

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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**(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 — 160**

#### **Area under irrigation and cultivation of different crops**

320. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under cultivation of different crops, especially pulses, year-wise and State-wise during last ten years; and

(b) the proportion of this area that is irrigated?

#### **White Paper on agriculture in the country**

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

(a) whether in view of the hardships being experienced by our farming community, there is a need to issue a White Paper on Indian Agricultural, clearly spelling out a road-map for the well being of our farmers and accelerate growth process of the agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, how does Government propose to deal with this issue?

#### **Use of UAV/Drone Technology in farming**

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

(a) whether Government is considering to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or the 'Drone Technology' for precision farming, which can help in assessing the exact nature/area of crop damage during natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the scheme evolved in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is taking support from experts/institutions for availability of UAV/Drones at cheaper cost?

#### **MSP for agricultural products**

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

(a) the details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agri-products fixed during last three years; and

(b) the demands of farmers pending in this regard and by when action would be taken thereon?

#### **Amalgamation of major irrigation programmes**

324. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three major irrigation programmes at present are under three different Ministries *i.e.* Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Water Resources, hampering thereby the overall growth of the irrigated area under cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to amalgamate these programmes; and

(c) the details of the total sown area of different crops and out of this the percentage of area under irrigation as on date and ten years ago?

#### **New Crop Insurance Scheme**

325. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Crop Insurance Scheme has been announced by Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the expected coverage of the total crop area by its implementation?

#### **Miserable condition of farmers in Marathwada**

326. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Marathwada region are facing a catch-22 situation as they are unable to bear the growing expenses on fodder, drinking water and water for animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite their willingness to sell their cattle to get fodder and water for their animals to save them from starvation, there are no takers for animals;

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to prevent the drought situation from going bad to worse; and

(d) the detailed report thereon?

#### **Public and private investment in agriculture**

327. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public and private investment in agriculture during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15; and

(b) the steps being planned to increase both public and private investment during the next three years?

#### **Small and marginal farmers in the country**

328. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country as per the recent agricultural census, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of small and marginal farmers has decreased during recent years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab for each of the last five years;

(d) the reasons identified behind decrease in the number of small and marginal farmers; and

(e) whether Government has taken concrete steps to protect small and marginal farmers, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **New Crop Insurance Scheme**

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

(a) whether Government has recently launched a new Crop Insurance Scheme, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether free crop insurance would be ensured for the small and marginal farmers of Maharashtra and rest of the country; and

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

#### **Development of cold chains through MIDH**

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

(a) whether Government is promoting development of cold chains through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cold chains proposed to be developed in Maharashtra under MIDH during the ensuing three years, year-wise?

#### **Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme**

†331. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many problems are surfacing in the implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme being run by the Central Government, as agriculture is a State subject, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government is taking a special initiative to resolve those problems and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Constitution of Hindi Salahkar Samiti**

†332. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry has been constituted, the date on which its last meeting was held and since when its due constitution is awaited; and

(b) if the above Samiti has been constituted, the details of meetings of the Samiti organised so far and the members of the Samiti?

#### **Fish production in the country**

333. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total fish production in the country during last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in force for enhancement of fish production?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **New Crop Insurance Scheme**

334. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched a new Crop Insurance Scheme for farmers, if so, the details of the Scheme;
- (b) how is the Scheme different from earlier schemes, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of financials, targets and coverage under the Scheme?

### **Spurious pesticides**

335. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been reports of misuse of pesticides in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of the pesticides being used across the country are spurious resulting in huge damage to crops, reducing the fertility of soil at large and creating severe environmental impact;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by Government to check this menace and punish the concerned manufacturing companies/distributing agencies; and
- (d) whether Government is contemplating to enact a law in this regard and provide compensation to the affected farmers?

### **Use of drip irrigation and water soluble fertilizers**

336. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more area

can be irrigated by adopting drip irrigation than that by flow irrigation, if so, the details thereof;

- (b) whether the yield of various crops using drip irrigation with water soluble fertilizers is higher than the conventional fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of import of water soluble fertilizers during last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (d) the names of Indian companies producing water soluble fertilizers; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to promote drip irrigation and indigenous production of water soluble fertilizers?

### **Reduction in contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to GDP**

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

- (a) the reasons that the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to GDP has come down from 18.4 per cent in 2011-12 to 17 per cent in 2014-15;
- (b) what is the figure relating to 2015-16;
- (c) the reasons behind drastic reduction of 1.4 per cent in just three years; and
- (d) how the Ministry is planning to rectify the situation?

### **Financial crisis in NAFED**

338. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the financial crisis in National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED);

(b) if so, the updated status of steps taken to bring it out of this crisis, especially in view of it being a Central nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton under Price Support Scheme;

(c) whether Government would consider a one time bail-out package or any other feasible action to revive this cooperative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, especially in view of NAFED being involved in the field of farmers' welfare?

**Miserable condition of farmers due to continuous drought situation**

‡339. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers has become miserable because of continuous drought for the last two-three years;

(b) whether farmers are facing serious problem of lack of potable water along with irrigation due to deficient rainfall, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to address this problem?

**Suicide by farmers**

340. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of farmers committed suicide in 2016 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether 89 farmers have committed suicide in the month of January, 2016 in Maharashtra alone, if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for such a large scale of suicide by farmers in the country; and

(d) the concrete measures Government would take to mitigate farm distress and suicide by farmers?

**Productivity of mangoes in the country**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that mango productivity per hectare in India is very low in comparison to other countries like Bangladesh, Brazil and Pakistan, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to help mango growers in increasing yields by providing new technologies such as Ultra High Density Mango Plantation (UHDMP)?

