

## 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, April 29, 2016/Vaisakha 9, 1938 (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**

#### **Encouraging organic farming**

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

(a) the steps being taken by Government to encourage organic farming in the country;

(b) whether organic farming is more expensive as compared to conventional farming and whether Government provides help to farmers to bring down its cost;

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to make conventional manures readily available and affordable for all instead of chemical fertilizers; and

(d) the quantum of organic manures being produced in the country currently?

#### **Damage to crops**

642. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various initiatives taken by Government for the welfare of farmers whose crops have been damaged due to acute shortage of water and rainfall or due to other calamities in different parts of the country;

(b) the names of the most affected States facing shortage of water and rainfall where the farmers have faced severe losses;

(c) whether Government has taken any immediate steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Farming in drought affected States**

643. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most agricultural practices followed in the country require two to three times more water for food crops compared to many other countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that sugarcane

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

crop requires more water compared to other crops and a water deficient State like Maharashtra concentrates more in cultivating sugarcane; and

(c) if so, whether Central Government would advise drought prone States to switch on to those practices and crops which require less water?

**Damage to crops due to heavy rains and drought**

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

(a) the details of crop damage due to heavy rains in March, 2016 and severe drought situation in various States, State-wise;

(b) the details of measures Government has taken in this regard;

(c) the details of funds allocated and released for mitigation of hardships of farmers due to crop damage by recent heavy rains, hailstorms and drought in the country; and

(d) whether as per the recommendation of the Swaminathan Committee, Government would announce special MSP for the current crop season, in view of unbearable sufferings of farmers due to drought and heavy rains?

**Compensation to farmers for crop loss**

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

(a) whether for loss of crops due to drought and other calamities, Government is paying less compensation to the affected farmers than the money spent to sow the

crops;

(b) if so, the details of compensation paid to the farmers of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(c) the mechanism available to provide seeds for the new crops to farmers;

(d) whether due to indebtedness, farmers are not getting credit from the banks even for seeds; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

**Implementation of modified Crop Insurance Scheme**

646. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the modified Crop Insurance Scheme approved this year;

(b) the details of companies, apart from Agriculture Insurance Company, that have been identified to participate in the scheme;

(c) the steps taken by Government to spread the scheme among the farming community in the country and how it is planning to use the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to reach farmers; and

(d) what would be the contribution of Centre, State and individual farmer in the premium?

**Action plan to ameliorate condition of farmers**

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

(a) whether the number of agricultural families in the country has decreased despite increase in country's population;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the perception of Government about it;

(c) the average monthly income of an agricultural family in the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the action plan of Government for the next five years to ameliorate the economic conditions/living standards of agricultural families?

#### **Integration of PMKSY with MGNREGA**

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

(a) whether Government is considering integrating PMKSY with MGNREGA;

(b) if so, in what ways will it channelize the available work force for productive and value added work; and

(c) whether Government has taken note of the risks associated with the integration of these two schemes?

#### **Unutilization of arable land in Rajasthan**

†649. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural land and the unutilized arable land in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Central Government has taken any steps to convert unutilized arable land into agricultural land in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of high yielding varieties of crops**

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

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed and released several new high yielding varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops to raise their production;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their nutritional quality, crop-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to promote cultivation of such varieties of pulses and oilseeds to raise their production and reduce import, if so, the details thereof along with the expected quantum of rise in their production; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to boost the production of pulses and oilseeds and fill the gap in their demand and supply in the country?

#### **Research and Development to increase production of pulses**

651. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is no improvement in per acre yield of pulses during the last 60 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for absence of Research and Development (R&D) initiatives directed towards pulses; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to calibrate Research and Development efforts towards developing better crop and seed varieties in pulses that can enhance the yield?

#### **Production of rice**

652. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

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

(b) the details of centrally sponsored schemes in force for enhancement of rice production?

#### **Coconut and groundnut production**

653. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

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

(b) the details of centrally sponsored schemes in force for enhancement of their production?

#### **Making KVKs more relevant and progressive**

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

(a) the steps Government has taken to make KVKs in Maharashtra and across the country more relevant, progressive,

strengthened and to provide farmers easy access to information related to soil and water analysis, integrated agricultural system, information technology units, better seed production and processing, water harvesting etc.;

(b) whether all KVKs are being monitored and assessed regularly, if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to conduct quarterly meetings under Members of Parliament and people's representatives to review agricultural programmes by formulating joint action plan of various Government departments related to agriculture at district level?

#### **Use of ox-operated machine**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Engineering Department of Indira Gandhi Agriculture University have developed a machine for farmers with which they can grind wheat, paddy, cut fodder, grind spices, etc. without electricity;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to help farmers reduce their input cost of farming by using these ox-operated machine;

(c) the type of schemes formulated by Government to make this ox-operated agricultural processing unit useful in the country including Maharashtra; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Setting up of soil testing laboratories in Rajasthan**

†656. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish new soil testing laboratories in Rajasthan to test the soil of all land holdings, if so, by when; and

(b) the total number of farmers who have been issued soil health card after testing the soil of their land holdings?

**Subsidy to Maharashtra for micro irrigation**

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

(a) the details of the subsidies provided to Maharashtra for adoption of micro-irrigation technologies in the last two years; and

(b) the break-up percentage of the subsidies given to the small, marginal and other category of farmers?

**Drought in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether farmers in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are in distress over severe drought, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective steps Government is taking to provide relief to them in the time of hardships during this summer?

**Protection of indigenous breeds of cows and bulls**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the cross-breeding scheme started in past years has almost wiped out the indigenous breed of cows which included many precious breeds of cows;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plans to protect and promote the indigenous breeds of cows and bulls;

(c) if so, the names of the indigenous breeds that have been included for promotion under the scheme being prepared; and

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed to complete this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

**Skill development programmes for farmers**

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

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes run by Government for skill development and training of farmers in the field of agriculture and allied sectors;

(b) whether Government has earmarked funds under various schemes for the purpose;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of funds earmarked and spent thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, Scheme-wise and State/UT-wise including Sikkim; and

(d) the details of the success achieved under the programme?

