

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, February 26, 2016/Phalgun 7, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Setting up of cold storages under Integrated Cold Chain project

*31. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage units sanctioned under the Integrated Cold Chain project in the country along with those proposed to be set up in the next two years and in the current year;

(b) whether they would meet the requirements of handling capacity of milk and dairy products, fruits, vegetables, fish, marine products and cereals; and

(c) if not, the shortfall estimated and the manner in which Government plans to meet the deficiency in the handling capacity?

People fallen out of PDS ambit

*32. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER

AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people have fallen out of the ambit of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in West Bengal; and

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

Providing clean and hygienic bedding to passengers

*33. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that bed sheets, blankets and pillows supplied to passengers of III tier AC coaches stink and most of the time they are not completely dried; and

(b) whether Railways would consider outsourcing the laundry service in order to provide clean and hygienic bed sheets, blankets and pillows to passengers?

Reduction in area of cultivable land

*34. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land in the country in the year 2005 and the present status thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that cultivable land is reducing day-by-day, if so, to what extent it will affect production of foodgrains by 2020?

Procurement of wheat in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana

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

(a) whether Government is unable to purchase wheat from farmers in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wheat produced and the quantity purchased in these States from farmers during the last three years; and

(c) whether farmers have been given proper rates by the Government, if so, the amount given per quintal during this period, year-wise?

Farmers seeking suicide clearance in Maharashtra

*36. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the incident of several farmers in Wardha

district of Maharashtra approaching district authorities to obtain a "suicide clearance", effectively seeking Government's permission to commit suicide, due to the alleged failure of Government to redress their grievances and provide adequate compensation for crop failures;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to provide adequate assistance to these farmers, economically, socially and psychologically; and

(c) whether Central Government is planning to set up any mechanism to detect and prevent cases of farmers' suicides in various States of the country?

Compensation under National Crop Income Insurance Scheme

*37. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers, who have applied for claims for insurance benefits under National Crop Income Insurance Scheme during the financial year 2015-16, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of farmers, who have been compensated under the Scheme against their claims during the financial year 2015-16, State-wise?

Training milk producers in innovative technologies

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

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to States to establish dairies under any special scheme;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance provided to States during the last three years and in the current financial year;

(c) whether Government has any plan to give training in innovative technologies to milk producers to develop dairy production with advanced technologies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Quality of food provided by private vendors

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after privatizing the food vendors, the quality of food served in trains has deteriorated; and

(b) the criteria of Railways to select contractors for supplying food in trains and at stations, the details thereof?

Formulation of a New Consumer Policy

*40. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Committee for formulating a New Consumer Policy;

(b) if so, how many members are there in this Committee;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for submission of its report;

(d) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the main objectives which will form part of the New Consumer Policy?

Upgradation/renovation of train coaches

*41. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are presently in the process of upgrading/renovating train coaches for the benefit of passengers; and

(b) the salient features of Railways' plans in this regard, including the time-frame therefor?

Non-lifting of imported pulses quota by State Governments

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the State Governments have not lifted imported pulses offered by Centre at subsidized prices which are still lying in Central pool;

(b) if so, the total quantity of pulses imported during 2015, alongwith the States which have lifted their quota and the reasons why other States have not lifted their quota so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that private importers of pulses have resorted to cartels, hoarding stocks abroad, to jack up prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken against such importers?

Completion of broad gauge conversion of railway lines

*43. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have completed the work of broad gauge conversion of railway lines in many sectors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that safety inspection has been carried out on the completed broad gauge converted lines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any suggestions have been received by Railways during track inspection?

Train accident in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a flatbed truck carrying huge granite monolith crashed through a railway level crossing

near Madakasira in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh just as the Bengaluru-Nanded Express train was passing through and rammed the side of the carriage; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that five persons were killed in the said accident, including a legislator of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

Reducing travel time of Andhra Pradesh Express

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

(a) the steps being taken by Railways to reduce the travel time of Andhra Pradesh Express by converting it to Rajdhani/Duronto;

(b) the steps being taken by Railways to attach sleeper coaches to Andhra Pradesh Express with neat and clean bogies; and

(c) the details of representations pending with Railways from Andhra Pradesh in this regard and by when action would be taken thereon?

NEW DELHI;
The 20th February, 2016
Phalgun 1, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 34, 36, 37, 38,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: —
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 32, 35, 40, 42,
Food Processing Industries	: 31,
Law and Justice	: —
Railways	: 33, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45.
Textiles	: —