**Availability of green fodder for animals**

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

(a) whether the availability of quality green fodder for animals in the country is very low and it is adversely affecting the health of animals, if so, the details thereof along with the demand and supply of the above;

(b) the action plan formulated by Government to provide quality green fodder to the animals, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any national policy on green fodder for animals, if so, the details thereof?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Decrease in the number of peasants in the country**

343. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agricultural labourers in the country for the last five years, State-wise and year-wise with male-female break-up;

(b) the total number of peasants in the country for the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the decreasing trend in the number of peasants in the country?

**Aid to NGOs associated with farming**

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

(a) whether any financial aid is provided to the NGOs associated with or involved in farming under any scheme in the country including M.P.;

(b) if so, the State/UT-wise names of the NGOs provided financial aid during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the financial aid provided to the States and NGOs and the amount allocated to each of them during the last three years, year-wise?

**Findings of Agricultural Census**

345. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the total number of Agricultural Census conducted by Government so far;

(b) the total amount spent on conducting Agricultural Census;

(c) the total financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh under the Agricultural Census conducted so far; and

(d) the findings of the latest Agricultural Census in respect of the aforesaid States?

**Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme**

346. SHRI K. C. TYAGI:  
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the details of the provisions of Crop Insurance Scheme in the country and the details of various situations and conditions under which farmers could become beneficiaries of this scheme; and

(b) the measures taken, so far, and proposed to be implemented to streamline the scheme?

**Production of pulses**

347. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of production of pulses during the last three years in the country, pulse-wise and area-wise;

(b) whether there has been shortage of production of pulses during last year, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for shortage of production and whether it is a fact that the

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

area of production of pulses has been shrinking; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to boost production of pulses in the country?

#### **Modification of National Crop Insurance Programme**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to modify National Crop Insurance Programme after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues identified by Government after consultations; and

(c) by when the revised Crop Insurance Programme is going to be implemented?

#### **Compensation package for farmers**

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

(a) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major agricultural produces in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of millions of small and marginal farmers and the compensation package provided per acre land during any calamities or floods;

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

(d) the funds allocated for assistance to farmers and compensation packages

provided to Tamil Nadu from 2011 and till date, year-wise?

#### **Production of coconut, mango and other horticulture produces in Tamil Nadu**

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

(a) the details of the projects carried out to support and improve production of organically grown coconut, mango and other horticulture produces in the country;

(b) the break-up details of funds allocated, disbursed and expenditure incurred for the above purpose during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to provide adequate financial, logistic and technical support to Tamil Nadu to improve production of coconut, mango and other horticulture produces; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to support the revenue loss to farmers due to natural calamities like heavy winds/rainfall and subsequent floods?

#### **Payment of dues to sugarcane farmers**

351. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears due to sugarcane farmers from sugar mills/factories since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers affected by such overdue payments in each State since 2010 year-wise;

(c) the number of sugar mills which have received loans from Government to pay these arrears; and

(d) the proportion of Government loan

amount that has been paid to farmers as arrears?

#### **New Drugs (Prices Control) Order**

352. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Drugs (Prices Control) Order notified recently has increased the number of essential drugs and capped their prices using simple average price formula, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether according to Senior Director and Life Sciences Leader at consulting firm, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's Indian arm, a string of issues, ranging from patents and drug safety to pricing and foreign direct investment norms have put the approximately ₹ 1 lakh crore Indian pharmaceutical industry in uncertainty; and

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

#### **Redressal of grievances under Pharma Jan Samadhan**

353. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received under the Pharma Jan Samadhan, a grievance redressal system created by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA); and

(b) the detailed break-up of the nature of complaints received and redressed?

#### **Shortage of subsidized fertilizers**

354. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy being provided to farmers in the country; and

(b) the reasons for shortage of subsidized fertilizers being provided to farmers in the country?

#### **Direct Cash Transfer in place of subsidized urea**

355. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned any schemes to move from subsidized urea to selling it in open market through Direct Cash Transfer to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time-frame by which the various schemes relating to these plans will be rolled out; and

(c) the mechanism used to identify the beneficiaries of these schemes?

#### **Capping the share of margins on sale of medicines**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that MRP of medicines often include a huge share of margin which goes to the chemists, distributors and wholesalers for pushing particular brands, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to cap the margin of chemists, distributors and wholesalers to bring down the prices of medicines to the consumers, if so, the details thereof?



**Supply of essential medicines at affordable prices**

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

(a) whether any specific plans to ensure supply of medicines used for the treatment of cancer and cardio-vascular diseases at affordable prices is in place; and

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

**Medicines for treatment of cancer**

†358. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the number of cancer patients in the country is increasing steadily and it is expected to increase by 30 per cent by the year 2020;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the medicines for cancer are still very expensive and the new medicines are not available in Indian markets;

(c) if so, whether steps are being taken by Government in the interest of cancer patients; and

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

**Closure of fertilizer plants for non-supply of natural gas**

359. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight fertilizer plants in the country are closed for many years and are not producing urea due to non-supply of natural gas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the measures being taken to operationalise these fertilizer plants and ensure supply of urea to farmers at reasonable rates; and

(c) by when re-starting of these plants would be done?

**Rehabilitation Scheme for HAL**

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

(a) whether a modified rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Pimpri is pending consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for delay in approval of the draft scheme; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be approved and production activities of HAL are started?