#### **Setting up of cold storages in Madhya Pradesh**

†661. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total number of functional cold storages in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, as on date;

(b) whether private sector is also given financial help by Government for setting up of cold storages, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up cold storages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/likely to be taken by Government thereon?

#### **Opposition for FDI and GM crops in agriculture sector**

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

(a) whether stiff opposition exist from various Agricultural and Farmers Associations and State Governments for FDI and Genetically Modified crops and seeds in Indian agriculture;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any plan to increase the investments in agriculture sector and allow FDI in retail sector;

(d) if so, details thereof and measures taken to control and monitor sale of foodgrains, cereals, edible oils etc., by multinational companies in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of small farmers, vendors and small scale traders?

#### **Fall in availability of fish at Kerala coast**

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

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the media reports about steep fall in the availability of fish in the Kerala coast; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposals to study the reasons of such scarcity of fish?

#### **Development of low erucic acid varieties of mustard**

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

(a) whether ICAR has developed a low erucic acid variety of mustard, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make it available to farmers for large scale commercial cultivation at the earliest?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Overhauling of mechanism for fixing  
MSP for foodgrains**

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

(a) whether Government's two reports have suggested to overhaul the mechanism to fix grain prices to make it realistic for farmers as the current MSP is not useful for them;

(b) whether Government is also aware that majority of farmers sell their produce in the open market and are unaware of MSP; and

(c) if so, whether Government will, rectify the current mechanism of fixing MSP and provide remunerative prices to the farmers, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Increasing agricultural base and  
productivity**

666. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government look at Dr. Swaminathan's view that Nairobi meet can cause famine in the country and to keep in mind the reduced per capita availability of water and land and also export and import of foodgrains to address famine in the country; and

(b) the steps Ministry proposes to take to increase agricultural base and productivity in the country?

**Damage of crops due to climate  
change**

667. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sudden and severe change in the climatic conditions is causing intense damage to crops and is affecting the productivity also;

(b) if so, the measures Government is taking to ensure that the damage to crops is minimized and the loss to the farmers is compensated; and

(c) whether Government would consider balancing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops based on the amount of damage that has been caused to the crops?

**Adverse effect of excessive use of  
chemical fertilizers**

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

(a) whether excessive use of chemical fertilizers has adversely affected soil and human health;

(b) whether any review or survey has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of plan available with Government to spread awareness among the people about the adverse impact of excessive use of chemicals on human health?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Per capita availability of milk**

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

(a) whether per capita availability of  
milk in the country is 322 gms. per day;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of  
country being the second largest producer  
of milk in the world, many States are not  
getting even the national average;

(c) whether it is also a fact that  
Puducherry's per capita availability of milk  
is much below the national average and  
stands at just 110 gms. per day; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures  
Government is taking to ensure that people  
of Puducherry get least the national average?

**Reduction in royalty fee for Bt. cotton  
seeds**

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

(a) whether a Government committee  
has recommended for 70 per cent reduction  
in the royalty fee for Monsanto's  
genetically modified Bt. cotton seeds;

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

(c) whether Monsanto controls 90 per  
cent of the cotton seed market in the country  
and a 450 gm. Packet of Monsanto cotton  
seed costs between ₹ 830 and 1100 in the  
market, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any Indian Institutes are  
engaged in developing genetically modified  
cotton seeds, if so, the details thereof?

**Subsidies to agriculture sector**

671. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the details of various kinds of  
subsidies being provided by Government  
to the agriculture sector particularly in  
Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount allocated for this  
purpose during the last two years, State-  
wise?

**MSP for agricultural produces**

672. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

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

(a) the details of MSP for various Kharif  
and Rabi crops cost of production and  
profit margins over cost of production of  
all principal crops during the last two years  
crop/produce wise;

(b) the percentage of increase made in  
the MSP during last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether farmers are not getting  
remunerative prices for their produce, if  
so, the corrective steps taken by  
Government in this regard to provide relief  
to farmers; and

(d) whether Government proposes to  
announce MSP for various agricultural  
produces for the current year, if so, the  
details thereof, produce-wise?



**Use of modern information technology  
by farmers**

673. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI K.C. TYAGI:  
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

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

(a) whether Government has initiated any scheme to provide aid to farmers for use of modern information technology and e-commerce technology, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether farmers in the country are deprived of weather related information, if so, the details thereof; and

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

**Sale of spurious seeds**

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

(a) whether spurious seeds are being sold on large scale in rural areas, especially in Andhra Pradesh under different names with no punitive action;

(b) if so, the measures taken to protect the interests of the affected farmers;

(c) whether Government has identified companies and persons selling spurious seeds in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has ascertained the quantum of loss suffered by farmers by sowing spurious seeds and whether there is any proposal to compensate farmers who suffered losses by sowing spurious seeds, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Illegal fishing**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal unreported and unregulated fishing in Indian waters is adversely affecting domestic sea food industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

**Expanding the scope of NAIS**

676. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is covering all the crops that are listed under its mandate, if so, a list thereof;

(b) which are the crops that actually benefited from the existence of NAIS;

(c) how was NAIS beneficial to those farmers who joined this scheme; and

(d) whether the Ministry will consider expanding the scope of NAIS so that those left out can also be roped in?

**Yield of rice and wheat**

677. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data is available on the yield of rice and wheat which have decreased over the last decade owing to the increasing concentration of aerosols produced as secondary pollution from thermal power plants, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the yield of rice and wheat, the details thereof?

