

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

Compensation for crop damage due to natural calamities

1281. SHRI AAYANUR
MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides any
compensation/relief to the farmers for the
damage of their crops due to natural
calamities including hailstorms;

(b) if so, the details thereof including
the norms or modalities adopted for the
purpose;

(c) whether the financial assistance
being provided as compensation/relief to
the farmers is adequate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not,
the corrective measures taken by
Government in this regard?

National Agricultural Market

1282. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided
to launch a National Agricultural Market

(NAM) which would integrate all existing
Agricultural Produce Market Committees
(APMCs) across the country through an
on-line platform in a bid to reduce number
of intermediaries in fruit and vegetable
marketing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the proposed NAM would
help farmers to sell their produce through
local APMC to on-line Platform to locally
as well as outside the APMC or even the
physical boundary of the State, if so, the
details thereof?

Contingency plan to tackle deficient rainfall

1283. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the India Meteorological
Department (IMD) has predicted that there
could be deficient rainfall by eight to ten
per cent in July and August, 2015;

(b) if so, the contingency plan put in
place by the Government; and

(c) whether the Ministry has advised
farmers to choose their crops wisely after a

careful look at the weather forecast, if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to drought affected farmers

1284. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of farmers who lost their crops to the sweeping drought in 2014-15 across the country, particularly in Maharashtra, have not been provided compensation, if so, the facts thereof; and

(b) whether Government has issued any instruction to State Governments to provide compensation to the affected farmers, particularly in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof?

Soil testing of cultivable land in Bihar

†1285. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivable land in Bihar is more fertile, if so, details of the action plan of Government to carry out soil testing and supply of seeds on time; and

(b) whether new variety of seeds have been developed through agricultural research and provided to farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Development of diabetic friendly rice varieties

1286. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that researchers claim development of diabetic-friendly rice varieties; and

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

Development of flood and drought resistant seeds

1287. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is developing eco-friendly flood/drought tolerant seeds for protecting the crops in flood/drought prone regions of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has conducted research study on the generation of flood/drought resistant seed varieties of various crops particularly for Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of such flood/drought resistant seed varieties through research innovation; and

(d) whether these seeds have already been used in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Criterion to avail claims under crop insurance schemes

1288. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented various crop insurance schemes including National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the name of the crops included under the various crop insurance schemes and the number of farmers benefited thereunder;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the criteria fixed by Government to dispose of the claims under various crop insurance schemes; and

(d) whether Government is considering to modify the existing crop insurance schemes as there are deficiencies in the present crop insurance schemes, if so, the details thereof?

Availability of quality seeds

1289. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that making available quality seeds to farmers is becoming a challenge to Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-availability of quality seeds, the productivity and production is also not as per the expectations; and

(c) how ICAR, State Agriculture Universities, National Seed Corporation, etc., are ensuring to provide quality seeds to farmers?

Remunerative price to farmers for their produces

1290. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers have received remunerative price of their produce under the agricultural price policy keeping in view the high inflation during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Punjab and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Price Support Scheme for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and

cotton has been implemented across the country, if so, the details of procurement under the said scheme when prices of produce fell below MSP during the said period; and

(d) other corrective steps taken by Government to provide adequate price to farmers for their produces?

Destruction of crops due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms

†1291. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate has been made regarding the heavy loss due to destruction of crops, incurred to farmers due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the year 2014-15; and

(b) whether Government has paid compensation to all the farmers of the country on the basis of the loss of their crops?

Hardships faced by coconut growers

1292. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by the coconut growers due to drought, disease and lack of proper irrigation facilities, resulting in withering of coconut trees, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) the mechanism put in place by the Coconut Development Board to mitigate the hardships faced by the coconut growers;

(c) the other measures proposed to be taken by Government for the same;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the total number of Coconut Research Centres in the country and their status; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to commercialise and promote Neera parallel to soft drinks?

Loss of crops due to rains

1293. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss of seasonal and horticultural crops due to rains this year in the country;

(b) the area and the number of farmers and agricultural labourers affected by this; and

(c) to what extent Government would compensate them?

MSP for rice and wheat

1294. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in MSP of rice and wheat for 2014 and 2015 and the basis on which this MSP was decided; and

(b) whether the increase is in line with the increase of input costs of the farmer?

Discrepancies in crop insurance schemes

†1295. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of crop insurance schemes being run presently, the amount of insurance premium paid by farmers on these schemes

per hectare, per quintal, crop-wise and State-wise details for last two years;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the suffering farmers by insurance companies out of the total loss caused to the farmers, State-wise details for last two years;

(c) whether farmers are not getting complete benefit of such schemes due to discrepancies therein if so, the discrepancies that Government is aware of; and

(d) whether Government intends to address the discrepancies, if so, how along with details thereof?

Farmers not getting production cost of agricultural crops

1296. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the production cost of several agricultural crops in various parts of the country during the last three years, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether farming community is not getting their production cost;

(c) if so, Government's response thereto and details of steps taken for the overall enhancement in farm earning;

(d) whether Government is considering to bring in any new policy to pay farmers according to their actual agri-production cost like in USA; and

(e) if so, Government's stands thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Miserable condition of farmers

1297. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers in the country is very miserable and a number of farmers are committing suicide every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government for improvement of their financial condition;

(c) whether heavy floods and drought are a major factor for poor financial condition of farmers; and

(d) if so, whether Government has any plan for tackling such natural calamities, if so, the details thereof?