**Efforts to reduce over-consumption of urea**

361. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising consumption of highly subsidized urea has resulted in declining consumption of other fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering a revision in prices of urea or undertaking any other efforts to reduce the over-consumption of urea and the imbalanced use of soil nutrients, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current unpaid subsidy bill of the urea sector and whether Government plans to cut subsidy on chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the time-line for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Steps to reduce prices of medicines**

362. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been engaged in the process of bringing down the prices of medicines for such ailments which call for lifelong medication and also those medicines which are meant for serious diseases like cancer and are very costly;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for the said purpose; and

(c) the achievements made so far?

#### **Withdrawal of exemption on customs duty on bulk drugs**

363. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn exemption on customs duty on certain bulk drugs;

(b) if so, whether life-saving imported drugs to treat cancer, HIV and cardiac failures will become costlier;

(c) whether the industry is unhappy with the move;

(d) whether the withdrawal of exemption will impact imported drugs and those made in SEZs; and

(e) whether this is a part of Make in India strategy?

#### **Measures to supply superior quality fertilizers**

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

(a) whether superior quality of fertilizer is absolutely essential to maintain the fertility of soil for sustained growth of agricultural production;

(b) whether Government has received various complaints from farmers regarding improper mixing in DAP fertilizer;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that good quality fertilizers are provided to farmers; and

(d) the measures taken to make testing of fertilizers mandatory at every possible level right from the factory level till it reaches the farmers?

#### **Sale of medicines at pre-revised rates**

365. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has made a downward revision in the prices of certain drugs;

(b) if so, the details of drugs whose prices were revised by NPPA including the earlier prevalent prices of these drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the pharmaceutical companies are still selling these drugs at the pre-revised rates; and

(d) if so, the names of such companies?

### **Jan Aushadhi Stores**

‡366. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores opened so far or proposed to be opened in the country to make generic medicines easily available to the common man, State-wise/district-wise;

(b) the number of such centres opened in the AIIMS, major hospitals and medical colleges coming under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the time-frame stipulated for all of them; and

(c) the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores planned to be opened in Assam and Uttar Pradesh and the procedure adopted therefor along with the outcome thereof?

### **Regulating the prices of medical devices**

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

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

(a) whether efforts have been made to regulate prices of medical devices in the country to ensure health security to all, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether specifications, standardization and price-range of various medical devices will be made available in the Government website for taking a prudent decision and best choice for the patients and if so, the details thereof?

### **Uniform policy for pricing of drugs**

368. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a uniform policy at the national level on the pricing and availability of drugs to do away with discrepancies in prices of medicines and to prevent sale of spurious drugs;

(b) whether disparities in price of medicines is benefiting the middlemen and affecting the poor patients; and

(c) the early steps proposed to check the exploitation of patients by the druggists by taking advantage of variance in prices?

### **Capping the prices of orthopaedic implants**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to cap prices of orthopaedic implants keeping in view sharp spike in prices of these implants, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the price increase of orthopaedic implants is less than 10 per cent annually in accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Drugs (Prices Control) Order?

### **Penalty on service providers for call drops**

370. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drops in mobile telephony is a serious problem in Delhi and other places;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the provisions in this regard;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any penalty has been imposed on service providers for deficiency in service; and

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

#### **New cyber space policy**

371. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made it mandatory to keep a copy of all their communications in the cyber space, including e-mails and chats for a period of 90 days and be able to make it available to security agencies when demanded, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made it clear that this policy initiative will not impact the common man; and

(c) whether according to cyber law experts, the proposed steps would find almost everyone using the internet in violation of these rules and that this policy is detached from the ground realities?

#### **Plan to turn BSNL profitable**

372. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL aims to increase its revenue by almost 50 per cent to ₹ 42,000 crore in next four years as part of its plan to turnaround the loss making firm by 2018-19;

(b) whether BSNL has prepared a detailed plan to turn profitable in 2018-19;

(c) whether the target set by BSNL is to increase its revenue from ₹ 28,999 crore now to ₹ 42,000 crore in 2018-19 to turn profitable;

(d) whether, as of now, BSNL is paying salaries to its staff and managing operational maintenance expenses from its own resources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Financing indigenous projects of high-end technologies**

373. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry will finance indigenous projects working on developing 5G, wearable computers, Internet of Things and other high-end technologies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Convergence Communications and Broadband Technologies has invited proposals for financial support from scientists, academics and R & D institutions among others, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Internet connectivity in villages**

374. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that despite its campaign of Digital India, several villages in the country do not possess internet connectivity and the ones which possess, have extremely poor internet speeds;

(b) the number of villages which are not connected with internet connectivity in the

country, especially in West Bengal, State-wise and District-wise;

(c) the expected time limit by which each and every village in the country is expected to get high speed internet connectivity; and

(d) the measures being taken to improve the poor internet speed provided to the villages?

#### **Regulation of installation of mobile towers**

375. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking necessary steps to regulate the illegal and unregulated installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that mobile towers have harmful and fatal effect on health; and

(d) if so, the specific precautionary measures being taken to reduce the effect of harmful Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation on health?

#### **Clarifications from TRAI on compensating subscribers for call drops**

376. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecoms have sought clarifications from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding compensating subscribers for call drops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that operators want to know the details of implementation, refund mechanism, who will get penalized, time-frame required and who will fund the capital expenditure; and

(d) if so, the clarifications made to them by TRAI?

#### **Sealing of mobile towers**

377. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of mobile towers have been sealed in many cities across the country by local body Governments for violation of operating norms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of such towers are under scanner with the local body Governments across the country;

(c) whether closure of mobile towers will intensify the call drops; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard to enforce compliance of operating norms by the telecom service providers?