**Understating adjusted gross revenue by telecom companies**

678. SHRI D. RAJA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR

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

(a) whether as per a recent report of CAG, Government has suffered a loss of ₹ 12,489 crore as telecommunication companies have understated their adjusted gross revenue for the period between 2006-07 to 2009-10, if so, the details thereof, company-wise;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the alleged irregularities in response to the report of CAG, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Self reliance in fertilizer production**

679. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recorded highest ever production of fertilizers during 2015-16 and has set the target of 'zero import' of urea in the next few years; and

(b) if so, the details of the actual annual requirement, actual annual production in the country and the quantity of fertilizers being imported every year to meet the demand of fertilizers in the country for the last three years?

**Effect of New Urea policy on subsidy burden**

680. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Urea Policy put in place in June 2015, has reduced the subsidy burden on Government; and

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

**Promotion of generic medicines**

681. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Ministry to train and encourage doctors to prescribed generic medicines as they are much cheaper than the branded drugs;

(b) the plans the Ministry has to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in all medical colleges, district hospitals and in all private hospitals to achieve (a) above;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with Indian Medical Association and the Medical Council of India to boost consumption of generic drugs in the country; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

**Supply of generic drugs free of cost in hospitals**

682. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to supply generic drugs free-of-cost in the hospitals soon, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to keep a check on over prescription and wastage of drugs by hospitals, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Levy of carbon emission cost**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to levy a carbon emission cost that may make the cost of coal too high for gasification purpose to produce urea;

(b) whether even a modest \$ 40 per tonne tax on CO<sub>2</sub> emission makes natural gas the lowest cost option in relation to coal;

(c) whether this tax may even go up to \$ 100 per tonne;

(d) if so, whether Talcher Coal Gasification Plant promoted by GAIL, RCF and Coal India Ltd. will at all be viable, if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the prospect of the revival of now closed Talcher plant of FCIL?

#### **Price fixation of FDC**

684. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD:  
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's drug pricing watchdog National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has moved in to back the Ministry's efforts to check irrational Fixed Dose Combination (FDC), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether NPPA has decided to review afresh all new applications for price fixations of FDC and examine their safety and efficacy, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production of urea and restarting of closed fertilizer plants**

†685. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of reduction in the quantity of imported urea due to record production of urea and the quantum of revenue saved by Government as a result of the same;

(b) whether production of other fertilizers has also increased in the country; and

(c) the number of closed fertilizer factories which Government has taken initiative to restart during the last two years and the current status thereof?

#### **Inclusion of medicines in Essential Medicines List**

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

(a) whether the National Drugs Price Control Authority has decided to include 98 medicines under the Essential Medicines List;

(b) if so, the details of drugs that are going to be included in the Essential Medicines List;

(c) the total number of drugs that will come under the list with the above inclusion; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government against the pharma companies' tamper with price and other things and for regulating drug prices in the retail market?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Withdrawal of customs exemption on drugs**

687. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of certain drugs are likely to rise as Government has withdrawn customs exemption on certain drugs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Over dependence on China for APIs**

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

(a) the modalities guidelines and norms chalked out by Government to check monitor and reduce India's reliance on China in importing APIs;

(b) the complete list of APIs and the total quantity and value of APIs imported from China and other foreign countries at present;

(c) whether Pharmaceutical sector in the country is suffering due to too much dependence on China, for the supply of APIs which would someday leads to drugs shortage, if so, the details thereof; and

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

**PCPIR in Uttar Pradesh**

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

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to set up Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment

Regions (PCPIR) in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Subsidy to urea/fertilizer manufacturers**

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

(a) the details of amount allocated on subsidy to fertilizer/urea manufacturers during the last two years and the current financial year;

(b) whether Government is facing shortage of funds for making allocation to the domestic fertilizer manufacturers;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to provide the required funds; and

(d) whether Government is formulating any policy to reduce the subsidy being given to urea/fertilizer manufacturers?

**Radiation from mobile towers**

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

(a) the total number of mobile towers and mobile phone subscribers in the country, State-wise and District-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the dangerous radiations which are emitted from mobile towers which are sprouting across urban areas in the country;

(c) whether the Ministry has conducted any study to examine effects of harmful radiations on citizens especially children, old age citizens, birds and animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when a study shall be conducted?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Amendment to IT Act to deal with cyber crimes**

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

(a) whether Government is conserving to introduce amendments to the IT Act to deal with cyber-crimes as suggested in the 108th Action Taken Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the consultations held by Government to formulate amendments to the IT Act, given their ramifications on citizen's Right to Freedom of Expression, guaranteed under article 19 of the Constitution?

**Places identified for wi-fi facility**

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

(a) whether Government has identified places in the country that shall have wi-fi facility;

(b) if so, the details of the names of such places identified and the speed Government is planning to provide in these places;

(c) the progress made on providing wi-fi in the identified places and the date by which Government expects the work to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Sharing of MTNL network with private vendors**

694. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the loss making MTNL will tap Virtual Network Operator route to share its network with private vendors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is part of an attempt to monetize its assets to generate revenue of ₹ 10,000 crore over the next couple of years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has been sharing its telecom towers with BSNL, if so, the details thereof?

**Liberalisation of spectrum**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many mobile service providers had applied for the liberalisation of spectrum in many circles, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has accepted the request of the service providers in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**Auction of 700 MHz Spectrum**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government not to auction all the 700 MHz spectrum at one go; and

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

**Deceptive talk plans by mobile service operators**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the talk plans offered by mobile service operators are often deceptive and the consumer is duped; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to check these fraudulent practices by mobile service operators?

**Common Service Centres**

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

(a) the number of Common Service Centres (CSCs) operating across the country, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the details of services currently being provided by these centres;

(c) the details of employment generated by this initiative, especially among women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities;

(d) the income generated by entrepreneurs managing these centres through commission, the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to connect all the centres under the Bharat Net Programme?

