

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, July 29, 2016/Sravana 7, 1938 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

Bonus in addition to MSP to food items

1342. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has granted any bonus in addition to Minimum Support Price (MSP) to any food items like onion and other similar crops, whose prices are highly fluctuating in the same way as it has granted to pulses like tur, moong and urad dal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Milk yielding capacity of cows

1343. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the milk yield of Indian cows has decreased because of climate change;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the milk yielding capacity of Indian cows;

(c) whether National Dairy Research and Development Board has sought more aid for Research and Development in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

Assistance to Myanmar in agriculture

†1344. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating upon providing assistance to Myanmar in the field of agriculture;

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

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Concession to farmers through rural credit co-operative institutions

1345. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative institutions in the country and the number out of them working under profit, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has given any concessions to farmers through rural credit co-operative institutions during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the concessions and waivers have helped the farmers and co-operatives, if so, the details thereof?

Failure of National Bamboo Mission

†1346. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Bamboo Mission scheme is far from achieving its target due to less publicity, weak demand and less production of bamboo in the country, including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total amount fixed for this scheme in the last three years and the amount of grant given, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the plan formulated by Government for providing market for the bamboo crop of farmers; and

(d) whether the reasons for failure of this mission have been reviewed, if so, the details thereof?

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1347 SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the climate change, if so, its effect on agriculture;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to check the impact of climate change on agriculture; and

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

Encouraging farmers to move out of water intensive crops

1348. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the present crop pattern and intensive agriculture practices have created 'thirsty crops' that are dependent on rain-dependent irrigation facilities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider encouraging farmers to move out of water intensive crops, if so, the details thereof?

Climate resilient variety of paddy

1349. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on climate resilient variety of paddy;

(b) if so, details of the paddy variety and the production yield of clean rice therefrom;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the action plan of Government for the marketing of seeds of such variety; and

(d) the research results of ICAR, Manipur centre in this regard?

Assistance to backward States for promoting dairy business

†1350. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring in a promotion scheme to make dairy business meaningful and profitable;

(b) whether in order to promote dairy business, Government is considering to provide special assistance to backward States, especially calamity affected States like Jharkhand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Protection of agricultural land

1351. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total agricultural land which was available in year 2000 in Delhi;

(b) whether the total available land is decreasing day by day, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether more unauthorized colonies are still coming up through illegal sale of agricultural lands by land grabbers; and

(d) whether Government is taking appropriate measures to protect the agricultural land?

Tapping agricultural potential of Eastern India

1352. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast agricultural potential of Eastern India including West Bengal remains untapped, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to promote agriculture in this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether it will have one?

Decline in production of pulses

†1353. SHRINARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of all types of pulses has declined;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to tackle this decline;

(c) the quantum of decline registered in the production of all types of pulses during the past three years; and

(d) the way in which the shortage of pulses can be met?

Suicide by farmers

†1354. SHRINARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of suicides by farmers in the country is on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of farmers who have committed suicide during the past five years, the details thereof, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the planning of Government to prevent suicides by farmers;

(d) whether it is a fact that farmers do not get suitable price of their produce despite its production cost being on higher side; and

(e) whether Government plans to increase the Minimum Support Price of the produce of farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Steps to increase farmers' income

†1355. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the income of farmers in the last two years and the outcome thereof;

(b) the amount spent on agriculture related schemes announced in the last two years and the results thereof; and

(c) the reasons for people's declining inclination towards agriculture despite Government schemes?

Promotion of production of pulses in the country

1356. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to increase the production of pulses in the country under National Food Security Mission (NFSM);

(b) if so, the details thereof, the details of funds earmarked and being released to States; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to increase the awareness among the farming community with regard to cultivation of pulses?

Compensation for drought affected farmers

1357. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of compensation disbursed to farmers affected by drought in the country in the Financial Year 2015-16; and

(b) the total number of farmers and their families to which the said compensation has been disbursed during the said period?

Implementation of NFSM in Telangana

1358. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in Telangana included in the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and the targets fixed and achievements made in each district since implementation of the scheme, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance given to these districts and results of the same so far;

(c) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to monitor progress of the scheme in these districts, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how farmers are involved in implementation of this scheme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Farmers' suicides

1359. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of suicides committed by farmers in the country in the years 2014, 2015 and till June, 2016; and

(b) the details of steps, if any, taken by Government to rehabilitate the families in which farmers have committed suicide?

Bonus for paddy growing farmers in Chhattisgarh

1360. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government is planning to give bonus to paddy growing farmers in Chhattisgarh, which has been discontinued?

Import of pulses from Mozambique

1361. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase production of pulses, Government has earmarked ₹ 1100 crore in 2016-17 towards its share of a total of ₹ 1700 crore allocated under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme;

(b) whether Government has also firmed up plans to import around 1 lakh tonnes of Tur and other pulses from Mozambique in the current year 2016-17 to meet the shortfall in domestic production;

(c) whether such imports from Mozambique will be through Government to Government channels or through private traders; and

(d) whether any MoU has been signed with Mozambique in this regard?

Protection to arecanut growing farmers

1362. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of arecanut in the country during last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether crash in the arecanut price has come to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for the crash in price; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard arecanut growers?

Special bonus for yield of cotton and soyabean in Maharashtra

1363. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Maharashtra has announced special bonus for the yield of cotton and soyabean in the State, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide Central grants to Maharashtra to supplement its efforts; and

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

MSP for different crops

1364. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of different crops after each of the revisions in the last three years;

- (b) the increase effected this year; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to change the formula for determining MSP, if so, the details thereof?