#### **Shortage of fixed WLL telephone equipments**

378. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of fixed WLL telephone equipments has been noticed by Government, which is hampering the quality of WLL phone service by BSNL all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is taking any specific steps to address it in a time-frame; and

(c) the total number of customers who have discontinued usage of BSNL's fixed WLL phone during the last three years?

**Strengthening of communication system**

†379. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is determined to strengthen the communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by Government in order to improve the communication system and IT sector in Bihar till date, the details thereof?

**Unclaimed money in various savings schemes of post office**

380. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enormous amount of unclaimed money is lying with post offices under various saving schemes;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to return such money under various schemes to their depositors; and

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding embezzlement of such unclaimed money by post office officials, if so, the details thereof?

**Review of service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks**

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

(a) whether Government has made any review of the existing wage structure and service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to improve the working conditions and pay structure and other facilities extended to them; and

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

**Revenue loss to MTNL due to mobile number porting**

382. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drop rate has increased manifold in Government-owned MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last two years;

(c) the number of MTNL customers who have ported their numbers from MTNL to private operators during the last two years; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of revenue loss incurred during this period?

#### **Job insecurity in IT industry**

383. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IT industry, particularly MNCs based in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, are adopting hire and fire practices leading to lack of job security and high levels of frustration, often resulting in suicides;

(b) if so, the steps Government is contemplating to change the scenario;

(c) whether it is a fact that long working hours in IT companies, involving regular night shifts, has become a health hazard; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to intervene for putting in place corrective measures?

#### **Increase in cyber breaches and crimes**

384. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cyber breaches and cyber crime threats have increased in the country;

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

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to curb cyber breaches and cyber crimes in the country?

#### **Reasons given by TRAI for call drops**

385. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has cited network configuration and synchronization, inadequate mobile signal strength and transmission problems for call drops;

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

(c) whether TRAI has urged to add more towers to bolster 2G networks;

(d) if so, whether adequate number of towers have been provided by telecos, particularly VSNL and MTNL, to improve the quality of mobile services in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Policy on differential data pricing**

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

(a) whether Government has finally spelt out its policy on the differential pricing on the Internet, declaring that differential pricing for data services through the Internet will not be allowed;

(b) whether the telecom regulator has chosen to impose a penalty of ₹ 50,000 for each day of contravention, subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakh to be paid by the errant service provider; and

(c) whether the current ruling of TRAI will protect small content providers and start-ups by providing them a level playing

field in competition with the telecom majors?

**Non-implementation of penalty for call drops**

387. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not implementing penalty on call drops;

(b) whether it is a fact that telecom companies are defying Government and TRAI order by taking shelter under court;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how Government is planning to look at this maneuvering tactics by private telecom players; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to request the court to hear the case early?

**Results of TRAI's call drop tests**

388. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether results of the telecom regulator's call drop tests are refuted by the telecom operators who have asked TRAI to withdraw the report;

(b) if so, reaction of the Ministry thereto; and

(c) whether to ensure a comprehensive view of the network, drive tests would be conducted within the municipal boundaries of the city and cover all the major routes, if so, the details thereof?

**Health hazards from EMF emission of telecom towers**

389. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the success achieved by Government for issues relating to health hazards from Electromagnetic Field (EMF) emission of telecom towers and mobiles; and

(b) the details of major representations received by Government and the steps taken in this regard?

**Poor mobile network coverage of BSNL**

390. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has lost about two crore wireless and wireline subscribers during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for poor mobile network coverage capacity and quality of services of BSNL; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase its subscriber base by improving network coverage and quality of services?

**Auction of spectrum in 2016-17**

391. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing auction of spectrum in the Financial Year 2016-17;



(b) how is Government ensuring that the design of the auction is such that it receives maximum receipts; and

(c) the projected receipt for Government from auction of spectrum during 2016-17?

**Agreement with a social media company to provide Internet in rural areas**

†392. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into an agreement with a foreign social media company to provide internet facility in rural India or contemplating any such scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the item-wise details of budget earmarked for this purpose and the share of the above social media company in the budget;

(c) whether local entrepreneurs would have to bear losses on account of the use of the foreign social media company; and

(d) whether our country's resources and technology are inadequate for implementation of Digital India scheme?

**Review of existing cyber laws**

393. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Government has reviewed the existing cyber laws in view of the

discussion on Conference on Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the laws would be updated to meet the challenges in view of the emerging new kinds of cyber crimes; and

(c) whether any specific legislation would be brought to deal with the challenge of rise of "dark net" where illegal data sharing takes place by individuals, if so, the details thereof?

**Expanding network of Common Service Centres in villages**

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

(a) whether as part of the mission Digital India, Government proposes to expand the network of Common Service Centres in villages to develop ancilliary units in textiles and handicrafts, helping employment generation; and

(b) whether Government has roped in e-commerce companies to make use of the 1 lakh strong network of Common Service Centres across the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Privacy and security of data under Aadhaar**

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

(a) the measures undertaken by Government to ensure the privacy and security of data collected under the Aadhaar programme;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of regulatory measures implemented to ensure that the data collected under Aadhaar is not misused; and

(c) whether Government plans to introduce legislation to give Aadhaar a legal basis and introduce legal privacy and security requirements, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Rice and wheat distributed through PDS**

396. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the allocation made was as per their demand;

(c) if so, the State-wise demand thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Seizure of pulses from hoarders**

397. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of tonnes of pulses have been seized from hoarders in various States during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of pulses seized;

(c) the steps taken for disposal of such seized pulses; and

(d) whether the same has been helpful

in containing the spiralling prices of pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of the National Food Security Act**

398. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Food Security Act has been implemented throughout the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Sugar factories in Maharashtra**

399. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories in Maharashtra under various sectors/ category, namely, Government, private and co-operative sector;

(b) how many factories are sick or profit making; and

(c) whether Government is planning to have a uniform price for sugarcane under the new Sugar/Agriculture policy all over the country?