**Connecting Gram Panchayats under the National Optical Fiber Network Project**

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

(a) the details of optical fiber laid down under the National Optical Fiber Network project so far;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats which have been connected under the project so far, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats which still have to be connected in the State of Maharashtra, the district-wise details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred so far and the cost outlay for completion of the project, State-wise details thereof?

**Cyber security framework**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to have a strong framework for cyber security starting from a cyber security command to the ability to manufacture all electronic items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government is coming out with a policy of manufacturing all electronic items in our country?

**Gram Panchayats under National Optical Fibre Network**

701. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households which benefited from the National Optical Fibre Network initiative, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats covered under this scheme, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated date of completion of the project; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Ministry to attract private operators to give broadband at low cost and early completion?

**Virtual Network Operators**

702. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is opening doors for Virtual Network Operators (VNO) to offer mobile phone services in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the advantages of VNO and by when these will come into effect?

**Measures by MTNL to overcome problems of call drops**

703. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS

AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has taken a host of measures to overcome the problems of call drops in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether MTNL has added Base Transceiver Stations (BTS), augmented capacity of existing BTSs, optimised various cell level parameters and optimised Radio-Frequency (RF) network through extensive RF drives and if so, the details thereof and the results yielded so far; and

(c) whether some areas are deficient in RF coverage and necessary action is planned in near future to improve the coverage and if so, the details thereof and progress made so far?

**e-District Programme**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that four districts of Puducherry have been identified under e-District programme for electronic delivery of services;

(b) if so, the details of services that are going to be delivered under e-District Programme; and

(c) how much money has been allotted to these four districts and by when the project is likely to be implemented?

**Consultation paper for differential data tariff offers**

705. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently, TRAI has released a consultation paper to scrutinize telecom operators, differential data tariff offers *via* select tie-ups with content providers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of telecom service providers offering such services and imposing differential data tariff, service-provider-wise and the amount that each of such service provider is charging and the revenue so generated through such tariff; and

(c) whether Government will issue any interim orders to stop telecom operators from charging such tariffs till a final decision is taken by TRAI?

**Specific legislation for safeguarding personal data and privacy**

706. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to bring in a specific legislation to address the concerns regarding privacy in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the legislation would provide for protection of 'personal data' along the lines of the European Union's Data Protection Directive, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Telephone and broadband facilities in Saansad Adarsh Grams of Rajasthan**

†707. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided telephone and broadband facility in all the Saansad Adarsh Grams in Rajasthan, if so, the list of those villages which have been provided these facilities and when these facilities were provided, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total number of villages in Rajasthan which have not been provided with broadband and telephone facilities so far, District-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to provide telephone and broadband facility to all the villages of Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Understating of revenue by telecom companies**

708. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per CAG's report six telecom companies have understated their revenues by ₹ 46,000 crores thereby effecting loss to Government Exchequer of ₹ 12,490 crores, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made any enquiry into the matter to evolve the truth; and

(c) the steps being taken by

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Government to book the culprits and save Government funds?

**Investments in Digital India and Start up India programmes**

709. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been holding discussions with e-commerce giants for the investment in Digital India and Start up India programmes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has received any concrete response from these e-commerce giants for possible investments in Digital India, etc., if so, the details thereof?

**Utilisation of USO Fund to provide connectivity in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh**

710. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has utilized any fund from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund to provide connectivity in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the amount spent from USO Fund to provide connectivity in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh during the last ten years?

**Allocation of 2G Spectrum to new companies**

711. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during first term of UPA Government, 2G spectrum was allocated to all new companies on 'first come first get' basis inspite of auctioning the same;

(b) the total cost that was fixed for providing services of 2G spectrum across the country;

(c) whether these new companies sold their share of spectrum after getting the same in thousands crores of rupees without rolling the services; and

(d) if so, whether any big scam or incident has come to light and the estimated amount thereof and whether CBI and CAG have been requested to make an estimate of this scam?

**Population not connected to internet**

712. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of population not connected to the internet currently;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of 'slow/fast lanes' sponsored data and prioritization, if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has formulated the legal framework for net neutrality and digital consumer right, if so, the details thereof and the time-line for the same, if not, the reasons therefor?

**End-to-end encryption of messages of a data sharing app**

713. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether end-to-end encryption of Whats App messages would be a cause of concern to Government agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it will be defying any Government rules/regulations etc.; and
- (d) if so, what Government is going to do about it?

**Allocation of 700 MHz spectrum**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the Credit Suisse statement that allocation of the 700 MHz spectrum in July will see only a "partial success" due to the high recommended reserve price of ₹ 11,485 crore; and
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to allocate spectrum within this bandwidth in a more efficient and cost effective manner and if so, the details thereof?

**Rise in incidents of cyber crimes**

715. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cyber crimes are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the nature and magnitude of such crimes during the last two years;
- (c) the number of persons convicted for cyber crimes during the said period; and
- (d) how far the existing law has helped in curbing cyber crimes?

**Routes with crowded trains**

716. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of railway routes in the country on which trains are heavily crowded;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to attach extra coaches in crowded trains and to run dummy trains; and
- (c) if so, the number of extra coaches to be attached to these trains and the number of passengers likely to be adjusted in these crowded trains?

**Procurement of onions**

717. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government

has decided to procure about 15,000 tonnes of onions in April this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has so far procured 50,000 tonnes of onions from farmers and has also approved import of 20,000 tonnes; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government plans to distribute the procured onions across the country, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Online operations at FCI godowns**

718. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has launched online operations at its 30 godowns to bring transparency, real time tracking of movement of foodgrains and to minimise storage losses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that at present, out of the total 1928 godowns, 554 are owned by FCI, while the rest are owned by Central and State Government agencies, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Online linking of depots**

719. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering linking of one depot to other via online network; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has held discussions with State Governments in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof?