Cultivable land left uncultivated

1365. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large area of cultivable land has been left uncultivated in various parts of the country during last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to address the issue?

Stagnation in agricultural production

1366. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that per hectare production of agricultural crops has almost stagnated now;
- (b) if so, the details of production, crop-wise and State-wise, during last five years; and
- (c) whether Government has anything new as a change in agricultural technology to increase the per acre production to meet the demand of our growing population?

Decrease in area of cultivable land

1367. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a constant decrease in the percentage of area of land under cultivation in the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the decreasing trend since last ten years to till date;

(c) whether the Ministry considers seriously reviewing the agriculture policy in order to float more lucrative schemes so that more and more farmers are attracted to their traditional profession of agriculture, farming in the interest of the country and its population;

- (d) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Marketing facilities to onion growers

1368. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that onion growing farmers were compelled to sell their produce at price lower than the cost of production or to leave their onions openly on roads to rot in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during current year in absence of proper marketing facility and remunerative price, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government to provide marketing facility to onion growers in the country during last two years; and

(c) the measures Government would take to provide marketing facility and remunerative price to farmers during next onion and potato season?

Production of apple

1369. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of apple has

dropped ten to fifteen per cent in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the production of apple during each of last three years and the estimated production during the current year in major apple producing States, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide assistance to the affected farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Contingency plans for farmers to tackle with natural calamities

†1370. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated agriculture contingency plans for farmers to tackle natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited, State-wise and UT-wise?

Plantation of eucalyptus trees under crop diversification

†1371. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of crop diversification under actual green revolution in Western Uttar Pradesh, Eucalyptus was included in the Annual Plan 2015-16 without approval of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon;

(c) the amount spent on the plantation of Eucalyptus and areas where they were planted;

(d) whether Government is aware that

water table in these areas which are already reeling under severe drought condition, will go down further with planting of Eucalyptus trees; and

(e) if so, what remedial measures Government would take in this regard, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mission for co-ordinated growth of horticulture

†1372. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the mission for co-ordinated growth of horticulture, the details of the facilities provided under this scheme;

(b) whether any specific norms have been fixed in order to include districts/blocks under this mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the total number of districts included under this mission, State-wise?

Production of milk

1373. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and supply of milk in the country in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the special emphasis the Ministry is giving to top five-six milk producing States in the country;

(c) to what extent the Rashtriya Gokul Mission is helping in pushing up milk production in the country; and

(d) how India is placed in the milk production in the world?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promotion of horticulture

1374. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by the National Horticulture Board for promotion of horticulture; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by Central Government to various States to promote horticulture in the country during the last two years, State-wise?

(a) whether it is a fact that less area was covered under sugarcane sowing in the country in 2015-16 and in 2016-17 too, it has come down approximately by 5.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the expected shortage in sugar production due to declining sowing acreage and whether the prices of sugar is likely to increase in the country, as per the experts; and

(c) the area under sugarcane in the country during the last three years, year-wise and the reasons for decline in it?

National Horticulture Mission

1375. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified only 22 districts in Tamil Nadu for implementation of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the Mission in the remaining nine districts of the State;

(c) whether Government will come forward to implement the Mission in the remaining 9 districts, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in sugarcane sowing area

†1376. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

Protection of fertility and health of soil

1377. SHRI K.K. RAGESH:
SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the regular use of fertilizers and pesticides affects fertility and health of soil, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for protection of fertility and health of soil?

Implementation of NFSM in Rajasthan

†1378. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Rajasthan at present which have been selected to be covered under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for coarse foodgrains; and

(b) whether Central Government plans to cover those districts of Rajasthan under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

this scheme having more than 66 per cent of sowing area and production of coarse foodgrains (maize), if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

MSP for Rajasthan specific crops

†1379. SHRI NARAYAN LAL
PANCHARIYA:
SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the specific crops of the State of Rajasthan viz. Gwar, Moth, Rice, Chawla, Cuminseeds, Garlic, Isabgol, Castonseeds, Aloe Vera and Heena;

(b) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria being followed to determine the Minimum Support Price and the basis for outlining the criteria, the details thereof?

Shrinking of agriculture land

1380. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land is shrinking in the urban and semi-urban areas across the country due to diversion of such land for non-agricultural purposes, if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

Compensation to farmers affected by drought or unseasonal rains

†1381. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to make up for the loss of crops to farmers due to unseasonal rains or drought;

(b) the plans of Government to deal with such sudden natural calamities and the present status thereof; and

(c) the new programmes of Government for upliftment of farmers community and the number of persons benefited from it, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise?

Drought in Jharkhand

1382. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Ministry in the light of the drought condition in Jharkhand for over two years;

(b) whether any special employment generation schemes are proposed for the drought affected areas; and

(c) the steps being taken to waive loans of farmers in such drought affected areas?

Implementation of recommendations of the Katoch Committee

1383. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

create a separate Ministry for Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices;

(b) whether Government has implemented any of the recommendations of the Katoch Committee report on the bulk drugs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in prices of fertilizers

†1384. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of fertilizers have been reduced given the drought situation in the country;

(b) the details of production and demand of fertilizers in the country in the last two years; and

(c) whether the fertilizers subsidy in the country has been reduced?