National policy regarding organic farming

1298. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a national policy with regard to organic farming;

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

(c) how the Ministry proposes to encourage farmers to go for organic farming, which is more safe and healthy for human consumption?

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

1299. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some farmers have written a letter to the

Chief Minister of Maharashtra asking for permission to commit suicide, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many farmers have committed suicide in distress in Maharashtra in the last one year; and

(c) the mechanism adopted by Government to stop such distress suicides?

Public investment in agricultural sector in Karnataka

1300. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to encourage public investment in agriculture sector in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Research to increase production of paddy

†1301. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare production of paddy in the country is much less than that of China, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a need to emphasize the use of research and modern techniques in order to increase per hectare production of paddy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Central Government in this direction recently?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conservation of red and black rice varieties

1302. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether red and black variety of rice, having medicinal properties, are on the verge of extinction, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(b) whether Government has chalked out any plan for revival of these indigenous rice varieties, especially Mapilai Samba, Karunguravai, Kavuni and Kullakar varieties;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government for conserving and propagating these rice varieties and introduction of these healthy varieties in Government welfare schemes such as mid-day-meal scheme in order to provide healthy meal to children?

Shortage of pulses

1303. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to low production of pulses the prices of pulses have been increasing in the market;

(b) if so, the demand and production of pulses during the last three years, year-wise, pulse-wise;

(c) whether there is an artificial shortage of pulses in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the hoarding;

(e) whether Government has decided to

import pulses to bridge the gap between demand and availability, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of various pulses imported to meet the demand during the last three years, year-wise?

Failure of efforts to tackle suicide by farmers

1304. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that efforts of Central Government to check suicide of farmers in the country have failed miserably, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is also aware that at least seven cases of farmers' suicide on daily basis since January, 2015 till date is being reported from some States, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of corrective measures Government would take to revise the policies to check large scale and unprecedented suicide by poor farmers?

Crop insurance to small and marginal farmers at Government cost

1305. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend crop insurance to small and marginal farmers of Gujarat and rest of the country at Government cost; and

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

National Horticulture Mission in Rajasthan

†1306. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal for including all the districts of the State under National Horticulture Mission, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to give approval to the said proposal, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government proposes to include tribal districts of Rajasthan namely Banswada, Dungarpur, Chittorgarh, Rajsambandh, Pratapgarh, and Udaipur under the National Food Security Mission-coarse grains, if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

Action plan to provide seeds and other agricultural resources to farmers

†1307. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has formulated any action plan to provide seeds developed through agricultural research and other agricultural resources to the farmers easily, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has proposed to set up an Agricultural Research Institute of Central level in each of the States, if so, the details thereof?

Co-operative societies/banks under Railways

†1308. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions for appointing Returning Officers for conducting election of delegates and Board of Directors of Cooperative Societies/Cooperative Banks being run in various zones of Railways;

(b) the provision and details for annual audit compliance and monitoring of these banks;

(c) the details of the elections of the Boards of Directors of the North Eastern (NE) and East Central (EC) Railway Employees' Multi-State Primary Cooperative Bank Limited controlled from NE Railway headquarter, Gorakhpur from 2010 to till date, date-wise; and

(d) whether the norms for the elections have been complied with?

Availability of fertilizers in Jharkhand and Bihar

†1309. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State-wise availability of fertilizers is decreasing as on date particularly in the State of Jharkhand and Bihar, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total quantity of different fertilizers being produced in the country as on date; and

(c) whether any concrete action has been/is being taken by Government to increase the production of fertilizers and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deregulation of urea

1310. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to deregulate urea prices in the country;

(b) if so, the present price and subsidy thereon; and

(c) the proposal details with import policy and tax to levy per bag therefor?

Restarting IDPL plant at Rishikesh

†1311. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that IDPL plant situated at Rishikesh in Uttarakhand has been closed since long;

(b) whether Government would constitute a High Level Committee to examine the possibility of restarting this plant;

(c) if so, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has any expectation from the State Government in this regard, the details thereof?

Domestic consumption of fertilizers

1312. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has the data regarding domestic consumption of different fertilizers annually for last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Drugs with side effects

1313. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country doesn't have a sound system to filter the drugs with serious side effects and such medicines are sold in the country even decades after being banned in developed countries for causing harmful side-effects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Action by US FDA and EU on Indian pharmaceutical companies

1314. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the action taken by US Food and Drug Administration and European Union against some Indian pharmaceutical companies for substandard production and quality;

(b) if so, whether Government has undertaken any checking and auditing of these plants and products in the country; and

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

Revival of Talcher and Ramagundam fertilizer plants

1315. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in revival of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

FCIL fertilizer plants, Talcher in Odisha and Ramagundam in Telangana, year-wise over the last three years;

(b) the reasons for slow progress in respect of the Talcher plant; and

(c) the time by which the Talcher plant, in whatever shape, is going to be operational?