#### **Malpractices in printed MRP**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that there are large number of products and commodities in the market where the actual

sale price is far less than the MRP printed on the product thereby circumventing the requirement of MRP;

(b) if so, the preventive action available under the law or otherwise to check such malpractices; and

(c) the action Government contemplates to prevent such practices?

#### **Raid campaign against hoarders of pulses**

†401. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of pulses have increased exorbitantly due to their hoarding in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the hoarders;

(c) if so, the number of such traders against whom action has been taken so far;

(d) whether Government would allow to carry out a countrywide raid campaign to reduce the prices of pulses; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Rise in prices of essential food items**

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

(a) whether prices of essential food items have shown upward trend during last three months and all measures taken by Government have failed to check the price rise in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of various kind of pulses

imported by Government during 2015 and 2016, so far, to check the price rise; and

(c) the rates at which pulses were imported, import date-wise along with the details of countries from where they were imported?

#### **Functioning of consumer courts**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that provisions of the Consumer Protection Act are not being implemented properly in the country;

(b) the number of cases filed in consumer courts during the financial year 2014-15 and the number of cases pending so far, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has suggested to the Government to constitute a committee to improve the condition of consumer courts, if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

#### **Payment of outstanding dues of sugarcane growers**

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

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

(a) the steps being taken for making payment and providing fair rates of sugarcane for sugarcane crushing season 2015-16 and for the payments of outstanding dues to the sugarcane farmers

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and whether its outcome will prove beneficial in future in fulfilling the interests of sugarcane farmers;

(b) the details of the quantum of outstanding sugarcane arrears of the farmers, State-wise; and

(c) the names of products being manufactured from sugarcane in sugar mills at present, the details thereof?

#### **Effectiveness of Consumer Fora**

405. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out about the effectiveness of Consumer Fora, if so, the main findings thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revisit the same?

#### **Packaging of food items in non-standard denomination**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that market is flooded with confectionary, eatables and food items which have been packaged in non-standard denominations of weight or volume and besides that, such packages also carry schemes of extra or free contents in terms of percentage of content of the package;

(b) whether such non-standard denomination packages are permissible under Government's rules/guidelines, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would agree that such practices are misleading and consumer unfriendly; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to ensure that consumers are not misguided by resorting to such practices?

#### **Status of Food Processing Industry in Maharashtra**

407. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Food Processing Industry in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the existing Food Processing Units have the capacity to process fruits and vegetables available in the State; and

(c) if not, the details of specific steps taken to increase the processing capacity by establishing more food processing units in the State?

#### **Steps taken to reduce post harvest food losses**

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

(a) the details of food wastage and post-harvest losses of farm produce incurred across the country due to lack of integrated logistics and cold-chains during last three years;

(b) whether Government has taken or proposes to take measures to reduce food losses, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has established modern supply chains for perishable food items, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government provides incentives to entrepreneurs and investors for development of cold-chain

infrastructure components, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Vacancies in judicial posts**

409. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the vacancies in judicial posts, as on date;
- (b) the steps being taken to fill up all the vacant posts in a time-frame particularly those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and
- (c) the other steps being taken to dispose of the pending cases expeditiously?

#### **Funds for legal aid schemes**

410. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides funds to all State Legal Aid Authorities for implementation of the legal aid schemes, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of funds allocated and sanctioned by NALSA to different State Legal Aid Authorities during the last three years, State-wise?

#### **Irregularities in Judicial Services Examinations**

411. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that irregularities have been reported in the Judicial Services Examinations held across various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of such irregularities, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry to check such irregularities in the Judicial Services Examinations?

#### **Fast Track Courts**

412. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Fast Track Courts functioning in the country;
- (b) the details of the number of cases disposed of and the number of cases pending in these Courts, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the total funds allocated and spent for setting up of these Courts during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to increase the number of Fast Track Courts in the country and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Designating Advocates as Senior Advocates**

413. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Advocates who were designated as Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court as per Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, category-wise; and
- (b) the details of Advocates who were designated as Senior Advocates by All the High Courts across the country as per Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, State-wise and category-wise?

#### **Action plan to clear pendency of court cases**

414. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases pending in various courts in the country have been going up unabatedly;

(b) the current number of pending cases in various courts of the country; and

(c) whether Government has worked out some action plan to dispense justice to the aggrieved parties expeditiously, if so, the details thereof?

**Promoting the use of Hindi in court proceedings**

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

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

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to take steps for relaxing article 348 that hinders filing of petition and its hearing in Hindi in Supreme Court so that petitions may be filed in Hindi without any hesitation; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to appoint people qualified to work in Hindi and for other necessary action, along with the factual position thereof?

**Pending cases *vis-a-vis* vacant posts of judges**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of judges on a large scale in the

country due to which imparting of justice is delayed;

(b) the details of pending cases in various courts at present;

(c) the suggestions of Law Commission regarding appointment of judges and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a decline in disposal of pending cases due to shortage of judges, the details thereof?

**Disposal of pending court cases**

417. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Subordinate Courts and High Courts across the country for the past three years;

(b) whether there is a substantial number of judicial vacancies, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether Government plans to introduce a time-bound programme to clear pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-line for implementation of the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Online voting by defence and para-military personnel**

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

(a) whether online voting through PIN by the Defence and Para-military personnel would be considered as they are invariable on duty at remote areas during all kind of elections;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the Ministry would consider implementing such measures; and

(c) if not, how the Ministry proposes to resolve the issue in order to ensure that the defence and para-military personnel are able to exercise their right of adult franchise?