Reduction in prices of life saving drugs

1385. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of life saving drugs the prices of which have been reduced by Government in the recent past;

(b) the percentage of reduction of their prices; and

(c) whether Government is planning to reduce the prices of more life saving drugs in the near future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

High production cost of fertilizers

1386. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set and actual production of fertilizers during the last five years, year-wise, sector-wise and component-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to address the long standing problems of high production cost of fertilizers especially with regard to the customs duty on import of raw materials;

(c) whether Government is aware that several joint venture entered into with foreign countries have not been completed; and

(d) the details of the joint venture projects entered into by India during last ten years along with their current status and expected time period for completion, project-wise and country-wise?

Subsidy benefit on fertilizers not reaching to farmers

†1387. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Economic Survey 2015-16, only about one third subsidy given on urea/fertilizers reaches the farmers and two thirds thereof vanishes mid-way, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether benefit of subsidy given on fertilizers which was more than ₹ 72400 crores last year is being taken by fertilizer companies instead of farmers;

(c) if so, the total amount of subsidy given on urea and other fertilizers during last three years;

(d) the details thereof, company-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that benefit of subsidy reaches maximum number of farmers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of new fertilizers plants

1388. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals to set up new fertilizer projects and plants from various companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of the companies/projects, State-wise;

(c) the present status of each of these proposals; and

(d) by when new fertilizer plants are likely to be set up in the country?

Setting up petrochemical complexes/hubs

1389. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up petrochemical complexes/hubs around refineries across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the estimated investment that would be attracted along with generation of job opportunities consequent upon petrochemical hubs in the country, the details thereof?

Subsidy on chemical fertilizers

1390. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, whether Government is

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

(c) the current unpaid subsidy bill of the urea sector; and

(d) whether Government plans to cut the subsidy on chemical fertilizers, if so, the details thereof and the timeline for the same, if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy/price/import/investment in urea sector

1391. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the budget estimate for fertilizer subsidy in 2016-17 and the arrears accrued to the industry;

(b) the value of import of urea in the last year;

(c) the quantum of investment received by the sector in the last year;

(d) whether Government plans to increase urea prices by a fixed percentage every year, if so, the details thereof and timeline for its implementation, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government plans to introduce Direct Benefit Transfer for fertilizer subsidy to small and medium farmers, if so, the details thereof and timeline for its implementation, if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss of revenue to Government by telecom companies

†1392. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount Government was supposed to get from licence fee, spectrum usage charges and other amount from telecom companies under Telecom Licencing Policy,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

1999 and the basis on which it was calculated, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that telecom companies have paid less fees to Government by understating their income, if so, the loss of revenue caused to Government by it and the action taken against these companies, the details thereof?

Internet connectivity in villages

1393. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

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

(b) the number of villages which are not connected with internet connectivity in the country, especially in West Bengal, State-wise and district-wise;

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

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

Audit of fee and charges received under Telecom Licensing Policy, 1999

†1394. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an audit of licence fee, spectrum usage charges and other amount being received from private companies was made by CAG under Telecom Licensing Policy, 1999, if so, the details of profit or loss incurred by Government on the basis of audit report;

(b) the action plan envisaged by Government to recover the outstanding

amount with interest and penalty from private companies, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is not satisfied with the audit by CAG and has directed to get the audit done by other institution or group, if so, the details of reasons therefor?

Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks

1395. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to recruit more Gramin Dak Sevaks to handle the increased financial burden on the Department of Posts, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) how these Gramin Dak Sevaks will help to increase the banking/financial penetration in rural/semi-urban areas?

MTNL broadband speed in INA Colony

1396. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL provides 8 Mbps speed (or higher speed through optical fiber cables) broadband connection to individuals in and around INA colony, New Delhi, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the impediments and by when these facilities would be available for people residing in Government colonies in this area?

Postal and telephone internet services

1397. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government for postal and telephone internet services annually during last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the income from these services during these years;

(c) the amount spent for upgradation of their technology/quality of service;

(d) the reasons for complaints persisting against both the services among people; and

(e) the action taken by Government on these complaints?

Call drop problem

1398. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a solution has been found for the call drop problems;

(b) if not, what has been contributing to the phenomenon and whether it is unique to India;

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to address the issue in the near future; and

(d) whether Government would consider cancelling license of telecom companies that fail to end call drop problem?

TRAI Myspeed App

1399. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched TRAI Myspeed, a mobile App through which consumers can check the speed of internet connection on their smartphones, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that telecom operators allege that the regulator had

conducted selective drive tests to determine instances of call drops; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has maintained its stance saying that the area of drive tests were selected in consultation with the operators?

Postal Life Insurance for villagers and farmers

1400. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department is unable to extend the facilities of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) to villagers;

(b) if so, how many such villagers are not able to utilize the services of the PLI; and

(c) whether there is any special provision to provide PLI to the small and the marginal agricultural farmers, if so, the details thereof?

112 as universal emergency number

1401. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approved 112 as universal emergency number; and

(b) if so, the details and timeline of its nationwide implementation, if not, the reasons therefor?

App developed by TRAI to report unwanted calls

1402. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of

the Ministry that tele-callers are circumventing do-not-disturb rules and finding new ways and means to call customers;

(b) whether it is a fact that TRAI has come out with an App to help customers report any unwanted calls;

(c) whether the version is available on all operating systems such as Android, iOS, Windows, etc.; and

(d) if not, by when they are going to be ready?

Beneficiaries covered under National Food Security scheme in Rajasthan

†1403. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security scheme in the country, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government, keeping in view the adverse situation in Rajasthan, plans to revise the number of beneficiaries under this Scheme, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Online monitoring of FCI

†1404. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on any plan to bring the wastage of foodgrains at zero level during storage;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether Depot-online service has been started for monitoring the functions of Food Corporation of India (FCI); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to make all depots of FCI online?