Amendment in fertilizer subsidy scheme

1316. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government proposes to amend the fertilizers subsidy scheme for checking the irrational use of chemical and organic fertilizers and if so, the details thereof?

Availability of urea for Kharif season

1317. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of urea for Kharif season, State-wise;

(b) whether there is sufficient quantity of urea for Kharif season for distribution to farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of domestic production and import of urea for the last Rabi season and the forthcoming Kharif season, month-wise and the demand, month-wise?

Supply of fertilizers to Uttar Pradesh

†1318. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to provide fertilizers at cheap rates to the poor farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the fertilizers being supplied by Government to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh is less than its demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to meet the demand of fertilizers?

Purchase of medicines from IDPL, Rishikesh

†1319. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of institutions, which were supplied medicines manufactured by IDPL, Rishikesh (Uttarakhand) before its closure, the details thereof for last five years;

(b) whether Government of India also used to buy medicines from IDPL, Rishikesh;

(c) if so, the reasons for stopping purchase of medicine from it by Government and since when;

(d) whether Government has purchased the same kind of medicines from private medicine companies after closure of the plant; and

(e) if so, year-wise details of medicines purchased till now after closure of the plant?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Requirement of natural gas for urea projects

1320. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of natural gas required per day for urea projects;
- (b) the unit-wise price of natural gas;
- (c) the quantity of natural gas required for all ongoing urea projects including those which are being revived, unit-wise; and
- (d) the total amount of subsidy granted to manufacturing units of urea during last three years, unit-wise and year-wise?

Financial concerns of PSUs and Cooperative Urea Producers

1321. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by Government to address the financial concerns of PSUs and Cooperative Urea Producers for the gap period, in view of the provisions of New Investment Policy 2008 which was expired in 2013, and New Urea Policy which is implemented in June 2015, as despite sharp rise in natural gas prices and other costs, they have continued their urea production to avoid scarcity of urea and for agro-economic development of the country; and
- (b) by when Government intends to resolve this issue?

Financial assistance to and subsidy on fertilizers

†1322. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to States/Union Territories for different fertilizers during each of the last three years and current year, State/Union Territory-wise and fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether small and marginal farmers are not able to accrue benefit of fertilizer subsidy;

(c) if so, the Government reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government proposes to transfer fertilizer subsidy to bank accounts of farmers like Direct Benefit Transfer scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the present status of this proposal and the number of farmers who would be benefited from this scheme?

Affordability of medicines

1323. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) and the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in ensuring the affordability of medicines;

(b) the steps taken by Government to end Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues arising between branded pharma companies and generic pharma companies; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce revenue loss caused by Compulsory Licensing (CL)?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Production, consumption and import
of various fertilizers**

1324. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual consumption and annual
growth rate of consumption of urea, DAP
and complex fertilizers, State-wise during
the last three years;

(b) whether India is self-sufficient in
production of urea, DAP and complex
fertilizers;

(c) the annual production, consumption
and import of urea, DAP and complex
fertilizers during the last three years; and

(d) the average cost of import of urea,
DAP and complex fertilizers during the last
three years?

**Implementation of Digital India
Programme**

1325. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:
Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether websites of Government of
India have been upgraded to implement the
Digital India Programme;

(b) the steps Government of Goa has
taken to upgrade and update their websites
in tune with Digital India;

(c) the concrete steps the Government
of Goa proposes to take to effectively
implement each of the projects of Digital
India Programme; and

(d) the details of project-wise planning
and financial allocations?

Revival of Telegraph services

1326. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA
RAO: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether citizens are facing
difficulties to sent greetings messages and
urgent communications about death and
birth after the closure of telegraph service;
and

(b) if so, whether Government would
revive the service using latest technology,
since mobile phone services and internet
have not penetrated into rural and semi-
rural parts of the country?

Wi-Fi hotspots in the country

1327. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made
to identify Wi-Fi hotspots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names
of the cities/places identified; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to start
providing Wi-Fi facilities at those places?

**Installing mobile towers in North
East areas**

1328. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:
Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the Centre doing away
with its earlier restriction on mobile towers
within ten Kilometre radius of international
borders, BSNL will install mobile towers
along Indo-Bangladesh borders;

(b) whether BSNL will acquire ten gigabytes of bandwidth from Power grid for using the network to link State capitals in the North-East with its border posts; and

(c) whether there is frequent disruption of network connectivity in North-East border areas because of broken landline cable and if so, whether installation of mobile towers along the border will address such problems?

Increasing broadband speed

1329. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has one of the lowest broadband speed in Asia;

(b) the details of broadband speed across India and other countries;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to increase the broadband speed in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken and the results thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Special audit of mobile operators on call drops

1330. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has ordered for special audit of mobile operators on call drops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the main reasons behind the huge call drops;

(c) the outcome of the meeting held recently between Secretary, Telecommunications and Mobile Telecom Service providers; and

(d) the impact that call drops will have on the Digital India Programme?

Telephone Advisory Committees

1331. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Telephone Advisory Committees are there under the Ministry;

(b) whether all the District Advisory Committees are working as per norms; and

(c) the guidelines for their functioning?