#### **Food subsidy to FCI**

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

(a) whether Central Government has released about ₹ 25,000 crore as food subsidy to Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total subsidy provided to FCI during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the purpose for which the subsidy is provided to FCI;

(d) whether the Ministry has any monitoring mechanism on the utilization of this food subsidy by FCI; and

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

#### **Introduction of a new Consumer Policy**

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

(a) whether Government plans to introduce a new Consumer Policy in view of the changing consumerism in the country; and

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented?

#### **Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme under NFSA**

722. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified

the Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules in August last year under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) whether there are no takers for the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme for foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the names of those States which have accepted the Scheme and those which are reluctant to implement it?

#### **Storage capacity of FCI godowns in Kerala**

723. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns owned by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the State of Kerala at present;

(b) whether storage capacity in FCI godowns are adequate to store agriculture produces; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to construct more godowns in Kerala, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Weeding out corrupt practices in FCI**

724. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a High Level Committee to suggest ways and means to weed out corrupt practices in Food Corporation of India (FCI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Committee had recommended to abolish the departmental labour system in a phased manner or abolish their services, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

#### **Rise in prices of pulses**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses have increased abnormally recently resulting in panic reaction from Central and State Governments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government is aware that the abnormal rise in prices of pulses was due to speculations and the pulses growers did not get remunerative prices; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government proposes to take to ensure that growers of pulses get remunerative prices for their produce?

#### **Volatility in onion prices**

726. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team from the Ministry has recently visited Lasalgaon in Maharashtra to inquire volatility in onion rates;

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

(c) the corrective measures Government proposes to take to contain volatility in onion prices and for ensuring remunerative prices to the onion growers?

**Non-supply of wheat and pulses through ration shops in Hyderabad**

727. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to media reports that wheat and pulses are not available in ration shops of Hyderabad for the past three months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to streamline the supplies through ration shops in Hyderabad and elsewhere in Telangana and other States?

**Implementation of consumer awareness programmes**

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

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

(b) whether Government has achieved the desired results;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any monitoring mechanism in place to evaluate the performance of these programmes?

**Digitization of record of PDS beneficiaries**

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

(a) the number of States that have digitized the records of beneficiaries of Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) whether there has been a delay in digitization of records, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated and utilized for end-to-end computerization envisaged under the Twelfth Five Year Plan of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in last three years in Uttar Pradesh and the targets achieved under the same, district-wise, component-wise; and

(d) the details of number of households who receive subsidies *via* cash transfers through Aadhaar in the country?

**Opening of ration shops in all wards of a Panchayat**

†730. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides benefits in favour of the beneficiary through the Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken a decision to open ration shops in all the wards of a Panchayat, if so, the number of Panchayats in Bihar in which this decision has been implemented, the details thereof?

**Elimination of fake ration cards**

731. SHRI M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

guidelines for State Governments to review Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to eliminate ghost ration cards, as nearly 1.2 crore ration cards have been deleted in the past three years alone; and

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

#### **Village Grain Banks**

732. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum number of Village Grain Banks (VGBs) have been set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, financial and other assistance given to States under VGB scheme; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the VGB scheme has been discontinued recently, if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Protection of consumers against technology-based companies**

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

(a) the details of the complaints received against technology-based marketing firms including e-commerce companies, telemarketing companies etc. during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of defaulting companies along with action taken against them, including fine collected during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide protection to consumers against

malpractices, including the safeguards which have been made a part of the amended Consumer Protection Act, 1986?

#### **Allotment of pulses to States**

734. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has asked State Governments to place their requirement for pulses, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 500 tonnes of imported pulses were lying in the Central Pool unallotted, if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Implementation of NFSA**

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

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

(a) how many States have started implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA) by 1 April, 2016 and from which date;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries identified in each State and the quantum of foodgrains distributed to each State in the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether computerization and installation of 'point of sale' devices across fair price shops, digitization, linkage of ration card to Aadhaar Cards have been completed, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any complaints have been received in distribution of foodgrains, if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

**PDS in Maharashtra**

736. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) is reaching the people sufficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in Maharashtra, during the last two years;

(c) the number of people who have been benefited in the country, especially in Maharashtra, under PDS and BPL categories, during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the efficiency of PDS in the country, especially in the remote areas of Maharashtra?

**Setting up of Food Parks in Andhra Pradesh**

737. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether the Ministry is keen to help the Government of Andhra Pradesh in setting up Food Parks in each district of the State to take forward the food processing mechanism and help the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

**Country's share in international food trade**

738. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural and food products being processed in the country;

(b) whether the country's share in the international food trade is very low and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to improve it;

(c) whether the country's Food Processing Industry is highly fragmented and dominated by the unorganised sector and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the efficiency of the Food Processing Sector in the country?

**Success rate of Mega Food Parks scheme**

739. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Mega Food Parks (MFPs) scheme to create modern infrastructure facilities in the Food Processing Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the mechanism put into place to monitor the functioning of such parks across the country;

(d) whether any mechanism exists for measurement of value addition made by the MFPs in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the efficacy metrics to measure success of MFPs; and

(e) the economic contribution of each MFP in the country?

**Growth potential of Food Processing Sector**

740. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Processing Sector in the country has vast potential and has the ability to achieve a turnover of ₹ 4 lakh crore by 2015;

(b) if so, whether any short-term and long-term plans have been prepared by the Ministry to achieve the said growth potential, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the private equity expected to be attracted in the Food Processing Sector in the coming ten years?

**Legal Aid Clinics**

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

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Legal Aid Clinics or other such centres in all villages of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the main aim of such Clinics is to help solve disputes without allowing them to mature into litigation in the courts; and

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

**Vacancy of Chairperson and Members of Law Commission**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairperson and other Members of the Law Commission was lying vacant for a period of six months;

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

(c) whether there is no law or guideline that provides for time-bound manner of appointment of the Members of the Law Commission; and

(d) whether the Ministry would consider to expand the tenure of the Law Commission to cover up the loss of work due to delay in appointment of the Members of the Commission?