Rise in prices of oilseeds and pulses

†1405. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to control the prices of pulses and oilseeds keeping in view the fast increase in their prices in the country; and

(b) by when the prices of pulses and oilseeds would be made affordable to common man?

Sale of crops by farmers below the MSP

†1406. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have to sell their wheat below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) because Government purchase of wheat does not remain systematic in several States during the season of crop arrival, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers have to sell pulses and oilseeds crops below the MSP due to lack of guarantee of purchase from Government, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Lower sugar production in 2016-17 season

1407. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has imposed 20 per cent duty on export of raw sugar-white or refined sugar, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether sugar export was just becoming viable with recent spurt in global prices but 20 per cent export duty will make that unviable, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government wants to conserve sugar domestically in view of expected fall in its production in 2016-17 sugar season, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether country's export had started falling due to strengthening of local prices on expectations of lower output in coming season, if so, details thereof?

Setting up of food godowns and storage units

1408. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial, technological and logistic support for setting up of food godowns and storage units, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilised for setting up of such food godowns and storage units in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the various methods adopted by the Centre to procure, protect and distribute food products and other essential commodities through Public Distribution?

Scheme to supply foodgrains completely free-of-cost

1409. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to make available foodgrains completely free-of-cost to the country's poorest of the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Demand by States for increasing quota of pulses

1410. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from State Governments to increase their quota of Arhar and Urad dal in order to control the price rise of these two pulses;

(b) if so, the names of States along with their demands;

(c) whether Government has issued order to stop export of these two pulses at present and at the same time encourage import of more Arhar and Urad dal to check further rise in their prices, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government plans to take against black marketeers and hoarders?

Distributing foodgrains through PDS in drought affected areas

1411. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the

Supreme Court order directing drought affected States to provide foodgrains at PDS outlets; and

(b) whether drought-affected States have issued orders for food distribution through PDS outlets, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of NFSA

1412. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 51 per cent of eligible beneficiaries have been identified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), if so, by when the identification process will be completed;

(b) whether CAG report on Preparedness for Implementation of NFSA states that there is inadequate number of rakes for transporting foodgrains, inadequate number of godowns and some of them are unfit for usage, if so, the measures Government has taken to improve this situation, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government, has a mechanism in place to ensure that States properly implement the NFSA, the details thereof?

Rise in prices of food items

1413. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food prices remain high despite Government's best efforts;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to rein in food prices; and

(c) the further steps Government is taking to make food prices affordable to all sections of the society?

Procurement of wheat by FCI

1414. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat in the years 2014 and 2015, and the estimated production in 2016;

(b) the quantity of wheat procured by FCI at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the quantum of buffer stock available; and

(c) the quantity of wheat exported in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 and the value in US dollars of wheat exports of India?

Import of Tur dal from Mozambique

1415. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered to buy Tur dal from Mozambique for the next five years at the support price plus additional transportation cost;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked the Mozambique Government, if it can supply Tur dal for the next five years on a Government to Government basis; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is yet to receive a response from the Mozambique Government in this regard?

Online procurement system in FCI

1416. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has decided to follow an online system, equipped with detailed information about farmers getting Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice;

(b) if so, whether FCI would be able to track timely payment of MSP to farmers, thus bringing in transparency in grain procurement mechanism;

(c) whether FCI has informed States to adopt online system by capturing all the information about farmers well in advance; and

(d) whether the purpose of this online procurement system is also to integrate the same with FCI's depot online work currently being undertaken?

Distribution of food items under National Food Security scheme and Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1417. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the purpose of the National Food Security scheme is to provide adequate food items to the eligible families at affordable prices;

(b) the quantity of food items given to the priority households, per head, per family and at what prices under this Scheme;

(c) the quantity of food items given under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), per family, per head and at what prices; and

(d) how the availability of food items

under AAY and National Food Security scheme is comparable, quantity-wise and price-wise?

Rise in price of sugar

1418. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of sugar has increased sharply in the months of June and July, 2016 in Delhi, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the price of M-31 sugar in wholesale markets of Delhi in the months of June and July, 2016;

(c) the steps taken to check rise in price of sugar; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to make sugar available at nominal rates to the residents of Delhi through Mother Dairy and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) outlets?

Overstocking of foodgrains by FCI

1419. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surplus grain stock maintained by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has consistently been more than the buffer stock norms, at huge costs in the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken by Government to avoid such overstocking and related costs;

(c) the total quantity and proportion of extra grain targeted for sale in the open market and the current status of these efforts; and

(d) whether Government would

distribute overstocked grains to needy households through PDS or other schemes, the details thereof?

(d) if so, the steps that will be taken by the Ministry to assist States in procuring pulses for distribution through PDS?

Reopening of the Super Bazar

†1420. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Super Bazar at Connaught Place in New Delhi has been lying closed for many years;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that at present its building is in a dilapidated condition and there are apprehensions that it might collapse any time;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to reopen the Super Bazar; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, whether it would handover this place to the private sector?

Distribution of pulses at subsidized rate through PDS

1421. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are providing pulses at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and pulse-wise and the rate at which pulses are being distributed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that States are finding it difficult to procure pulses for this purpose because of fluctuations in their price; and

Purchase and distribution of foodgrains

1422. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrain production during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 in the country;

(b) how much grains did Government purchase for stocking and distribution during these years;

(c) the amount paid to farmers as price of these foodgrains during these years; and

(d) the quantity of foodgrains distributed to people during these years as part of food security?