Delivery of book post

†1332. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no time-limit has been fixed by the Department of Posts to deliver book-post;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the time-limit fixed for carrying book-post from one place to another place; and

(d) the authority responsible in case of non-delivery of book-post?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Posting of sportspersons

†1333. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sportspersons who have got job under sports quota in the Department of Posts are exempted from work for two hours on daily basis for practice and there is a provision to give postings to such sportspersons near the practice ground;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Ministry, where these rules are not being followed; and

(c) whether the Ministry is going to issue a direction to such departments, which are not complying the said rule?

Complaints of consumers

1334. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that no officer of the level of SDO and above are available even on their mobile numbers to respond to the calls of consumers living in Sector-3, R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that telephones of consumers of Sector-3, R.K. Puram have constant disturbing noise but officials do not attend to their grievances; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take against such officers and to ensure that complaints of consumers are attended by them?

Connectivity problem in MTNL and BSNL networks

1335. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the connectivity problems with regard to MTNL and BSNL networks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints from the subscribers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, year-wise, network-wise, zone-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to redress the grievances and to provide satisfactory service to the customers?

Telecom services in Punjab

1336. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in Punjab are yet to be connected with mobile telephones, if so, the details of such villages, as on date;

(b) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges installed by the Central Government in Punjab to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of mobile towers and telephone exchanges presently working and likely to be installed in Punjab; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government to connect the left out villages/areas in Punjab with the mobile telephones?

Electro-magnetic radiation from Cell phone towers

1337. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to conduct indigenous research regarding a possible link between electro-magnetic field from mobile towers and cancer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is planning to frame a policy to prescribe regulations for mobile towers in consultations with telecom experts, as well as activists and consumers concerned about mobile-tower-radiation and its effects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

'Wi-Fi for all' scheme

1338. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seeking private partnership for better implementation of 'Wi-Fi for all' scheme making it available to remote and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial resources required to make "Wi-Fi for all" a success?

Mobile telephone services

†1339. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutions/companies concerned with the mobile telephone services in the country and the number of telephone consumers belonging to each company/institution as on date; and

(b) the manner in which the mobile telephone services of BSNL are better than those of other companies/institutions and the salient features of the said services provided by each of the other institutions/companies?

Cyber attacks and hacking

1340. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian cyber space is more prone to cyber attacks and hacking;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cyber attacks and hacking in the last three years and the current year;

(c) the steps taken to deal with the matter with regulatory authorities at the international level; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been provided to internet operators in the country to safeguard the servers and to prevent such attacks, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Application services at zero data charge

1341. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from telecom companies to allow them to offer access to some application services at zero data charge, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has circulated any consultation papers in this regard before taking any regulatory steps, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received by Government from the internet users?

Section 66A of IT Act

1342. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is rethinking at its stand on its right to limit freedom of expression in view of section 66A of IT Act being declared unconstitutional;

(b) whether it would restrain itself from increasing its interference on basic rights and freedom of people in fast developing areas in this virtual world; and

(c) whether in the process, Government would make an attempt to initiate a debate on redefining these rights and freedom?

Measures to improve quality of mobile services

1343. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaints of cellphone calls getting cut mid-sentence throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to improve the quality of mobile services and to solve the problem of call drops?

Free roaming facility

1344. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL had a target to launch free roaming from June, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether free roaming has been launched or delayed; and

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

Laying of Optical Fibre Network under Digital India Programme

1345. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and Andhra Pradesh are at logger heads over laying of Optical Fibre Network under Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, what is the bone of contention and in what way the Centre proposes to resolve the issue;

(c) whether pace of the programme is undermined by the non-availability of qualified contractors to execute the project; and

(d) if so, how Government is going ahead to address the issue?

Utilisation of USO fund

1346. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection of Universal Access Levy (UAL) *vis-a-vis* the amount credited to Universal Service Organisation (USO) fund since its inception year-wise;

(b) the reasons for diversion of USO fund for purposes other than the stated objectives for which the levy is meant; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to ensure utilisation of USO fund exclusively towards the stated objectives?

Enactment of privacy legislation

1347. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the reports from June this year, that suggested that telecom operators were inserting surreptitious codes into user browsers to collate user data;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted an investigation into these reports, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry believes that there is an urgent need to enact a privacy legislation to protect the rights of citizens *vis-a-vis* the various official databases of Government which collates information about citizens?

Free roaming services

1348. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL mobiles roaming services have been made free for Delhi and Mumbai sectors;

(b) whether Government also proposes to make MTNL's Dolphin Services roaming free throughout the country;

(c) whether Government also proposes to issue any directions to private players to follow suit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pension to retired employees

1349. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL employees retired prior to 2007 have been promised pension at the same rate as had been sanctioned to employees retired post 2007 as per the recommendations of the Second Pay Revision Committee of Central Public Sector Enterprises;

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

(c) the time-frame within which the arrears would be paid to such ailing retired employees, if not, already paid, to address their long-standing grievances?