**Legal fees paid to lawyers representing Union/State Governments**

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

(a) the norms laid down to regulate the payment of legal fees to lawyers representing Central and State Governments in the courts, including the current rate of legal fee prescribed therefor;

(b) the total amount of legal fee paid to the lawyers representing the Central Government during the last three years and the current year, court/case-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to revise the aforesaid norms and make it mandatory for all Central Government Ministries/Departments and States to set



up a dedicated legal cell to represent their cases in the courts, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Appointment of High Court Judges in Home States**

†744. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in terms and conditions of services regarding appointment of Judges in High Courts that a Judge cannot be appointed in a High Court of his/her Home State, if so, the factual details thereof;

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to make such provision; and

(c) in view of inordinate delay in getting justice and increasing number of cases in the courts in the country, whether Government is making any action plan to deal therewith, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fast Track Courts**

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

(a) the number of cases that have been transferred to Fast Track Courts (FTCs) so far along with the number of cases disposed of by them so far, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;

(b) the amount of funds that have been allocated to FTCs, year-wise since 2005; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to ensure permanency of this facility, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Issues pending with the Law Commission**

746. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many reports and crucial issues are pending with the Law Commission of India to recommend changes in various current laws, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of reports submitted by the Law Commission during the last five years and Government's response thereto?

#### **Speeding up of delivery of justice**

747. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether average pendency of a case in a High Court in the country is more than three and a half years due to slow pace of justice delivery;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending before High Courts in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the justice delivery system in the country, the details thereof?

#### **Vacancies of Judges and pending cases in High Courts**

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

(a) the number of posts of Judges which were vacant in various High Courts as on 31 March, 2016;

(b) the time-frame for filling up all these vacancies;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of cases which were pending in various High Courts as on 31 March, 2016; and

(d) the average time taken by the Judges per case?

**Lok Adalats for disposal of pending Government cases**

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

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

(a) whether the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organized National Lok Adalat and proposes to organise more such Adalats in future;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof so far along with the quantum of pendency likely to be disposed of as a result thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government has recently held or proposes to hold meeting with Secretaries at the Centre and State levels to review implementation of litigation policy and to set up empowered Committees, if so, the details thereof?

**Pending court cases and their disposal**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cases in courts have been lying unattended for years in the country and no time-limit has been fixed to clear them, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cases solved in the country during the last five years and the

number of cases pending along with the details thereof?

**Shortage of Judges in HCs**

751. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Judges in High Courts in various States;

(b) if so, the details of approved strength, working strength and the vacancies in 2016, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in appointing Judges of High Courts?

**Decriminalizing politics**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in major electoral reforms to ensure decriminalization of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction;

(c) whether the Law Commission has been entrusted to give concrete suggestions in this regard and if so, the details and the current status thereof;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has recently sought from Government the points of reference made to Law Commission on plausible changes in legislation to decriminalize politics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, including the response furnished by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Special Courts to try rape cases**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Courts have been set up in certain regions of the country to try rape cases;

(b) if not, whether a demand has been made by certain States for setting up such courts to speed up trial of such cases; and

(c) the details of rape cases filed in various courts of the country during the last three years, indicating the number of such cases disposed of, details of punishment awarded to the accused along with the number of cases still pending, State-wise?

### **Pending cases of Kerala High Court and their disposal**

754. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the details of pending cases in Kerala High Court and Subordinate Courts as of January, 2016 and the steps taken to clear the backlog?

### **Disposal of pending court cases**

755. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to fix any time-limit for disposal of criminal and civil cases in various courts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up any Commission or Committee for judicial reforms and speedy disposal of pending court cases; and

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

### **Deaths due to train accidents**

756. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2232 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7 August, 2015 and state:

(a) whether as per the National Crime Records Bureau, 25,006 persons have died due to train accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the source/records by which the Ministry has furnished that only 54 and 161 deaths have occurred in the country during 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively; and

(c) the details of deaths due to accidents on unmanned level crossings due to negligence of road vehicle users during 2013, 2014 and 2015, separately, zone-wise and year-wise?

### **Modernisation of railway stations in co-operation with States**

757. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal to modernise/upgrade a number of railway stations which are in a dilapidated condition;

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

(c) whether Railways have identified certain stations to be developed as model stations in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and Zone-wise;

(d) whether Railways have sought the

cooperation of State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the response of the States thereto and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

#### **High-speed train between New Delhi and Chennai**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to introduce a high-speed train between New Delhi and Chennai;

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

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to complete this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai**

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

(a) whether Government is spending huge amount of money on Bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the cost of the project and the present status of the project; and

(c) what would be the detailed terms and conditions with Japan for their financial and technical assistance for this project?

#### **Incidents of chain-pulling of trains**

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

(a) the number of incidents of chain-pulling of trains registered during the last five years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether Government is considering to amend the existing lenient provisions of the concerned law to make it tougher and deterrent and ensure smooth running of trains as also to prevent unnecessary harassment of passengers; and

(c) whether Railways are going to issue strict advisory to its zones to act swiftly during such incidents to catch and punish the guilty persons so as to curb this activity?

#### **Bomb in Mahanagari Express**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a live time bomb was found in coach No. S-3 of Mahanagari Express train going from Varanasi to Mumbai on 28-29 January, 2016;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this time bomb was very powerful; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future and special precautions being advised by Government to the railway passengers while travelling?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Facilities for disabled and senior citizens on trains and at railway stations**

762. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheelchair facility has been provided for disabled and senior citizens at all railway stations and the cost of the same, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor and timeline for such provision at all stations;

(b) whether a designated disabled-friendly coach is available on all trains, if so, details thereof and amenities provided, if not, reasons therefor and the timeline for implementation of the same; and

(c) whether Government plans to increase services provided at stations to the disabled and senior citizens, if so, details thereof and timeline of implementation of the same, if not, reasons therefor?