Implementation of NFSA by State Governments

1423. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is monitoring implementation of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) by State Governments;

(b) if so, the number of States that have implemented the NFSA and the number of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated in the Union Budget for distribution of foodgrains and the details of utilization of such funds by the States?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rise in prices of pulses, vegetables and other commodities

1424. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that steep rise in prices of pulses, vegetables and other commodities has made the lives of common men in the country miserable, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to control the rising prices in the country?

Transparency in PDS

†1425. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has taken several steps during the last two years to make Public Distribution System (PDS) transparent and consumer friendly, which are showing positive results, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government has fixed any target to ensure leakage proof PDS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard so far?

Profit margin on sale of vegetables

1426. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken

cognizance of the fact that prices of vegetables get increased even upto five times when they reach retail markets from mandi/ wholesale market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/being taken by Government to tackle the problem;

(c) whether Government is contemplating on fixing the maximum profit margin by capping the price margin of vegetables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by when the maximum profit margin of vegetables is likely to be fixed ?

Indian call centres perpetrating imposter frauds

1427. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US authorities have charged Indian call centres of perpetrating various imposter frauds targeting Americans and duping them into sharing personal financial details;

(b) whether the Indian industry body, NASSCOM, has responded to the charges by Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of US and assured them of stern preventive action against the Indian call centre imposters;

(c) whether FTC and NASSCOM have jointly planned to hold law enforcement workshops in four major cities in India this summer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Villages without mobile connectivity

†1428. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 55,000 villages in the country do not have mobile connectivity as yet;

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

(c) the plans of Government to provide mobile connectivity in these villages and time-limit set for the same?

Employment under India BPO Promotion Scheme

†1429. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to open call centres in small cities and rural areas to enhance employment under India BPO Promotion Scheme;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be spent on this Scheme in the first phase and the maximum subsidy planned to be given on per BPO seat; and

(c) the number of BPO seats aimed to be created in small cities and rural areas under this Scheme and the total number of cities and rural areas of Maharashtra where call centres are planned to be opened ?

Indian and foreign e-commerce companies

1430. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian

e-commerce companies are faltering at the hands of intense competition from foreign e-commerce companies which are able to deploy cash and technology from US to India and thus, threatening India's Digital India and Start-up India programmes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) in such a situation, whether Government has any plan to implement policies that enable and nurture local digital talent to have a level playing field with global companies ?

Cold storage facilities

1431. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cold storage facilities that have been built in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the number of cold storage facilities built for storing vegetables such as tomato, which have shorter shelf life?

Food processing facilities and Mega Food Parks

†1432. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of processing facilities, fruits and vegetables worth around Rupees one lac crore go waste in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would set up more Mega Food Parks in the country so that the wastage of fruits and vegetables could be checked and more persons could get employment; and

(c) if so, the plan made by Government for this purpose and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deadlock over issue of appointment of Judges

1433. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deadlock between Government and the Supreme Court on the issue of appointment of Judges, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the clauses on which the Supreme Court has objected in the Memorandum of Procedure; and

(c) whether Government is considering to accept the objections of the Supreme Court to break the deadlock over the appointment process, if so, the details thereof?

Special audit challenging observation of CAG

1434. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 678 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2016 and state:

(a) the basis on which Government decided to conduct special audit challenging the observation of CAG that Government has suffered a loss of ₹ 12,489 crore due to understating their adjusted gross revenue by telecommunication companies for the period between 2006-07 to 2009-10; and

(b) the basis and rationale on which the demands from telecom companies were reduced after special audit by Government?

Fees of Advocates

1435. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no prescribed guidelines to regulate the fees of Advocates, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government contemplates issuing guidelines to regulate their fees of lawyers, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Merger of Tribunals having identical functions

1436. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for merger of various Tribunals and bringing a comprehensive Bill that would provide for sitting High Court Judges to be appointed as Chairman, is under active consideration of the Government; and

(b) whether this move of the Government would help in bringing down the number of such quasi-judicial bodies from 35 to a single digit, where Tribunals with identical functions could be bunched together and a High Court Judge appointed to head it, the details thereof?

Uniform Civil Code

1437. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are separate sets of personal laws for each religion governing marriage, divorce, succession, adoption and maintenance, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether, with a view to have a Uniform Civil Code, Government has asked the Law Commission to examine and prepare a report in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Law Commission has been asked/expected to give its report?

Separate High Courts for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

1438. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the crisis over division of High Court existing in Telangana, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for Centre not interfering into the logjam of division of High Court between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the reasons and hindrances being faced in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the dispute and establish separate High Courts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh?

Vacant posts of Judges

1439. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sanctioned posts of Judges in the 24 High Courts of the country;

(b) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in each of those High Courts at present, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not filling up those vacancies; and

(d) by when Government proposes to fill up all the vacancies in High Courts?

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

1440. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts;

(b) whether these vacancies are leading to undue pendency in judicial decisions; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Judge-Population ratio and utilization of funds

1441. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether low Judge to population ratio is leading to pendency of cases in courts;

(b) the details of Judges Population ratio, State-wise;

(c) the details of vacancies in each High Court and District Court, State-wise;

(d) how was the sum of ₹ 5000 crore allocated for judicial infrastructure by the Thirteenth Finance Commission utilized, the details thereof under different expenditure heads, State-wise;

(e) how much of the ₹ 9749 crore allocated by the Fourteenth Finance Commission for improvement in justice delivery system has been disbursed to States the details thereof, State-wise; and

(f) how much has been utilized so far?

Steps to clear pending court cases

1442. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps undertaken by Government to clear the huge backlog of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts; and

(b) whether Government proposes to set up a Committee to suggest ways and means to clear pendency of court cases, if so, the details thereof?