Telecom equipment sourcing and testing

1350. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that unfettered supplies of telecom equipments from foreign vendors, including Chinese companies, are making the system susceptible to spyware and malware from unfriendly countries and anti-national activists;

(b) if so, the facts and the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes any standards, guidelines and order in the country for testing of critical telecom equipments, as these have the potential to become easy conduits for spying and leakage of information; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to overhaul the telecom equipment sourcing and testing process in the country?

Withdrawal of plan to provide Wi-Fi hotspots

1351. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going back from its plan to set up Wi-Fi hotspots in 25 cities all over the country; and

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

Import of wheat

†1352. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to import wheat on a large scale despite adequate availability of wheat in the country;

(b) the reasons why Government has decided to import wheat despite availability of surplus wheat;

(c) whether production of wheat this year will be less than the previous year, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the price of imported wheat and its impact on the prices of wheat in the domestic market?

Impact of implementation of NFSA

1353. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the National Food Security Act would free up money from the PDS which could be spent on areas like nutrition, better health and education, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the scheme is likely to reduce the burden on food expenditure, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

1354. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of pulses have rapidly increased in the past year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated a strategy to check price rise of essential commodities, if so, the details thereof?

Distribution of foodgrains under AAY

1355. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the total number of beneficiaries and the total quantity of foodgrains distributed by Government under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) since 2000, State-wise and year-wise?

Irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat

1356. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat and paddy procured during the last one year and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of complaints received about irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat from various States and the reasons therefor; and

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

Purchase of pulses by Government agencies

1357. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding purchase of pulses by Government agencies in States;

(b) the quantum of purchase made by Central Government agencies like NAFED during last two years, State-wise;

(c) how these are compared with purchases made by State agencies during this year; and

(d) the details of stock of pulses in Government godowns as on 30 June, 2015, State-wise and item-wise?

Raids on godowns of traders dealing in pulses

1358. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued instructions to State Governments to raid the godowns of traders dealing in pulses;

(b) if so, the details of raids conducted during last six months, State-wise; and

(c) the outcome of these raids?

Rise in prices of tomato

1359. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of items particularly, tomato, pulses and onion

went up steadily in June in comparison to the corresponding period in 2014;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over a year both wholesale and retail price of tomato have risen by 43 per cent and 36 per cent respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices may go up further in near future as there is little scope of increases in supply of tomato during the festive season; and

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

Amendments to consumer laws

1360. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make amendments to the consumer laws in view of the rapid rise in e-commerce, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering to empower consumers by empowering them to file suits against errant sellers, if so, the details thereof?

Providing cheaper pulses to beneficiaries of PDS in Chhattisgarh

†1361. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of pulses have increased affecting poor the most;

(b) whether Government has made provision of providing two kilogram of

pulses at ₹ 10 per kg. to every ration-card holders, if so, whether it would reduce the inflation;

(c) whether the above provision can be experimented at pilot basis in Chhattisgarh Public Distribution System in view of the fact that pulses, potato and onion are not produced there; and

(d) whether the hoarding of oilseeds and edible oil can be eliminated by declaring the offences of hoarding non-bailable?

Rise in prices of pulses

1362. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising prices of pulses across the country is becoming a major issue for Government;

(b) whether both wholesale and retail prices have been rising month after month and the problem is likely to get bigger because of expected fall in this year's production; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is taking including increasing import of pulses and also to continue the current policy of zero per cent duty on import of the key food items?

Digitalization of PDS

1363. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved the target of digitalization of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and providing e-ration cards to the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rise in prices of pulses and other commodities

1364. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had called meeting of Food Ministers of all the States in the second week of July, 2015 to discuss about various aspects behind rise in prices of commodities like pulses, if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome of the same;

(b) in view of 16 per cent increase in rain in June last month, whether there will be any impact on prices of pulses and other commodities; and

(c) the details of measures taken till July 7, under Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act to contain rise in prices?

Pricing policy of sugar and sugar related products

1365. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a stiff opposition from various sugarcane farmers' associations and State Governments for the pricing policy on sugar and sugar related products;

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

(c) whether Government has any proposal to increase the MSP for sugar in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to control and monitor the sale of sugar and sugar related products by multinational companies in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of small sugarcane growers and vendors including small scale traders?

Damage to foodgrains stock

1366. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI:

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether damage to surplus foodgrains stock held by Government has been reported from various parts of the North, Central India, Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the production, procurement, stock and demand of foodgrains as well as the damages reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding storage capacity and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken for improving storage infrastructure, safety of foodgrains stocks and liquidation of surplus stocks?

Malpractices in distribution of ration provided to BPL category consumers

†1367. MIR MOHAMMAD
FAYAZ:
SHRI NAZIR AHMED
LAWAY:

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

(a) the items and their prices distributed by Government through Fair Price Shops (FPS) to the consumers belonging to BPL category;

(b) the State-wise, price-wise and year-wise details of distributed ration items during last five years;

(c) whether Government has received any complaints that genuine BPL consumers are not getting these items or complaints regarding malpractices therein; and

(d) if so, details of the action taken by Government in the matter?

Rotting of foodgrains

†1368. SHRI NAZIR AHMED
LAWAY:
MIR MOHAMMAD
FAYAZ:

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

(a) the details of the cereals which rotted/was wasted in the godowns of Food Corporation of India during the last five years, State-wise, cereal-wise, year-wise and price-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent the wastage of cereals every year in future?