**Setting up joint ventures with State Governments**

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

(a) whether Government has approved the proposal to set up joint ventures with State Governments with an initial paid up capital of ₹100 crores with half of it coming from the State;

(b) whether the decision of Government will allow Railways to enter into agreements with other States for last-mile connectivity and station modernisation projects;

(c) whether Railways have recently signed MoUs with any State Government and if so, name of the State(s); and

(d) how far the joint venture would ensure State Governments participation in implementation of railway projects?

**Non-availability of pantry car in long distance trains**

764. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many long distance trains do not have their own pantry cars;

(b) if so, how the passengers are served food in those trains; and

(c) how the quality of the externally loaded food is ensured?

**Shortage of coaches in Kerala**

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Railways that in late March/early April, there was acute shortage of coaches making train travel difficult in Kerala;

(b) whether railway authorities have noticed that it was due to delayed return of repaired railway coaches from Chennai and not making new coaches available; and

(c) whether Railways will provide necessary number of new coaches and make arrangement for repair of coaches and engines on time?

**Shunting out pantry cars under new catering policy**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to shunt out pantry cars under new catering policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have decided to do away with one of the two pantry cars on eight Rajdhani trains, if so, the details thereof?

**Wagon maintenance factory at Narla in Kalahandi, Odisha**

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

(a) the details of the wagon maintenance factory at Narla in Kalahandi, Odisha;

(b) how much fund had been sanctioned for the project and on what date;

(c) whether the MoS Railways had laid its foundation stone on 25 February, 2014;

(d) the reasons for delay to start the project;

(e) when the DPR of this project was finalised; and

(f) the present status of the project?

**Laying of new railway lines**

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

(a) the details of places where laying of new railway lines is in progress along with the date of starting the work and the likely date of completion; and

(b) the details of places where doubling of railway lines is in progress along with the date of start and the likely date of completion of the work?

**Electrification of railway lines**

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

(a) the details of places where electrification of railway lines is in progress along with the date of starting the work and the likely date of completion; and

(b) the details of places/sectors where gauge conversion or laying of new railway lines has been completed but regular mail, express or passenger trains have not been started, along with the reasons therefor?

**Doubling of railway lines**

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

(a) whether it has been proposed to double the Moradabad-Ramnagar and Rampur-Kathgodam railway lines;

(b) if so, when the proposal was made and at what level it is pending at present;

(c) by when the proposal for doubling of both these railway lines is likely to be approved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**New railway line in Uttarakhand**

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

(a) whether the team of railway officers had explored the possibility of Haldwani-Ritha Sahib *via* Chorgaliya rail line in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether the results are positive; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the funds for the survey of the above rail line would be allocated?

**Land acquisition under Railway Amendment Act, 2008**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that land acquisition under the Railways (Amendment) Act, 2008 has facilitated better implementation of National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007;

(b) if so, whether it requires any further strengthening; and

(c) if not, what is the proposal, if any, in this regard?

**Appointment of third party auditor for catering services**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to appoint a third party auditor to look into the maintenance of catering standards and quality on trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a well known fact that the quality and standards of catering on trains have reached a very low level now-a-days; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Railways other than appointing a third party auditor to improve the catering services on trains?

**Resource generation through market borrowings**

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

(a) whether Government has generated resources through market borrowings, *i.e.*, low cost long term funds from insurance and pension funds, multilateral and bilateral agencies to expedite the completion of various railway projects which are facing severe financial crunch;

(b) if so, the details of borrowings made so far during the current financial year;

(c) the projects which have been identified to be completed through such borrowing; and

(d) the details of projects, if any, pertaining to Tamil Nadu?

**Suggestions of committee appointed to revamp catering policy**

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

(a) whether a Government appointed committee to revamp existing catering policy has said that Railways should not micro manage catering policies to the extent of fixing food menu on different trains;

(b) whether the said committee has suggested Railways to take a slew of steps to check exorbitant pricing of meals;

(c) whether the committee has also recommended that passengers on all trains must receive tea or coffee kits as presently provided on premium trains;

(d) whether another recommendation was that meals may be provided as an option on many trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**New regulatory framework for revision of fares**

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

(a) whether Government intends to bring in a new regulatory framework to decide on revision of fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such a framework is likely to be put in place?

**Irregularities in construction of Conference Hall**

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

(a) whether any representation from a Member of Parliament has been received regarding investigation into irregularities in construction of a conference hall in the building of Indian Railways Promotee Officers Federation, Basant Lane, Railway Colony, New Delhi;

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

(c) whether investigation has been conducted by Vigilance Department of Railways for irregularities in the above work, item-wise expenditure, total cost etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against persons responsible for the same; and

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

**Setting-up plants for converting plastic to diesel**

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

(a) whether based on the success of a technology developed jointly by CSIR-IIP for converting plastic waste to petroleum products, Railways propose to implement three projects to convert its in-house generated waste plastic to diesel to run locomotives, if so, the details thereof along with present status of the proposal;

(b) the name of places where these projects are proposed to be set up and total estimated cost of each project;

(c) the total quantity of petroleum products likely to be produced by each of these plants; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be set up?

**Solar powered trains**

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to run trains with solar power;

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

(c) if not, by when such proposal will be considered to save electricity?



**Unmanned railway level crossings**

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

(a) whether a large number of unmanned railway level crossings are there in the entire country;

(b) whether Government has any plan to remove these unmanned railway level crossings to prevent accidents; and

(c) the number of accidents that occurred on such railway level crossings during the years 2013-14 and 2014-15, State-wise?