Vacant posts of Judges

†1443. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:
SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

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

(a) whether thousands of posts of Judges are lying vacant in the courts, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) by when these posts will be filled up; and

(c) the present number of vacant posts of Judges along with cases pending from lower level Munsif/Magistrate Courts to the Supreme Court?

Holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

1444. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has mooted the proposal of holding elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha simultaneously, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has considered the Seventy-Ninth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on feasibility of holding simultaneous elections, if so, the response thereto;

(c) whether Election Commission was consulted and if so, the response of the Commission in this regard; and

(d) whether any meeting is being held with political parties to develop consensus in this regard?

Creation of All India Judicial Service

1445. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on creation of a new All India Judicial Service in line with the IAS and IPS, if so, by when along with the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has sought views of State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by States in regard to creation of such new service, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits of the unified All India Judicial Service along with hurdles being faced in its implementation?

Youth Parliament Competitions

1446. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking active steps to ensure that the Youth Parliament Competitions are conducted in various schools and colleges across the country;

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

(c) the details regarding number of Youth Parliament Competitions that were held in the State of Tamil Nadu over the past three years?

Investment under PPP model for redevelopment of railway stations

1447. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to make the terms more attractive for investors who wish to make investment in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for redevelopment of railway stations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that so far, the response to the said proposal from the potential investors is lukewarm;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private investors have asked for assured sources of revenues with rights to parking, ticketing, platform ticketing and some catering rights; and

(d) if so, whether Railways have agreed to it?

Laying of Rowghat-Jagdalpur railway line

†1448. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notification regarding laying of 140 kilometre rail line from Rowghat to Jagdalpur under Dallirajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur railway project has been issued;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated cost to be incurred on this rail route; and

(c) by when this project is scheduled to be completed?

Railway projects running late

†1449. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has studied in detail the railway development projects running late throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, railway Zone-wise; and

(c) the names of projects of Jharkhand and Bihar which have been decided to be completed on priority basis in the next and the current financial year?

Trolley facility at railway stations

1450. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no trolley facility is provided to passengers on railway stations like the one available at the airports;

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

(c) whether the Ministry will consider to provide trolleys at all railway stations in the country?

Doubling of railway tracks in Rajasthan

†1451. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway routes of Rajasthan included under the scheme for doubling of railway tracks, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any plan for doubling of Phulera to Jodhpur railway route, if so, under which year's budget it would be undertaken and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the doubling of Jodhpur to Pali railway route has been completed, if so, the date of completion thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in passenger bookings

1452. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have witnessed a decline in passenger bookings from 839 crore in financial year 2014 to 818 crore in financial year 2016 with number of passengers travelling in AC First Class falling by 4.1 per cent since financial year 2014;

(b) whether Government's move to cap airfares to tier-II and tier-III cities at ₹ 2500/- per flying hour will further erode market share of Railways in passenger traffic; and

(c) how Railways intend to cope up with passenger attrition, more so with its compulsion to augment passenger revenue to make provision for wage increase due to Seventh Pay Commission hike?

Gap between level of carriage door and height of platforms at railway stations

1453. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the fact that the gap between the levels of railway passengers' carriage door and the height of the platforms at railway stations is wide enough and in some cases, more than 1.1/2 feet;

(b) whether it is a fact that this gap not only causes inconvenience to the passengers but endangers their lives also;

(c) whether Mumbai Central Station has the same problem and thus, causes anxiety to the passengers, especially of Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express while alighting; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Railways to abridge the gap?

Elevated corridor for Bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad

1454. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Bullet train project;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to construct elevated corridor for Bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to avoid land and environmental hassles;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of cost implication; and

(d) whether Railways are going to ask Japanese Government to modify the DPR as per the revised idea of elevated route?

Annual requirement of coaches

1455. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual requirement of coaches in Railways in the next three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of coach manufacturing units under Railways and outside Railways;

(c) the rated capacity of all coach manufacturing units, Unit-wise;

(d) the envisaged annual production capacity of coach making units in Raebareli, Dankuni, Kanchrapara, Singur, Noapara and Majerhat; and

(e) the total estimated investment in this regard?

Rail overbridge near Ranchi

1456. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of railway track from Dharamjaigarh to Korba and Lohardaga to Tori will be completed; and

(b) by when the Rail Overbridge near Ranchi in Itki, which is half made and the work is stopped, would be completed?

CCTV cameras in super fast trains

1457. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to install CCTV cameras in all Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to install CCTV cameras in other super fast trains in the country during the financial year 2016-17, if so, the details thereof?

Railway Over/Under bridges in Gujarat

1458. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of under construction/ pending Railway Overbridges (ROBs), Railway Underbridges (RUBs) and manned and unmanned level crossings in Gujarat;

(b) whether implementation of these projects is being carried out as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay, project-wise;

(d) the number of sanctioned and

operational ROBs/RUBs in Gujarat and the present status thereof; and

(e) by when the above said projects are likely to be completed?

Transfer policy for officers of RDSO

†1459. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) belongs to divisional railway and the Group 'B' and 'C' employees thereof, who are promoted as officers to Group 'A', are not transferred to other zones and they usually retire from there itself;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the past five years, Zone-wise and Unit-wise;

(c) whether there is an urgent need to formulate a gradual transfer policy for promoted officers of RDSO so that they are more benefited from the promotion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

Replacement of unmanned railway level crossings with roads/ over-bridges

†1460. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in the country which are to be replaced with roads/over-bridges;

(b) whether from the time of approval of these projects, construction of road/over-bridges is taking more than estimated time;

(c) if so, the State/Union Territory-wise details of such delayed projects, including those in Madhya Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the reasons for such a delay and action being taken by Government against the officials delaying these projects; and

(e) the revised time-limit for completion of all the delayed projects related to construction of over-bridges?

