to establish the State Food Commissions?

Linking of ration cards with Aadhaar

1206. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of linking of Aadhaar No. with ration cards of the people has been completed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made it mandatory for all ration card holders to link it their cards with their Aadhaar No.; and

(c) if so, the details of the achievement made in this regard, so far?

Claims under LSPEF

1207. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims have not been released to Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation;

(b) if so, the amount of claims that have to be released and the reasons for not releasing them; and

(c) whether Government intends to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

release these funds, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of procurement, distribution etc. of foodgrains

1208. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any review of the existing system of procurement, marketing, storage, preservation and distribution of foodgrains;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Fitting of bio-toilets in trains

1209. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to fit bio-toilets on all new and existing trains to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, both inside the trains and at stations;

(b) the cost to be incurred per unit of bio-toilet and the total number of bio-toilet units to be fitted;

(c) whether Government has finalized the contracts for supply, installation and fitting of bio-toilets in various existing trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure to be incurred by Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to have more Green Corridors and the funds earmarked therefor?

Production and supply of wheat

1210. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite low production of wheat, the country has exported over 3.03 million metric tonnes of wheat till August, 2016;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the domestic demand and production thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to ease the domestic supply, Government plans to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during the next few months; and

(d) if so, the effect thereof on Central exchange and the available stock in central pool thereof?

Gap between wholesale and retail price of onion

1211. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

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

(a) whether the wholesale price of onions has fallen to ₹ 2 per kg. during the month of August and September, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the super market sale of onion is still at ₹ 15 to ₹ 20 per kg.;

(c) the reasons for such wide gap between the wholesale and retail price of onion; and

(d) any proposed plan of Government to stabilize the price of onion in future, the details thereof?

Rise in price of wheat and other items

1212. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of wheat in Delhi market has risen since April this year;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that major companies in the capital have raised the prices of biscuits, bread etc.; and

(d) if so, the details of the rise in prices of such items and whether this rise conforms with the rise in prices of wheat in the market?

United States-India ICT working Group

1213. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States-India Information and Communication Technology Working Group which was set up in 2005 and revived in 2014, promotes development of ICT sector in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Working Group has very recently met in Delhi, where several issues were discussed; and

(c) whether both sides discussed the accomplishments of the Digital India Programme in transforming India into a digitally empowered society, if so, the details thereof?

Low electronics and IT literacy among tribal youth

1214. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that electronics and IT literacy among tribal youths is very low compared to rest of the population; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to launch any scheme of enhancing electronics and IT literacy specifically targeting tribal population, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of National Cyber Security Coordination Centre

1215. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated the process to set up a National Cyber Security Coordination Centre (NCCC);

(b) if so, the need for such an organisation;

(c) how the existing police personnel will be trained to professionally handle cyber crimes and cyber security of the country; and

(d) the progress made so far in setting up of the above Centre?

Laws to regulate social media

1216. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing laws in

place to regulate the social media in the country;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to review these laws in order to regulate the social media effectively; and

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

Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme

1217. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects have availed of the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (MSIPS) so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) how much money has been invested in the projects availing MSIPS so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(c) how many projects have received reimbursement of different forms of taxes under MSIPS and the total amount of tax reimbursed so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof; and

(d) how many jobs have been created by projects availing MSIPS so far, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof ?

Shortage of skilled manpower in IT sector

1218. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing a severe shortage of skilled manpower in the Information Technology sector;

(b) if so, the percentage and the reasons for shortage of skilled manpower in the sector; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to overcome the problem of shortage of skilled manpower in IT sector?

Increasing the level of food processing in the country

1219. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, given the current meagre level of food processing *vis-à-vis* Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam Government has developed a road map to increase the level of food processing in the country; and

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

Steps to fast track justice

†1220. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new initiatives and effective measures being taken to change the delayed justice into fast track justice system in the country; and

(b) the updated status of different types of cases pending in the Supreme Court and High Court of each State of the country?