**Cartels in supplying materials to Railways**

781. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of prevalence of cartels in supplying materials to Railways;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to dislodge these cartels in the supplier side to Railways; and

(c) whether Government will agree to consider policy changes in the present method of procuring materials by Railways?

**Railway University at Vadodara**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to open its university at Vadodara in Gujarat;

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

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

**Incidents of crime in Railways**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise details of incidents of various crimes that occurred in Railways during the last three years;

(b) the information regarding involvement of railway employees as well as others in such incidents;

(c) whether any incident of beating by hanging the person with the window between Jabalpur and Itarsi in Patliputra Express has come to light;

(d) whether complaints regarding negligence in security arrangements and extortion by Railway Protection Force personnel has been rising incessantly; and

(e) the details of steps taken to strengthen the security arrangements of railway passengers in last three years?

**Non-availability of catering facilities under North Eastern Railway**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers face inconvenience due to non-availability of catering facilities at 'C' and 'D' category

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

railway stations under North Eastern Railways (NER);

(b) the number of railway stations under above category where catering stalls are available;

(c) the number of 'A' and 'B' category stations under NER where Jan Ahaar facilities are in place;

(d) whether outlets of fruits and medicines are not available at headquarter of NER station; and

(e) whether Railways would take steps to open stalls of medicines and fruits at Gorakhpur railway station?

#### **Programme to increase speed of trains**

†785. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any programme to increase the speed of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of passengers and income has reduced due to increase in fares of Gatimaan Express which runs between Delhi and Agra;

(d) if so, the experience of Government in this regard; and

(e) the sections where such an action plan is being implemented?

#### **Framing of service rules**

†786. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the service rules of the N.E. and E.C. Railway Employees' Multi-State Primary Cooperative Bank Limited,

Gorakhpur have been framed as per the service rules of the employees of the Ministry;

(b) the age of superannuation of the employees working in the Ministry;

(c) whether the provision of granting extension in service exists for them, if so, the number of years for which extension of service can be granted; and

(d) whether the present Chief Executive Officer/Secretary of the above Bank, who has completed 60 years of age, has been granted any service extension?

#### **Bomb disposal and detection squad for Railway Protection Force**

787. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) does not have its own bomb disposal and detection squad;

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

(c) the reasons for supply of only a few items of bomb disposal and detection kit to RPF during the last five years and that too being lying idle and have expired; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to supply complete kit to RPF in order to prevent wastage of resources?

#### **Providing world class facilities to passengers**

788. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

developed by Government to provide world class facilities to passengers across the country so far, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Government has sought participation of private sector in modernization of railway stations across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the private sector thereto;

(c) whether Railways have invited bids from private investors for modernization of stations and if so, the details of offers received so far; and

(d) whether Government has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with foreign countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in market share of freight sector**

789. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to rectify the observation of the CAG Report No. 31 of 2014 that there has been a substantial decline in the market share of Railways in the freight sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken steps to fix norms for detention of wagons at each of the activity centres;

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

(e) the other steps taken to improve the efficiency parameters of the freight sector?

#### **Land acquisition for freight corridors**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that land acquisition is not yet completed for Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Delhi-Mumbai Freight Corridor (DMFC);

(b) if so, which are the pending sections; and

(c) the main reasons therefor and the steps being taken in this regard?

#### **Installation of CCTV cameras in trains**

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

(a) whether Government has started the process of installing CCTV cameras in all the trains running across the length and breadth of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether installation of cameras in trains is being done by Railways itself or it has been outsourced to some other agencies, the details thereof?

#### **Upgrading security of railway stations**

792. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that railway stations across the country are most vulnerable places for terrorist attacks;

(b) whether Government proposes to upgrade the security of railway stations in the country in view of increasing terrorist attacks on airports and railway stations globally; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken to upgrade the security of railway stations in the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Textile Parks**

793. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently invited new proposals for establishment of Textile Parks across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Textile Parks set up so far or proposed to be set up during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of Textile Parks sanctioned so far, State-wise; and

(d) the details of Textile Parks in which commercial production has started?

#### **Steps to boost growth in Textile Sector**

794. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has recommended for a reduction in the excise duty on man-made fibre from the current 12 per cent to 6 per cent and greater flexibility in labour laws, including doubling of over-time limit for workers and also easing restrictions for women at work at night in factories, to boost growth in the sector and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the other steps taken in this regard?

#### **Protecting the interests of employees of Central Silk Board**

795. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Central Silk Board who are working with minimum wages since more than ten years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to protect the interests of those long serving employees along with the details of financial support to these employees?

#### **Sourcing out of cotton from India**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish furniture retailer 'Ikea' has proposed to source cotton from India;

(b) if so, the percentage of cotton, Ikea is planning to source out of the country; and

(c) the States where the company plans to open its stores?

#### **Formulation of Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

†797. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering formulation of Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for the Textile industry;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this direction till now; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Plan for revival of closed textile mills**

†\*798. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills lying closed in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to restart some of these textile mills, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would ask non-functional textile mills to prepare a plan for rehabilitation of the workers and for its fast implementation; and

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

**NGOs associated with skill development**

799. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are associated with various skill development projects under

the Ministry;

(b) if so, the State-wise list of names of such NGOs and courses offered by each NGO;

(c) whether any funds have been sanctioned to these NGOs for skill development projects;

(d) if so, the names of NGOs along with the amount sanctioned, NGO-wise; and

(e) the number of beneficiaries who got benefited from such skill trainings so far, State-wise?

**Functioning of Textile Parks**

800. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Textile Parks that have been set up in the country till date;

(b) the feedback about their functioning;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up more such Parks, if so, the details along with location thereof; and

(d) the appraisal system that has been evolved to analyze these projects to ensure their viability and feasibility?

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

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
Secretary-General.

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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