**Effect of Pancheshwar dam on Tanakpur-Bageshwar railway line**

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

(a) whether the Pancheshwar dam being constructed in Champawat district of Uttarakhand is likely to affect the Tanakpur Ghat–Bageshwar railway line badly;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received directions to suspend further action on this railway line; and

(c) if so, the level from which these directions have been received?

**Limiting the number of online bookings per user ID**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are limiting online booking of tickets from the existing 10 to 6 on one user ID, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such restrictions would not impact frequent travellers; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is contemplating to address this problem?

**Special team to attend to suburban railway accident victims**

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

(a) whether the Mumbai High Court has suggested Railways to have a special team to attend to suburban railway accident victims and provide them with medical assistance;

(b) if so, the response of Railways thereto; and

(c) the steps Railways are taking to set up the special dedicated team instead of the Station Master?

**Railway stations being run by local people**

422. SHRI ANVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway stations in the country are being run by local people instead of railway employees, if so, the details thereof along with the number of such stations;

(b) whether it is a beneficial for Government to let local people run the stations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons for Government not running the stations itself; and

(c) whether Government has a permanent policy in this regard, if so, the details thereof, if not, whether Government intends to formulate such a policy?

**MoU between Government of Odisha and Railways**

423. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha is the first to sign an MoU with Railways on 4 November, 2015, the planned programme details and the detailed terms and conditions of the MoU;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any other State has also followed Odisha in this respect;

(c) whether it is a time-bound programme;

(d) whether the Lanjigarh-Junagarh line will be extended to Jeypore and Khariar road to Nabarangpur, Kesinga to Bhawanipatna line be taken up, if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Slow pace of works under North-Eastern Railway**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that work progresses at a slow pace under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this zone has been neglected and is not on priority of the Railway Board; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make this zone a vibrant one and to complete the pending works and projects expeditiously?

#### **Sonnagar-Dankuni section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that despite passage of several years, the Sonnagar-Dankuni section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) has not been completed, leading to the incompleteness of the EDFC and severely hampering growth prospects in West Bengal;

(b) the State-wise details of progress of EDFC, including Sonnagar-Dankuni section, along with issues faced and the expected deadline for its completion; and

(c) the details of funding pattern for EDFC project, including loan component received from World Bank and expenditure incurred till date, year-wise, State-wise?

#### **Cost sharing of railway projects by Government of Maharashtra**

426. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share financial burden of certain railway projects in the State, if so, project-wise details of such projects; and

(b) whether Railways have decided to complete these on priority basis, if so, the details in this regard?

#### **Semi high-speed train services in South India**

427. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce semi high-speed train services between various cities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any routes are being considered in Southern India covering cities of Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore etc., the details thereof?

#### **Safety audit to prevent accidents**

428. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety audits at all levels are being conducted in Railways with a



view to prevent rising number of accidents, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any road-map and comprehensive safety plan is prepared to improve supervision, inspection, monitoring and periodical review of safety measures;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds needed for the purpose; and

(d) whether cheaper technology methods to ensure safety are being explored, the details thereof?

#### **Misuse of Senior citizen concession and quota**

429. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to prevent the misuse of senior citizen 'concession' as well as senior citizen 'quota';

(b) whether any changes have been introduced in the current policy of railway travel concessions recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Paperless unreserved and platform tickets**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have launched facilities for booking of paperless unreserved tickets as well as platform tickets to cut down queues at station counters; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to launch more IT enabled passenger services, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Pending railway projects in Bihar**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway projects in Bihar have been pending for a long time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for broad gauge line from Sakri Station *via* Nirmali *via* Kosi Mahasetu to Bhaptiyahi, inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has still been lying incomplete for several years;

(c) whether requisite funds have not been allocated or Government is ignoring it; and

(d) by when train services will be made operational on Kosi Mahasetu, the details thereof including time-limit therefor?

#### **Train service from Samastipur to New Delhi**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Samastipur is a divisional office under Hazipur zone in Bihar but even being a major junction of Northern India, it has not been provided with a superfast train for New Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated a plan to run a new train from Samastipur to New Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Norms for expiry of railway coaches**

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

(a) whether any norms exist regarding expiry of railway coaches used in long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Refreshment and toilet breaks for locomotive drivers**

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

(a) whether Government has received any demand from locomotive drivers for refreshment and toilet breaks;

(b) whether their demands have not been accepted by Railway Board;

(c) whether Indian Railway Loco Running Men's Organisation has now approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the issue;

(d) whether NHRC has given any observation in the matter;

(e) whether Metro drivers get a break of 40 minutes after every three hours' duty; and

(f) if so, whether the locomotive drivers could be brought at par with the Metro drivers in this respect?

**Setting up of new medical college at Ahmedabad**

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

(a) whether Railways plan to set up a new medical college at Ahmedabad as

announced by the then Minister of Railways in her Budget speech in 2009;

(b) if so, by when the new medical college, attached to the existing railway hospital, is likely to be set up;

(c) the number of undergraduate students proposed to be admitted in the initial stage; and

(d) whether the proposed medical college would give admissions as per admission rules of the State Government or as per the new policy under consideration of Railways?

**Representation for new railway projects**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has received representation from Member of Parliament for gauge conversion, new and doubling of railway lines including doubling of railway line between Ahmedabad and Ajmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work is likely to start along with the probable time-frame for completion of each project?