Filling up vacancies of Judges in High Courts

1221. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the progress made by Government in filling up vacancies of Judges in various High Courts;

(b) the expeditious steps taken to complete the formalities in view of remarks passed by the Supreme Court about not filling of judicial vacancies;

(c) whether Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) is causing delay in the process of filling of vacancies, if so, whether Government proposes to modify the procedure, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action being taken to fill up the vacancies?

Criteria for setting up of law colleges/ universities

1222. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for setting up of law colleges/universities in the country;

(b) the State-wise number of law colleges/universities functioning in the country at present;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up more law colleges/universities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up, location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard as also to improve the quality of legal education in the country?

Decision on appointment of Judges

†1223. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received

the names of 77 Judges through Collegium in the last nine months;

(b) if so, the current status with regard to the appointment of Judges;

(c) the reasons for not appointing Judges by Government during the last nine months; and

(d) by when the final decision on the list received from the Collegium would be taken?

Banning of exit polls during elections

†1224. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to make appropriate laws to ban the exit polls during elections; and

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

Vacant posts of Judges

†1225. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a delay in administration of justice to the people due to absence of sufficient number of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) if so, the number of vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts situated in States and since when these posts are vacant;

(c) the details of the reasons for not appointing Judges against the vacant posts; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when Judges will be appointed against the vacant posts?

Fast Track Courts in Odisha

1226. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in Odisha;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allotted for them to remain operative;

(c) how many of them have stopped functioning and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government proposes to make FTCs operational once again?

Pending civil and criminal cases in Courts

1227. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of pending cases, both criminal and civil, in various High Courts of the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of new cases, both criminal and civil, filed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country on an average, State-wise; and

(d) the number of cases taken on board in a year and disposed of by delivering judgements in a year in various High Courts and the Supreme Court?

Court cases disposed of during last two years

†1228. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has devised a new plan to dispose of cases pending over the years in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the last two years, the State-wise details thereof?

Strength of Judges in Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

1229. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of High Court and Subordinate Courts' Judges functioning out of their total sanctioned strength in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) the number of cases pending till date and disposed of, so far, in both the States by these Courts in the last three years;

(c) the number of criminal cases decided in these States with the statistics of the cases resulting in conviction and acquittal in the last three years; and

(d) the steps contemplated to expedite the process of appointments against the vacant posts in the High Court and Subordinate Courts in these States?

Judicial Performance Evaluation System

1230. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to put in place a Judicial Performance Evaluation System for Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the parameters of such evaluation?

Central law for compulsory registration of marriages

1231. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in October, 2007, the Supreme Court had set a fresh three months deadline for States and Union Territories to frame necessary rules to make registration of marriages compulsory irrespective of religion, and took exception to some States making such registration compulsory only for Hindus;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to comply with the order of the Supreme Court;

(c) the number of States which have so far introduced such legislation; and

(d) whether in view of the Supreme Court's judgement, Government is considering to have a Central Law for compulsory registration of marriages?

Medical facilities on running trains

1232. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers medical facilities on running trains a necessity, which include a General Physician with medical attendant, essential drugs and some basic diagnostic instruments and an oxygen cylinder; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to provide essential medical services on running trains, if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of train toilets while trains are stationary

1233. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that use of toilets in trains cause unhygienic and filthy conditions during the period they remain stationary at the railway stations;

(b) if so, why no concrete action is being taken by Railways despite several studies got conducted in the past;

(c) the concrete steps Government has decided to take to tackle this menace to improve the unhygienic condition of railway stations; and

(d) whether the Ministry will join hands with the Ministries of Urban Development and Tourism to formulate a well conceived programme as part of Swachh Bharat programme?

Cabinet approval for laying of new railway lines

†1234. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet approval has been accorded for laying third line from Nagpur to Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur to Jharsuguda in Odisha, Jhansi to Beena, Itarsi to Nagpur, Balharshah in Maharashtra to Kazipet and from Gudur to Vijayawada;

(b) the target to complete the laying of each of the above railway lines;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the work of laying of these railway lines will be started; and

(d) the estimated cost of each of these lines?

