

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, July 30, 2015/Sravana 8, 1937 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Development of North Eastern Region; Earth Sciences; Environment, Forests and Climate Change; External Affairs; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Overseas Indian Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Social Justice and Empowerment; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Urban Development; Women and Child Development)

Total number of questions — 15

Benefits accrued from foreign countries

†*106. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benefits accrued to the country so far from investment assurances received by Prime Minister from America, Canada, China, Australia, Japan etc. countries; and

(b) the details of investment made by these countries and the names of States wherein investment will be made and the magnitude thereof?

Declaration of Assets/liabilities before joining service

*107. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law or procedure for IAS/IPS/IRS/IFS officers and other officers of equal cadre to file affidavit or memorandum of their and their spouse's assets and liabilities at the time of joining service and subsequently after every three or five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government is intending to bring any such law on the same lines?

Role of IMD in forecasting calamities

*108. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the role being played by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

forecasting and in preventing floods and other calamities;

(b) the technology being used for the same; and

(c) the extent of success achieved on each head and the plans for the future?

Review of POCSO Act

*109. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of reports that majority of prosecutions under Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012 (POCSO) are for adolescent relationships;

(b) the percentage of prosecutions under the POCSO Act, where both the victim and alleged perpetrator were argued to have been in adolescent relationship; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry shall consider amending the POCSO Act to fix this and other flaws?

Implementation of Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report

*110. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is going to implement the recommendations of the Kasturirangan Committee, which was constituted to study the report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) led by Madhav Gadgil;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has taken any concrete steps to address the worries

expressed by people, especially the peasantry, regarding 'Economically Sensitive Area' mentioned in the Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committee reports; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken?

Three new urban development schemes

*111. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has launched three major urban development initiatives recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has consulted all stakeholders before preparing these urban development schemes, if so, the details of common views expressed by them in this regard; and

(c) further steps being taken by Government to implement these schemes and to ensure that the same are completed within the fixed time schedule?

Steps to increase Girl Child Ratio

*112. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing six million girls before birth every year, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) what special emphasis is made on the worst affected States;

(c) the details of districts that Government is targeting under Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign; and

(d) how Government is planning to sensitize the masses so as to arrest this trend and increase Girl Child Ratio in the country?

**Action Plan for Beti Bachao-Beti
Padhao scheme**

†*113. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has launched 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' scheme on a large scale in the country;

(b) whether Government has formed detailed action plan to materialize this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to seek help from voluntary organizations to introduce this important scheme throughout the country in effective manner and if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of Air Quality Law

*114. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce an Air Quality Law in order to ensure a coordinated policy implemented by the Central/State Governments;

(b) whether Government monitors concentration of air pollutants based on data from individual States;

(c) the details of pollutants which are above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and action plan that involves coordination with State Governments, to bring them down to permissible limits, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has envisioned a timeline to improve the quality of air by

reducing air pollutants by enforcing regulations on polluters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Grants to foreign universities/
institutions**

*115. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been giving grants to foreign universities/institutions for setting up of Chairs and fellowships;

(b) if so, the details of such Chairs, fellowships, year-wise, institution-wise awarded to such institutions in the United States of America (USA) from the year, 2012 till date; and

(c) whether Government has monitored utilization of these grants by the institutions for the purpose which it was disbursed, if so, the details of the outcome, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Discontinuance of special category
status to Himachal Pradesh**

*116. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has discontinued the special category status of Himachal Pradesh that has landed the hill State in a grave financial crisis;

(b) whether Government has received requests from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to restore the special category status to the State, and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the decision Government has taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in expenditure on skill development programmes

*117. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to increase expenditure on the skill development programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the total amount spent by Government for the skill development alone during the year 2014-15; and

(c) what is the total number of persons benefited under the said scheme during the year 2014-15?

Lesson from China for reducing air pollution

*118. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per one study conducted and published in Environmental Science and Technology Journal, foul air is killing 80 people everyday in Delhi;

(b) whether Government would study how China has been able to bring down

pollution in Beijing and take stringent steps in Delhi so as to bring down air pollution; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that clean air could save as many as 4 lakh lives each year in India and taking no action would lead to 20-30 per cent more deaths?

Malnourished women

†*119. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the number of malnourished women is very high along with first five States having a very high numbers of malnourished women; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to do away with malnutrition in women, the details thereof?

Vacant position of Chairperson of NCPCR

*120. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the position of Chairperson in National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is lying vacant for many years and if so, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 24th July, 2015
Sravana 2, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Earth Sciences	: 108,
Environment, Forests and Climate Change	: 110, 114, 118,
External Affairs	: 106, 115,
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	: —
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	: —
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	: —
Overseas Indian Affairs	: —
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 107,
Planning	: 116,
Science and Technology	: —
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	: 117,
Social Justice and Empowerment	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —
Urban Development	: 111,
Women and Child Development	: 109, 112, 113, 119, 120.