Cold chain projects

1369. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a road-map for providing integrated cold chain projects in Gujarat and rest of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether funds have been earmarked for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Objectives and guidelines for establishing Mega Food Parks

1370. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and guidelines for establishment of Mega Food Parks in the country and the extent to which these objectives have been achieved; and

(b) whether Government has received proposals from States for setting up Mega Food Parks in various parts of the country?

Initiatives for growth of FPIs in Tamil Nadu

1371. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of initiatives taken by Government in Tamil Nadu for the growth of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) under Infrastructure Development Scheme and Strengthening of Institutions Scheme during the last five years; and

(b) the details of employment opportunities that have been created by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

implementing these two schemes in the food processing sector?

SC/ST Welfare Associations

1372. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry;

(b) the details of SC/ST persons employed in various groups in these PSUs;

(c) the details of SC/ST Employees' Welfare Associations formed by employees of SCs/STs working in these PSUs;

(d) the details of facilities extended/ provided by Government/PSUs to these Associations, such as office accommodation etc.; and

(e) the ways and means in which PSUs/ Government involves SC/ST Welfare Associations in the administrative/ developmental activities/management of the PSUs?

Training programmes for skill development in FPIs

1373. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to explore the option of commercialisation and market orientation methods in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) through public-private-partnerships and collaborations, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to conduct training programmes for skill development of youth in different segments of FPIs?

Assistance to FPIs in West Bengal

1374. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided assistance to the Food Processing Industries in West Bengal during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, industry and location-wise;

(c) whether Government has set any time-frame with regard to receipt of proposals and release of assistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the time involved in this regard?

Independent High Courts for States

1375. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have independent High Courts;

(b) the names of States which have joint High Courts;

(c) the names of States which have still not been considered or granted independent High Courts;

(d) the reasons for not considering or granting High Courts for these States;

(e) whether Government is willing to consider granting of High Court for Goa, if the proposal comes from the State Government; and

(f) whether Government proposes to inquire from the State Government in this regard?

Report of Law Commission on repeal of obsolete laws

1376. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review and repeal of obsolete laws, that have outlived their relevance long ago, was one of the agenda before 2014, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Law Commission has submitted its report in this regard to Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

Status of repeal of obsolete laws

1377. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of progress made in the ongoing review and repeal of outdated/obsolete laws; and

(b) whether any committee has been set up for the purpose by Government recently, if so, the details thereof?

Increase in number of High Court judges

1378. DR. C. P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of judges have been increased in different High Courts of the country to hear the pending cases;

(b) if so, the increased number of judges in each High Court; and

(c) the present status of the filled-up and sanctioned posts of judges in Patna High Court?

Speedy disposal of cases

1379. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the courts for more than five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for speedy disposal of cases and if so, the details thereof?

Vacant posts of High Court and District Court judges

1380. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of High Court judges across the country that are presently vacant and the State-wise break-up thereof; and

(b) the total number of posts of District Court judges presently vacant and the State-wise and district-wise break-up thereof?

Entry of foreign law firms

1381. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to allow foreign law firms to set up their offices in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has consulted the concerned stakeholders, including the Bar Council, jurists, law officers and the Bench, if so, the details of their views; and

(c) whether necessary safeguards to protect the interests and integrity of the Indian judicial system have been taken, if so, the details thereof?

Pendency and disposal of cases in courts

†1382. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with all the courts of the country and the number of cases disposed every year;

(b) whether disposal of cases is getting delayed due to appointment of less number of judges; and

(c) if so, by when this problem of shortage of judges will be addressed?

Setting up of Arrears Committee in HCs

1383. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for over five years in High Courts (HCs) and Subordinate Courts as of December last year;

(b) whether Arrears Committee has been set up in each High Court to dispose of cases pending for over five years in the respective HC and the Subordinate Courts; and

(c) whether Government has asked Chief Justices of High Courts to submit a report detailing the steps taken towards reduction in pendency and number of cases older than five years disposed of, as also the HCs which had set up the Arrears Committee and if so, the details thereof?

Policy for setting up BPOs in small towns and villages

1384. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized a policy for setting up Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) units in small towns and villages with the help of IT-enabled technology, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many seats have been approved at the national level and what could be the number for each State;

(c) whether National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) has trained students in IT and call centres' operations; and

(d) if so, how many students have been trained, year-wise, and whether any target has been set for the next five years, the details thereof?

FTCs for children and aged persons

1385. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced to set up Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for children and elderly/senior citizens in view of their age and vulnerability, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) by when these Courts are likely to be set up?

Opening up of legal service sector to foreign law firms

1386. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open up India's non-litigious services and international arbitration legal services to foreign law firms;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether this proposal will have any implication on the domestic legal service sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how Government proposes to compensate the domestic legal service sector?

Judge-population Ratio

†1387. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has made or proposes to make any assessment of the judge-population ratio in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Accessible and affordable justice

†1388. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the socially and economically weaker sections of society are not able to get fair and quick justice due to higher judicial costs;

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

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to make legal help available to the socially and economically weaker section of society so that they could get fair and quick justice, the details thereof?