Scheme for providing insurance to train passengers

†1235. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total premium received by Railways under the scheme for providing insurance cover to passengers and the quantum of compensation that Railways had to shell out after various accidents, the details thereof; and

(b) the total compensation provided by Railways with regard to accidents before introduction of the above scheme, the details of the last three years?

Profit under flexi fare system

†1236. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profit earned by Railways after implementing the flexi fare system in premium trains, including the Shatabdi Express, the details thereof; and

(b) the total hike in fares of various classes and the increase or decrease in the number of passengers after the introduction of flexi fare system, the details thereof?

Gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikkal

1237. SHRIN. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the train services between Peralam in Tamil Nadu and Karaikkal in the Union Territory of Puducherry were stopped for many years due to gauge conversion;

(b) whether there is any proposal in pipeline for gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikkal;

(c) the total distance to be covered under gauge conversion;

(d) the total estimate for undertaking the gauge conversion work; and

(e) whether Government will initiate immediate action to start the gauge conversion work which is pending for many years?

Railway line connecting Chennai and Puducherry

1238. SHRIN. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for connecting Chennai and Puducherry in the direct line *via* Tindivanam-Puducherry or along the east coast road;

(b) whether Government will fulfill the long pending demands of the people of Puducherry by introducing super fast train services between Chennai and Puducherry *via* Tindivanam; and

(c) whether Government would take action to lay new line between Cuddalore and Puducherry in order to connect Karaikkal directly as there is no direct train service from Puducherry to Karaikkal *via* Cuddalore and there is no railway line between Puducherry and Cuddalore?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Lack of funds for improving basic amenities

1239. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways do not have funds required for improving basic amenities and its modernization;

(b) if so, whether Government would allow private investment for these purposes;

(c) whether such a proposal has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

Employees belonging to OBC category in IRCTC

1240. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of employees from OBC category in IRCTC in the year 2014-15?

Construction works in Railways under MGNREGA

1241. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake construction works in Railways under MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any such proposal has been sent by Railways to the Ministry of Rural Development, if so, the response of that Ministry thereon?

Temporary halts for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains

1242. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary halts for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether any new temporary halt was allowed for Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the stoppage of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains at temporary halts, if so, the details thereof?

New railway lines in Uttarakhand

†1243. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether announcement for new railway lines between Roorkee-Piran Kaliyar and Tanakpur-Jauljibi in Uttarakhand had been made in rail budget of previous years;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether these rail routes will see the light of the day; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses to local train services in Mumbai

1244. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that local train services in Mumbai metropolitan area have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been incurring huge losses for several years, if so, the income and expenditure figures for the last three years;

(b) the measures being taken to make these services break even or make some profit as well; and

(c) whether Railways have thought of developing local railway stations in Mumbai commercially to add to the income, if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

Disabled-friendly railway stations

1245. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG had recently pointed out that railway stations were not disabled- friendly and no significant improvements were seen over the years;

(b) the amount spent on making railway stations and trains disabled-friendly over the past five years, region-wise; and

(c) whether there has been an increased effort by Government to make Railways disabled-friendly, if so, the details thereof?

Speed limit for high-speed trains

1246. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce high-speed trains in some of the crowded routes in the country;

(b) if so, the speed limits under active consideration; and

(c) the sectors considered to introduce such trains and the expenditure expected?

Levy of coal terminal surcharge

1247. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to levy coal terminal surcharge at both loading and unloading ends for power companies, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any representations from coal consumers association requesting to review the decision taken by Railways on collection of terminal surcharge, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has viewed their request positively for consideration of reducing the surcharge, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to alleviate the problems of the coal consumers association?

Electrification of railway tracks

1248. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length in kilometers of railway track electrified in the last five years, the year-wise data from 2011 to 2016; and

(b) how many kilometers of railway track has been electrified in the last five years in the North East Region, year-wise data from 2011 to 2016?