**Proposed railway projects in Gujarat**

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

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has proposed railway projects for new railway lines, doubling of tracks, gauge conversion, new trains and extension of railway stations, etc. for completion in a stipulated time;

(b) whether these proposals have been forwarded to the Ministry for consideration; and

(c) the present status of the railway projects undertaken/to be undertaken in Gujarat?

**Deployment of modern/luxury coaches in important trains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have got the first model rake of luxury 'Make in India' coaches recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such new modern/luxury coaches would be deployed in the existing important trains under various zonal railways in the country;

(c) if so, the details of trains on which these new modern coaches would be provided; and

(d) by when these trains will get such new coaches?

**Problems of women employees**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 92 women employees of IRCTC lost their job for going to toilet to attend the call of nature, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some officers had dictated the women employees not to attend the call of nature, if so, the action Government has taken in the matter?

**Maintenance and improvement of toilets in trains**

†440. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toilets in all types of trains remain in a filthy state;

(b) whether it is also a fact that toilets of even Rajdhani Express also remain in a filthy state; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for maintenance and improvement of toilets in trains, the details thereof?

**Unmanned level crossings**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 12582 unmanned level crossings in the country at present;

(b) the number of unmanned level crossings proposed to be closed by Government in the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively; and

(c) the number of unmanned level crossings proposed to be closed would be replaced by bridges?

**Washing expenses of Railways**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ordinary washing expenses of Railways are going up year after year;

(b) if so, the rate of increase thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the percentage of such expenses in Railways' earnings?

**Decline in traffic and earnings of Railways**

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

(a) whether the traffic and earnings of Railways are declining continuously every year;

(b) if so, the figures in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for such decline?

**Arrangements for Simhashta Kumbh Mela**

†444. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of various special arrangements made for trains and extension of passenger facilities in addition to the existing railway services available under Western Railway, in view of the forthcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela at Ujjain?

**Vacant posts related to safety**

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

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

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

(c) by when Railways plan to fill up the vacancies?

**Introduction of double decker trains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

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

(a) whether Government is considering introduction of double decker trains on Vijayawada-Guntur-Narasaraopet and Vijayawada-Rajahmundry-Vizag sections in Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad-Warangal and Ramagundam-Kazipet-Warangal sections in Telangana; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Executive lounges at railway stations**

447. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway has set up executive lounges at New Delhi Railway station, providing value added services to passengers, if so, the complete details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to set up similar lounges at capital cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Multiple security agencies for security to Railways**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that involvement of multiple security agencies like GRP, RPF, State police, etc. in providing security to Railways causes a lot of discomfort to passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the reasons for involvement of multiple security agencies for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure seamless policing and security to Railways network by giving adequate and absolute powers to RPF?

#### **Semi high-speed train services**

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

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce semi high-speed train services between various cities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any routes are being considered in the Delhi-Kalka and Delhi-Amritsar sectors, the details thereof?

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised to provide Wi-Fi facility at several important railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, names of the stations where this facility has been made available and by when this facility will be made available at remaining railway stations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Food/refreshment served on premium trains**

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

(a) whether considering the widespread complaints received over the quality of food served on-board, Railways are considering delinking the cost of the food/refreshment served on-board premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, etc. thereby making travel by them cheaper;

(b) whether passengers on these premium trains will now have the option to carry their own food or to order the same from pantry; and

(c) whether Railways propose to engage IRCTC to run pantry services aboard premium trains, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Hoisting national flag on train engines**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced during Budget Session for hoisting/installation of Indian national flag Tricolor on the train engines running in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has issued instructions to authorities for hoisting/installation of the Tricolor on the train engines;

(c) how many train engines have Tricolor hoisted/installed on them so far; and

(d) the time-frame to hoist/install the Tricolor on all train engines?

#### **Freight Train Operator Schemes**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Railways have unveiled a policy to implement Dedicated Freight Corridor Scheme (DFCS) and Special Freight Train Operator Scheme (SFTO);

(b) if so, details thereof and the performance details under them since their inception;

(c) the list of container train operators given license to operate under these schemes and their performance in container traffic;

(d) whether Government's innovative Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme, to increase Railways' market share in transportation of automobile, has attracted adequate investments from private players; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and investments made by automobile companies under this scheme since introduction?

#### **Projects under PPP mode in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) the details of each of the project taken up under PPP mode in Andhra Pradesh during last five years and the current year;

(b) the status of each of the project; and

(c) by when all the projects are likely to be completed and what would be the formula for revenue sharing?

#### **Concession in railway fare**

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

(a) the category-wise details of the persons provided concession in railway fare, so far;

(b) the details of the amount received by Railways after withdrawing the concession to railway passengers in different categories;

(c) whether Railways propose to restore the concession to railway passengers under special/odd conditions in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Expenditure on salaries, allowances etc. of employees of Railways**

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

(a) the total number of employees in Railways;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on salaries, allowances and other facilities for these employees;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on pensions; and

(d) the amount left for development of Railways after incurring all above expenses?

#### **High Speed Rail Corporation**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formed High Speed Rail Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, the objectives for which it has been formed; and

(c) the details of the projects, if any, undertaken by this Corporation?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Status of new railway projects in  
Karnataka**

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

(a) the present status of action taken on the survey report for new railway line projects in Karnataka;

(b) the estimated cost of the projects;

(c) the time-frame set for completion of the said projects; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite the work on the said projects?

**Broad gauge connectivity to Amreli in  
Gujarat**

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

(a) the updated status of action taken by Railways to provide broad gauge connectivity to Amreli in Gujarat; and

(b) whether Railways intend to convert Bilimora-Waghai narrow gauge railway line in Gujarat into broad gauge railway line?