Pending court cases

†1389. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of cases are pending in almost all the courts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to take concrete steps to dispose of their pendency; and

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

Trains with emergency medical facilities

1390. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the trains that have the facilities to deal with medical emergencies;

(b) the details of emergency facilities available in such trains;

(c) whether the Ministry would consider installing hotline facilities in trains connecting the nearest hospital en route their destination; and

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

Modernisation of railway stations

1391. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revamp, transform and modernise railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of visualisation and proposals thereon;

(c) the details of financial arrangements to modernise the stations' areas; and

(d) the policy and financial terms to be provided to the players participating in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Gauge conversion of railway tracks

1392. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plans about completion of Kollam-Tenkasi gauge conversion and Palghat-Palani gauge conversion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Railways' partnership with Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1393. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to have a partnership with Kendriya Vidyalayas for starting schools on its land throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the targets and objectives of such partnership; and

(c) by when it is likely to take effect?

Free travel passes to railway employees and officers

†1394. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways provide free travel passes to its employess and officers along with their families, every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such passes provided to each employee and officer;

(c) whether it has been noted that as per the reports of print media, due to some technical problem, these travel passes are being misused; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the

details of the action taken by Railways to probe their misuse?

Opposition of Bibek Debroy Committee recommendations

1395. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of Bibek Debroy Committee on large-scale reform and restructuring of Railways is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether the report, *inter-alia*, calls for separation of the Railway Board and the Ministry;

(c) whether the confederation of railway workmen unions have come out strongly against the Committee recommendations; and

(d) how Government plans to push through the Debroy Committee reform measures in the face of *status-quo* its attitude of thirteen lakh strong workforce bent upon rejecting the same?

Provision for Suvidha trains to cater extra rush

1396. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to run Suvidha trains in which passenger will get confirmed berth or seat as an effort to cater to extra rush during festivals, peak summer and winter seasons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no waitlisted ticket will be issued for such trains;

(c) whether Railways have decided to discontinue premium trains introduced last year and replace them with Suvidha trains after changing a few rules, that were causing inconvenience to passengers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Global tender for EMU train sets

1397. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have floated a global tender for procurement, manufacturing and maintenance of one hundred and fifty six Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train sets or three hundred fifteen rail cars, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether under the tender conditions, the successful bidder will have to import two train sets, while the rest will have to be manufactured in the country; and

(c) whether the manufacturer will take up maintenance for upto seven years and provide training to staff for maintenance?

Project for improving the speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains

1398. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ₹ 2,500 crore target project of Railways has seen interest from global firms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the move is aimed at improving the speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, which can clock the speed of 160 Km. per hour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of Varanasi-Janghai-Phulpur-Allahabad section

1399. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of Varanasi-Janghai-Phulpur-Allahabad section of Railways has been completed, if so, by when it will be energised and made operational;

(b) whether work for doubling of track in the section is going on and if so, by when the same will be completed; and

(c) whether Janghai to Rae Bareilly section will also be taken up for electrification and doubling?

Increasing the speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains

1400. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to increase the speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the present railway infrastructure is sufficient to do so; and

(c) if not, the changes Government is planning to do for improving the ageing railway tracks and overbridges across rivers in the country?

Food stalls and trollies operating on the railway stations

†1401. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of departmental food stalls/trollies operating on the stations of North Eastern Railway, before IRCTC started operating eating joints at railway stations;

(b) whether IRCTC is operating eating joints on all those small stations of North Eastern Railway, where earlier there was

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

an arrangement of departmental foodstalls/trolleys; and

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

Construction of railway line upto China border

1402. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to construct railway line upto China border, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether funds have been earmarked and time-frame prescribed for this purpose; and

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

Incidents of dacoities in running trains

1403. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late incidents of dacoities in running trains have increased manifold making the train travel unsafe;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the action Government has taken in these incidents; and

(d) the preventive measures Government proposes to take in the matter?

Late running of trains coming from and going to Bihar

†1404. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last four months all the superfast trains coming from and going to Bihar are running very late;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to run any new train between Samastipur and New Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

Railway projects in Haryana

1405. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and status of railway projects in Haryana, including those sanctioned during the last three years, project-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated and spent thereon; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Contractors charging more than the approved rates from passengers

1406. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that contractors charge more than the approved rates for food supplied to the passengers in running trains, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry has set up any cell to contact for the quality and price of food supplied to the passengers in the running trains?

Doubling works for Nizamabad-Secunderabad railway line

1407. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to take up doubling works for Nizamabad-Secunderabad railway line in Telangana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed sanction and release of funds for this purpose?

Outlived railway bridges

1408. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway bridges in the country and how many of them are more than a century old and have outlived their life; and

(b) the measures taken to maintain railway bridges regularly and to construct new bridges in place of outlived bridges?

Increasing railway network

1409. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present railway network is overburdened and inadequate to meet the new challenges of a fast developing economy;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Railways for the purpose;

(c) whether some regions are beyond the reach of Railways due to unfavourable geographical conditions and if so, the steps taken to open these areas for removing regional inequalities in economic growth; and

(d) whether Railways are facing stiff competition from road transport and thus its share in passenger and goods traffic is declining and if so, the action taken by Railways to increase its share in passenger and goods traffic?