FDI in Railways

†1461. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of declaration of 100 per cent FDI in Railways, expected foreign investment has not taken place;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the quantum of foreign investment in Railways from 2014 to till date and the countries which have shown more interest?

Confirmed tickets for passengers travelling to North-East

†1462. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Railways have any plan to confirm the wait listed tickets of train passengers, especially for North-East region;

(b) if so, by when the passengers travelling to North-East would be able to get the confirmed railway tickets one day ahead; and

(c) whether Railways have any plan to operate trains leaving for North-East from Delhi Cantt./Palam station, considering the congestion at Delhi/New Delhi junction?

Safety and security of railway passengers

1463. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for the safety and security of railway passengers, especially the women;

(b) whether the Ministry has made any study to identify susceptible routes from the viewpoint of safety and security of passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) how effectively is the security helpline 182 functioning and which are the routes where maximum number of complaints have been received; and

(d) whether CCTV cameras have been installed in all women compartments and on all routes, if not, whether there is any time-frame in which Government plans to achieve this target?

Upgradation of Doiwala railway station in Uttarakhand

1464. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petitions Committee of Rajya Sabha had recommended for upgradation of Doiwala railway station in Uttarakhand, besides introducing a two minute stoppage for Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains so as to enable seriously ill patients to avail medical facilities at Himalayan institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS); Tertiary Care Hospital, besides facilitating passengers by improving connectivity to the Jolly Grant Airport; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

initiating stoppage of these trains and expenditure incurred in the upgradation work of Doiwala station since presentation of the aforesaid report to Parliament?

Railway overbridges at all crossings

†1465. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to construct railway overbridges for traffic at all the railway crossings across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering construction of railway overbridge on the western railway crossing of Karpurigram station, if so, by when and the details thereof?

Automated system for cleaning toilets and tracks

1466. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have an automated system in place to clean toilets and tracks;

(b) if so, whether cleaning staff is employed by Railways to clean toilets and tracks; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the wages Railways provide to such staff members?

Introduction of new trains

†1467. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new trains introduced, proposed to be introduced and extension of new trains in the year 2016-17; and

(b) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for service, safety and security of railway passengers during the said period?

Security of railway bridges

†1468. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the security personnel deputed for the security of railway bridges in the country have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would contemplate deputing RPF personnel to ensure the security of railway bridges in the country, including Delhi;

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, how would the security of railway bridges be ensured?

Trains from Jaipur and Jodhpur railway stations

†1469. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such trains operating from Jaipur and Jodhpur railway stations at present which have overall average occupancy of more than hundred per cent; and

(b) whether Government plans to introduce new trains or increase the frequency of existing trains on those routes which have more than hundred per cent passenger load, if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Encroachment of railway land

1470. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently assessed the vacant land under various Zones;

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

(c) whether Railways are aware of constant encroachment of its land by unscrupulous elements illegally;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Railways thereto; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to remove such illegal encroachments from its precious land?

Increase in passenger fare

1471. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sharp increase in passenger fare, ticket cancellation charges and tatkal charges etc. in last three years;

(b) the amount of total extra earnings on account of these changes made by Railways;

(c) whether Railways have improved upon profitability by doing so or just compensated the losses; and

(d) whether Government has any proposal to make further changes in the passenger fare, cancellation charges, etc.?

Norms for establishment of Rail Coach Factory

1472. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for establishment of a Rail Coach Factory;

(b) the details of measures taken to fulfill the demand of railway passenger rakes and coaches for trains;

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal for setting up of a Rail Coach Factory in Haryana; and

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

New railway line to connect Amaravati

1473. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has considered the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to lay new railway line to connect its new capital, Amaravati, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of funds earmarked and the status of the work executed so far?

Option of foregoing concessions by senior citizens

1474. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have now given senior citizens option of foregoing concession on purchase of reserved class tickets;

(b) whether it is a fact that subsidies cost the public sector behemoth about ₹ 1600 crore in the last fiscal on account of concessions extended to passengers in various categories, including senior citizens, sports awardees and cancer patients; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the maximum number of concessions are availed of by senior citizens, which alone put a subsidy burden of ₹ 1100 crore on the Railways last year, if so, the details thereof?

**Request for railway station near
Kochi International Airport**

1475. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received any request from Government of Kerala for full fledged railway station near the Kochi International Airport, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

**Controlling air pollution at railway
stations, yards etc.**

1476. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have formulated any comprehensive and more reliable environment policy for controlling air pollution at railway stations, yards, work places, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Linking district headquarters of
Odisha with railway**

1477. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many district headquarters of Odisha are linked with railway; and

(b) whether Government proposes to link Jagatsinghpur district headquarter with railway *via* Naugaon, if so, the details thereof?

Redressal of grievances of passengers

†1478. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are seriously considering redressal of grievances of passengers;

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

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

**Enhancing speed of trains and
upgradation of railway stations**

†1479. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to enhance the speed of trains and technical upgradation of railway stations;

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

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

**Conversion of Raipur to Dhamtari
railway line**

†1480. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the sanction for conversion of Raipur to Dhamtari *via* Abhanpur narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge railway line given;

(b) the current status of the above railway line and the proposed date of completion of construction work thereon; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount set apart during the year 2016-17 for completing the gauge conversion work thereof?