**Green toilets in trains and at  
stations**

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

(a) whether it is proposed to build green toilets in the running trains and on the stations/railway premises in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this process has since been initiated on the Indian railway system, if

so, the details with progress of the project?

**Discontinuance of passenger  
trains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to discontinue passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to provide some other mode to passengers travelling in these passenger trains; and

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

**New railway lines in north  
Purvanchal**

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

(a) the places in north Purvanchal where new railway lines are being laid; and

(b) by when these lines will become fully functional and the work on the same will be completed, State-wise and Zone-wise details thereof?

**Transportation of coal in open goods  
wagons**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that coal is invariably transported in open goods wagons to all parts of the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any loss of coal has been reported during transit or transportation due to utilizing open goods wagons;

(c) the quantum of loss of coal reported for being transported in open goods wagons for the past three years;

(d) the steps taken to check such losses; and

(e) how is the loss compensated?

**Revenue forgone on account of concessions**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways' revenue forgone on account of concessions to children for 2014-15 stands at ₹ 569 crore, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways' revenue forgone on account of concessions to disabled persons also stands at above amount during the year under reference; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Concession for children in train fare**

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

(a) whether Railways have decided to collect full adult fare for children aged between 5 and 12, who want a berth or seat in reserved classes;

(b) whether parents, who used to travel paying half the adult fare for accompanying children in reserved class, would have to pay full adult fare from April 1, 2016;

(c) whether 50 per cent concession for children between 5 and 12 years in unreserved class of journey will continue; and

(d) whether this is part of the efforts to cut down on subsidies to augment revenues and minimize revenue loss on account of child travel?

**Improving amenities for patients and differently-abled passengers**

466. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to improve passenger amenities in Railways, especially for the differently-abled, patients etc., as the availability of wheel chairs and stretchers are limited and are in bad condition even at important railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Improving condition of second class and sleeper class coaches**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that except in case of some special trains, the condition of second class and sleeper class coaches is very poor in all other trains;

(b) whether Government has any plan to improve the condition of passenger train coaches, especially the second class and the sleeper class coaches;

(c) if so, by when improvement/upgradation of these coaches is likely to take place; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways for this work and the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Cancellation charges for confirmed railway tickets**

†468. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being deducted by Railways for cancellation of confirmed railway tickets of various classes at present and the amount received by Railways by such cancellations during the last three years;

(b) the previous charges for cancellation of confirmed railway tickets, the details thereof; and

(c) whether extra coaches are proposed to be added or any other option is being considered to provide seats to passengers holding waitlisted tickets?

**Measures to tackle morning fog**

469. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:  
SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have geared up to tackle early morning fog to ensure smooth running of trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that security measures like mapping signals on the GPS installed in engines and planting detonators along the tracks to make the loco-pilots aware of the approaching signals have also been put in place, if so, the details thereof?

**Strengthening of railway bridges**

470. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have evolved any parameters for reconstruction/strengthening of railway bridges in the country if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds allocated/earmarked for the said purpose in the current financial year, Zone-wise including the tribal areas of the country;

(c) whether any inspections are carried out by Railways in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways for strengthening of railway bridges?

**Increase in number of coaches of sleeper class trains**

†471. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to high volume of passengers a large number of passengers have to travel inconveniently in the sleeper class with wait-listed tickets in many railway zones, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is being proposed to increase the coaches of sleeper class in the trains of those railway zones, if so, the details thereof?

**Accidents at unmanned level crossings**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at unmanned level crossings have increased in the last one year;

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

(c) the remedial measures being adopted by Railways in this regard?

#### **Railway line between Ujjain and Fatehabad**

†473. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the meter gauge railway line established between Ujjain and Fatehabad (Western Railway) and the period when the railway line was uprooted and railway service discontinued, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of narrow gauge and meter gauge railway lines being operated at present in the country along with their distance of operation?

#### **Zero accident mission**

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

(a) whether Railways have launched a zero-accident mission envisaging renewal of railway tracks, more railway bridges, better signaling and rolling out accident-proof coaches and engines, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of investment planned during next five years towards this mission along with the source of funding?

#### **Shortage of raw jute**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that severe shortage of raw jute is affecting the production and supply of finished jute from mills in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue;

(c) the steps taken by Government to discourage import of jute to protect jute growers and mill workers; and

(d) the details of revenue earned through jute industry and funds allocated and spent on the jute industry during the last three years, State-wise?

#### **Proposal to extend MGNREGA to weavers**

476. SHRI C. M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development to extend MGNREGA to weavers also, if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether any response from the Ministry of Rural Development has been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for approaching the Ministry of Rural Development again, after it had rejected the earlier proposal?

#### **Promotion of traditional textiles of tribal people**

477. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the plan to help and encourage traditional textiles of tribal people along with the details of its implementation in various States and the number of beneficiaries thereof;

(b) whether such traditional textiles are exported also; and

(c) if so, the details and the volume of such trade with specific information on how such profit is transferred to tribal weavers?

**Funds to improve conditions of weavers**

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available by the Ministry for improving the financial condition of weavers in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken to impart training to the weavers and make them skilled?

**Promoting Chikan fabric industry**

†479. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the dearth of skilled artisans is adversely affecting Lucknows Chikankari industry;

(b) whether the Chikan fabrics made with the help of machines by China are 30 per cent cheaper than Indian fabrics;

(c) whether Government is also aware that only 5 per cent of the total handcrafted Chikan fabric produced in the country is being exported;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save Lucknow's Chikan fabric industry; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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