Rationale behind flexi fare system

1249. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind Railways' introduction of flexi fare system for

Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam trains in all classes except 1st AC and Executive class;

(b) whether experiments with the same system, for Premium and Suvidha trains earlier, have not been on the expected lines; and

(c) whether according to expert analysis, even after flexi fare for elite trains, the total operating loss per year to Railways due to passenger operations would be about ₹ 29,500 crore in 2016-17?

Doubling of Alwar-Bandikui railway division

†1250. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only the work of doubling of railway line of Alwar-Bandikui railway division of Delhi-Ajmer railway route has not started yet, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the present status thereof; and

(c) the sector-wise details of the funds allocated and used till now?

Additional train from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

†1251. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to run an additional train in view of huge crowd of passengers travelling from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways earn maximum amount of revenue from these places; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any

plan to modernize the stations of these regions?

Benefit of merging Railway Budget with General Budget

1252. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be any benefit of merging Railway Budget with the General Budget; and

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

Appointment of Station Directors

1253. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to appoint Station Directors at all the 75 A-1 category railway stations in the country;

(b) in what manner will such appointments improve the amenities and benefits for the travelling public;

(c) whether any stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been included in this A-1 category stations;

(d) whether it is a fact that a special budget is being made available for these 75 railway stations to upgrade them; and

(e) the details of the merits of this plan?

Merger of Rail Budget with General Budget

†1254. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision regarding doing away with nine decade old practice of presenting a separate Railway Budget from next financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that by merging Railway Budget with General Budget, there would be huge economic savings to the cash-starved Railways, if so, the quantum of savings;

(c) whether Government has received report of the Joint Committee constituted to work out modalities, for this merger; and

(d) if so, the details of the suggested modalities and changes?

Intelligent Video Analytics at major railway stations

1255. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Intelligent Video Analytics are being deployed at major railway stations for crowd control and management, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the railway stations where the system will be deployed, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria used for making a railway station eligible for deployment of the security system?

Deplorable condition of eatables and safety in trains

†1256. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of most of the trains with regard to eatables

and safety is deplorable, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to improve the quality of eatables and safety?

Replacement of old railway bridges

1257. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway bridges, which are more than 100 years old are still in use in the country;

(b) the complete list of such bridges;

(c) whether Government has any concrete proposals to replace such bridges with new ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Yatri Mitra Sewa

1258. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways are making rail travel comfortable for elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers by launching Yatri Mitra Sewa at major railway stations across the country, if so, the details thereof?

Flexi fare system

1259. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains are plying with several vacant seats even after the flexi fare in premium trains was introduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Railways would consider withdrawing flexi fare in the premium trains?

Shortage of reserved train seats

1260. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of reserved seats in various Express and other trains running through various important cities of the country especially Punjab, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for ensuring availability of berths to passengers by increasing the seats in all Express/other classes of trains?

Modernization of railway stations in backward and rural areas

†1261. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated for modernization of railway stations situated especially in backward and rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year, the Zone-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount that will be spent for each railway station separately;

(c) the details of the target set for modernization of those railway stations where the work is in progress; and

(d) the details of the target set for modernization of such railway stations in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand?

MoU with Russian Railways for upgradation of speed of passenger trains

1262. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian Railways joined hands with Indian Railways over upgradation of speed of passenger trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether an MoU has been signed for modernization of existing lines, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pattern of financing the high-speed project and the schedule of completion of various projects, the details thereof?

Trains' cancellation due to cold wave and fog

†1263. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains cancelled in the last two years due to cold waves and fog;

(b) whether it is a fact that trains coming to New Delhi and leaving from New Delhi to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh reached their destinations too late in the festive season of October-November, 2016;

(c) the details of such trains running late for more than two hours; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

considering the problems being faced by the passengers due to late arrival and departure of trains than their scheduled time?

(d) whether Government has started the first phase of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the shares of the States therein?