Improving passenger amenities and services

1481. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Railways to improve passenger amenities and services;

(b) whether any blue print has been drawn for timely implementation of these initiatives, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of work performed so far?

Conversion of unmanned railway level crossings into manned railway level crossings

1482. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many unmanned railway level crossings have been manned during the period from May, 2014 to May, 2016;

(b) the number of unmanned railway level crossings at present, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of persons killed in accidents at unmanned railway level crossings has increased during the last two years, the number of persons killed during this period; and

(d) by when these unmanned railway level crossings would be manned?

Status of railway projects in Punjab

1483. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status of ongoing and pending railway projects in Punjab?

Different kinds of bogies being used by Railways

1484. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different kinds of bogies being used by Railways;

(b) the life of each type of above passenger bogies;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that many bogies are being used in spite of expiry of their life;

(d) if so, the details of different kind of such bogies being used in various Express/Mail/Super Fast trains; and

(e) by when they are going to be phased-out to avoid any kind of eventuality?

Complaints received regarding quality of food

1485. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether improved facilities for passengers like e-catering, e-bed roll, etc., have been launched by Railways recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts made to ensure that quality food is served to passengers and

the mechanism to monitor quality and quantity thereof; and

(c) how many complaints have been received about poor quality of food and action taken thereon in the last two years, the Zone-wise details thereof?

Railway projects in Gujarat and Jharkhand

1486. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending and on-going railway projects in the States of Gujarat and Jharkhand;

(b) whether these projects have undergone time and cost overruns;

(c) if so, the details of the original estimated cost, the period of completion, total estimated cost and the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed and made operational?

Pending railway projects in Uttar Pradesh

1487. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects are pending in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the project-wise funds provided in the current financial year, so far?

New Textile Policy

1488. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved new Textile Policy to deal with the rising competition from China's textile and apparel industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the new Textile Policy has set any target for export and the number of new employment opportunities likely to be generated for the next three years; and

(c) the details of steps taken to attract more investment in the Textile industry under the new Textile Policy?

Steps to boost Textile sector

1489. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced ₹ 6000 crore package for Textile sector, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) how Government plans to make our Textile sector more competitive in global market as it is facing stiff competition from countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam; and

(c) whether the concerns like seasonal flexibility, fixed term employment, modernisation of loom and economies of scale are to be addressed by Government in order to give Textile sector a new look in the present world, if so, the details thereof?

Initiatives for export growth

1490. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to take new initiatives for increasing export

growth in the international arena, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to facilitate trade link for the domestic industry?

Dues of handloom weavers of Maharashtra

1491. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether competition from powerlooms and lack of support from Government are driving weavers to poverty and suicide in Maharashtra;

(b) the allocation for the Textile sector for 2016-17, particularly for the handloom sector;

(c) whether weavers from Maharashtra are yet to receive their long pending dues; and

(d) if so, by when these dues would be released to the handloom weavers of that State?

Boost to Textile sector

1492. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved special package for Textiles and Apparel sector to attract investments and to generate exports, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the expected generation of job opportunities in the next three years; and

(c) to what extent the package would boost the sector along with the quantum of garment export estimated in the next three years?

Boost to Textile sector

1493. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a ₹ 6000 crore special package, with tax and production incentives, for the Textile and Apparel sector to enable domestic firms to compete globally, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the package aims to help in creating one crore jobs, mostly for women, in the next three years, if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether the package would strengthen the Indian Textile and Apparel sector by improving its cost competitiveness in the global market, if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Development and strengthening of Handloom sector

1494. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for development and strengthening of the Handloom sector;

(b) how the Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme has performed so far; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government for development of handlooms with special reference to Cluster Development Programme, especially in Maharashtra?

FDI in Textile sector

1495. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Textile sector

is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture;

(b) if so, the contribution of this sector in terms of major economic indicators;

(c) how much FDI has come to this sector during the last three years; and

(d) whether any specific plan has been made to develop this sector, if so, the details thereof?

Revision of mandatory jute packaging limit

1496. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended a downward revision of mandatory jute packaging limits of sugar and food items; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prevailing limits are not being followed even today, if so, the details thereof?

Cotton production in the country

1497. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of cotton in the country is far less than targeted during the last three consecutive years;

(b) if so, the reasons behind it and the production for the aforesaid period, State-wise; and

(c) the action plan of Government to sustain productivity and the support

extended to cotton farmers during the last three years?

Promotion of Silk industry

1498. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people engaged in the Silk industry at present, State-wise;

(b) the production, consumption, import and export of silk during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government proposes to promote sericulture along with the promotion of local silk weaving techniques of Bhagalpur, Banaras etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the plan of Government to restrict import of raw silk and silk yarn to promote the domestic silk industry in the country?

Export of textiles and clothing

1499. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry aims to export textiles and clothing worth US \$ 48.5 billion during the current year;

(b) if so, how it is going to achieve this challenging target when the world market is in gloom and the Ministry failed to achieve its target of US \$ 45-47.5 billion; and

(c) to what extent Chinese tepid market helps in achieving the above target?

**Projects under Ambedkar Hastshilp
Vikas Yojana**

1500. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Cluster Development Programmes related to natural fibre have been organized under the Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) during the last five years;

(b) if so, the status of all such programmes organized during the last five years; and

(c) the report of such programmes completed and the interim report of the ongoing programmes?

**Schemes and funds for the Textile
sector**

†1501. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any detailed scheme for Handloom, Powerloom and Handicraft sectors in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds provided during each year in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of progress made and success achieved in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd July, 2016
Shravana 1, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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