

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, July 31, 2015/Shravana 9, 1937 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

New Agricultural policy

†*121. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering
upon a new Agricultural Policy
incorporating all kinds of issues, including
cultivation and loan to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Improvement in functioning of PDS

*122. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to
improve the functioning of Public
Distribution System (PDS) in terms of
items supplied, price etc.; and

(b) the details of items distributed
through PDS, State-wise?

Production of foodgrains

*123. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

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

(b) whether it is a fact that production
of foodgrains in the country is lower today
than it was in yesteryears;

(c) if so, the reasons for drop in
foodgrains' production; and

(d) whether Government's policy of high
export-led development track is a reason
for lower foodgrains availability in the
country for consumption?

Increase in revenue by hike in freight rate

*124. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR
ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether by invoking twenty seven

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

per cent hike in freight rate, Government has earned increased revenue by ₹ 4000 crore recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways now haul only thirty one per cent of goods compared to over sixty per cent carried by road transport, if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken to improve the situation?

Import of urea under OGL

*125. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed or proposes to allow private companies to import urea freely under Open General Licence (OGL), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether private companies would be allowed to sell urea in the market or they would be allowed to sell urea at the price fixed by Government, the details thereof; and

(c) the total foreign exchange likely to be saved by Government as a result of allowing free import of urea?

Pendency of consumer cases

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

(a) the number of cases of consumer fora pending in district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government has taken any fresh measures to reduce the pendency of cases in consumer fora; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to drought and hailstorm affected farmers of Vidarbha and Marathwada

*127. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed any task force or team to visit Vidarbha and Marathwada to evaluate the damage caused to farmers' crops in those areas due to drought, recent hailstorms and untimely rains;

(b) if so, the details of report given by such team to the Centre along with the estimated damage caused to the crops;

(c) whether Government is aware that compensation given to farmers is either inadequate or against the Central norms prescribed in the event of such natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to provide compensation to farmers as per the Central norms?

Railway projects pending for approval

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

(a) the details of the railway projects pending for approval of the erstwhile Planning Commission (NITI Aayog);

(b) the details of the period since when they are pending before it;

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the approval; and

(d) whether Government has initiated any proposal to do away with this process and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Disabled-friendly railway stations

*129. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp railway stations to make them more disabled-friendly;

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

(c) whether Government has any data on disability discounts availed while buying a train ticket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of persons to the posts of Chairman and Executive Director of WVEPC

†*130. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for the selection/appointment of the Chairman and Executive Director of Wool and Woolen Export Promotion Council (WVEPC);

(b) the tenure-wise and name-wise details of persons selected/appointed against the said posts during the last five years; and

(c) whether guidelines of foreign trade policy have been followed while making selection/appointment to the said posts?

Institutional credit to small farmers

*131. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers, who have committed suicides, mostly borrowed money from moneylenders and not from institutional sources;

(b) the action taken for providing institutional credit to small farmers by adopting innovative methods to rescue them from the clutches of moneylenders; and

(c) the measures proposed for a big push to public investment in rural areas to assist farmers in getting loans liberally?

Development of paddy variety for drought prone areas

*132. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR has developed a paddy variety for drought prone areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would introduce this variety in drought prone areas of Maharashtra; and

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

Implementation of Digital India Programme

*133. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Digital India Programme launched by the Prime Minister recently; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to implement the Programme successfully?

Decontrolling urea prices

*134. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether urea is the only fertilizer yet to be decontrolled;

(b) whether Government has an accumulated unpaid bill for subsidies worth ₹ 40,000 crore;

(c) whether Government is considering decanalization or freeing up of import and other ways in which urea prices could be decontrolled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Storage facilities for farmers

*135. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether storage facilities in the rural areas are either totally absent or grossly inadequate and under such conditions farmers are compelled to sell their produce immediately after the harvest at the prevailing market prices which are bound to be low and such distress sale deprives the farmers of their legitimate income;

(b) whether Government has ascertained as to how much crop is lost due to poor storage conditions; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to provide storage facilities to farmers near their fields, and in particular to the small and marginal farmers, to prevent losses?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th July, 2015

Shravana 3, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 121, 123, 127, 131, 132, 135,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 125, 134,
Communications and Information Technology	: 133,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 122, 126,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Law and Justice	: —
Railways	: 124, 128, 129,
Textiles	: 130.