

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, April 29, 2016/Vaisakha 9, 1938 (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

Increasing speed of trains and boosting non-fare revenues

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to create two new Directorates tasked with increasing the speed of trains and boosting non-fare revenues by monetizing land along the tracks and advertising;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have formulated a detailed plan for the two new verticals to be called Raftaar and non-fare box revenue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

New farming practice

*62. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new farming practice has

been developed in the country to increase the productivity of land and to lower the water and other farm inputs in cultivation of crops; and

(b) whether the existing problems like water scarcity, high energy usage and environmental degradation would adequately be taken care of and thus crop yield would substantially be increased?

Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of National Agricultural Market

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a Central Law for integrating agricultural markets at national level for the benefit of farmers in terms of better price discovery and also for the benefit of consumers in terms of reduction in number of intermediaries in supply chain, if so, details thereof; and

(b) whether a proposal to formulate a Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) was sent to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 24 June 2015 for approval, if so, the present status thereof?

Drought situation in the country

†*64. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several areas in the country are reeling under severe drought;

(b) if so, the areas identified as drought hit so far in the country and the steps being taken to provide water facility there; and

(c) if not, the status of areas like Vidarbha in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh?

Setting up of new Horticultural University in Telangana

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

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a new Horticultural University in Telangana;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be taken up?

Zero Hunger target under food policy

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

(a) whether Government has a proposal to review the country's food policy, especially the distribution system to achieve "Zero Hunger" across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether people living in rural areas have to depend on the Public Distribution System due to the drought situation prevailing in some parts of the country?

Transfer orders of Assistant Station Masters

*67. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transfer order of Assistant Station Masters (ASMs) of Ahmedabad Division, Western Railway have been approved and accepted but they could not be relieved to Samastipur Division of East Central Railway (ECR);

(b) if so, the details thereof since November, 2012 and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations/meeting with higher authority by Member of Parliament and the instruction from the Ministry regarding VIP reference/special case, are still pending;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to relieve the concerned ASMs from Western Railway to East Central Railway at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Transfer of fertilizer subsidy to
Aadhaar Card linked accounts
of farmers**

*68. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, henceforth, the fertilizer subsidy would be deposited in Aadhaar Card linked accounts of farmers;

(b) whether farmers will have to first buy fertilizers and then subsidy would be deposited in their Aadhaar Card linked account by the Government; and

(c) the target set by Government to save the subsidies given to farmers on fertilizers?

**Interlinking super computers with
Garuda Grid**

*69. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is interlinking super computers with Garuda Grid; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Accidents at unmanned railway level
crossings**

†*70. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of accidents at unmanned railway level crossings during the last two years;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to prevent such accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Unsolicited SMSs on mobile phones

†*71. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being caused by the large number of unsolicited SMSs sent on mobile phones; and

(b) if so, the kind of punitive action the Ministry has considered/is considering to take to resolve this problem?

Drought in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether farmers in Maharashtra are in distress over severe drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to provide relief to them during this summer?

**Water crisis in Marathwada region
due to drought**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that there is acute water crisis in Marathwada region due to successive droughts during the last two years and farmers are migrating to other areas;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is also aware that compensation to these farmers has still not been provided by either the Central Government or the State Government and the crisis in Latur has become very severe; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government to provide water and other facilities to the farmers of this area?

**Collection of boiled rice and raw-rice
from rice millers**

*74. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government institutions are

collecting only 68 kilograms boiled rice or 67 kilograms raw rice from rice millers for every 100 kilograms of paddy procured by them;

(b) if so, whether there is any accounting of the remaining 32 kilograms or 33 kilograms by-products; and

(c) if there is no accounting of the by-products, the estimated losses to the Government?

**Renaming of Bombay High Court as
Mumbai High Court**

*75. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the present status of changing the name of Bombay High Court to Mumbai High Court?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd April, 2016
Vaisakha 3, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	62, 63, 64, 65, 72, 73,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	68,
Communications and Information Technology	:	69, 71,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	66, 74,
Food Processing Industries	:	—
Law and Justice	:	75,
Railways	:	61, 67, 70.
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