**Reservation availed by creamy layer
OBC applicants**

†1264. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of OBC candidates who were deprived of the benefits of reservation in selection procedure for various posts during the last three years as they fell under creamy layer;

(b) whether it is a fact that cases of getting jobs by producing fake certificates quoting therein that the candidate does not fall under the creamy layer, have come to light; and

(c) the details thereof?

SPV for Bullet train project

1265. SHRI K.G. KENYE:
SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Bullet train project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the phase-wise project proposal therein;

(c) the details of financial agreement and arrangement of funds therefor;

Restructuring of Railway Board

1266. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have embarked on major overhaul of departmental, functions by restructuring the Railway Board, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the highlights of the Bibek Debroy Committee on restructuring the Board;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when a final decision would be taken to reorient the Board for working towards common corporate objective?

**Insurance cover for mobiles and
laptops**

1267. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC is considering to provide insurance cover for mobiles and laptops of rail passengers against theft, accident and/or any other mishaps;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC held talks with insurance companies in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC travel insurance scheme was a big success, if so, the details thereof?

**Delhi-Ranchi and Delhi-Patna
high-speed railway system**

1268. SHRIMATI MISHA BHARTI:
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-Ranchi and Delhi-Patna route; and

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

Electrification of railway tracks

1269. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometers of railway tracks have been electrified during 2014-15 and 2015-16, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) how many kilometers of tracks are scheduled to be electrified during 2016-17, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether any plan is under contemplation to electrify the tracks between Farakka Junction and Cooch Behar Junction and between Katihar Junction in Bihar and Farakka Junction in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Change in railway ticket refund rules

1270. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has changed the railway ticket refund rules since 2013;

(b) if so, the details of such changes made periodically; and

(c) whether the changed rules have been causing undue hardship to passengers as the refund charges have been increased?

**Progress of Delhi-Ahmedabad freight
corridor**

†1271. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date-wise details of the progress of Delhi-Ahmedabad freight corridor;

(b) the year-wise funds allocated and utilized for it in the last three years; and

(c) by when work on this freight corridor would be completed and the same would be operational?

Suvidha and flexi fare trains

1272. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced Suvidha and flexi fare premium trains recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways are collecting exorbitant money from the customers by way of these trains?

CCTV cameras in coaches

1273. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

proposal to install CCTV cameras in the coaches of trains being operated by Railways to ensure the safety and security of passengers, particularly women and children, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has held any detailed discussions with all stakeholders in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Investment in nuclear energy expansion programme

1274. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to invest in the country's nuclear energy expansion programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have also proposed to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) to float joint ventures for setting up of nuclear power plants across the country, if so, the details thereof?

Working condition of handloom and handicraft workers

1275. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the working condition of handloom and handicraft workers which is affecting their health and sustenance of their dependent families, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to upgrade the quality of healthcare systems, insurance and capital for workers in handloom and powerloom sectors?

Incentivising export of handicraft, handlooms and silk

1276. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to incentivise export of handicraft, handlooms and silk, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage and ensure fair economic return for artisans and weavers?

Special package for Textile sector

1277. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether the Ministry has taken up any projects under this package in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds earmarked and released so far for taking up technology upgradation and providing incentives to the apparel sector, the details thereof?

National Textile Policy

1278. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the present National Textile Policy of the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised under various schemes/projects during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether Government is planning/

considering to review the National Textile Policy, if so, the details thereof, including the time that will be taken to review and revise and begin the implementation of this policy along with the reasons therefor?

Steps to improve cotton production

1279. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cotton commodities has fallen by over 30 per cent in the last three years, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of cotton production over the past three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the above situation; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to encourage local cotton growers, along with the details of funds allocated and disbursed for the same?

Increase in insurance coverage of handloom weavers

1280. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has taken a decision to increase the insurance coverage to be given to handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the expected increase in the number of persons to come under the increased insurance coverage net, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th November, 2016

Kartika 28, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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