Toilet facilities at all railway stations

†1410. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that toilet facilities have not been extended to all the railway platforms in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the time by when Government will issue directions to provide toilet facilities at all railway stations along with the reasons for delay?

Elevated corridors for train movements

1411. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering about the concept of elevated corridors in areas where severe traffic congestions adversely impacts train movements;

(b) whether it is a fact that elevated corridors will be of great help for high speed trains;

(c) if so, whether any feasibility studies have been carried out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sreedharan Committee recommendation regarding procurements by Railways

1412. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cartels in railway, procurement, loot about rupees ten thousand crore per year;

(b) whether Government has seen the E. Sreedharan Committee Report on "delegating tendering and commercial powers to General Managers and other operating level";

(c) if so, the recommendations made in the report about tendering and to end corruption in railway procurements; and

(d) how many recommendations of the committee have been accepted by Government and how Government is ensuring transparency in procurements?

Doubling of Chennai-Kanyakumari track

1413. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is still unable to complete the doubling of railway track from Chennai to Kanyakumari, which is considered essential for economic development of the Southern region of Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is proposing any alternative method/mode to complete this much awaited project and if so, the details thereof?

Railway projects in Jharkhand

1414. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway projects in Jharkhand have been pending since long, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such pendency;

(b) whether it is also a fact that very recently Government of Jharkhand has requested the Ministry to take steps to ensure direct connectivity of Dumka to Kolkata-Bhagalpur, Patna and Delhi-Manderhill-Dumka railway line, as these projects are pending since long; and

(c) if so, how Government proposes to complete these projects without further delay?

Prevention of irregularities in railway projects

1415. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received any complaints regarding irregularities in the work relating to its projects, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by Railways to prevent such irregularities;

(c) the action taken by Railways on each of the recommendations/suggestions made by a High-level Committee for introducing reforms in Railways;

(d) whether Railways propose to establish an independent Regulatory Body;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind this move, including to check malpractices; and

(f) by when the Regulatory Body is likely to be established?

Posting of armed Rail Marshals in trains

1416. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering the possibility of posting armed Rail Marshals, similar to Air Marshals, in trains passing through areas affected by the Naxal insurgency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(a) whether Railways are providing sufficient funds for completion of incomplete railway projects in Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the details of ongoing projects in Himachal Pradesh, project-wise; and

(d) the time by when these projects are likely to be completed, project-wise?

Implementation of recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee

†1417. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large scale investment is required to be made in Railways and Government is not able to make investment on such a large scale;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to withdraw from running Railway schools and hospitals after recommendations of the Bibek Debroy Committee;

(c) the number of railway projects pending due to delay in land acquisition, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Committee has recommended that the private sector be allowed to run Railways and if so, whether the private companies will fix railway fares after such a move?

Alternative railway routes to decongest busy routes

1419. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans for developing alternative railway routes to decongest the existing busy routes;

(b) the progress made, so far, in the matter; and

(c) the time by when these alternative railway routes will be fully operationalized?

Proposals for railway projects in Uttarakhand

1420. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for railway projects submitted by Government of Uttarakhand during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of proposals which have been accepted in principle and the details of survey works completed;

Completion of railway projects in Himachal Pradesh

1418. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that many railway projects relating to Uttarakhand, including construction of ROB's and RUBs, are pending since long; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to expand the railway network in Uttarakhand, including border areas which are strategically important?

Solar powered trains

1421. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to introduce solar powered trains soon;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a goods train is now being tested for the feasibility, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Integral Coach Factory has taken steps in this regard?

Increasing train frequency

1422. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry will increase frequency of 22629/22630 weekly Dadar-Tirunelveli Superfast Express *via* Konkan to three days or daily;

(b) whether a pantry car, one AC-III tier and one sleeper class coaches, which are in demand throughout the year, would be added to this train; and

(c) whether Railway Board has processed and agreed to name the above train as 'Nellai Queen', as there are two Dadar-Tirunelveli trains starting from Dadar which causes confusion?

New broad gauge railway track between Ahmedabad and Udaipur

1423. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has a proposal to construct a new broad gauge railway track between Ahmedabad and Udaipur *via* Himatnagar so as to introduce a short distance direct rail service between Ahmedabad and Delhi, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to convert the Modasa-Shamlaji railway section falling on the route into broad gauge line, if so, the provision made for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the details of routes proposed to be connected with the Ahmedabad-Udaipur-Delhi section?

Adarsh and Model railway stations in Odisha

1424. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations developed by Government under the Adarsh and Model railway stations schemes in Odisha;

(b) whether Government proposes to develop some more railway stations under the above schemes in the State;

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

(d) the time by when all the railway stations in Odisha will be developed under the above schemes; and

(e) the total funds required, sanctioned and released for the purpose during the current financial year?

**Ensuring optimal usage of MEMU/
DEMU coaches facilities**

1425. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are considering to ensure optimal usage of Mainline Electric Multiple Units (MEMU)/Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) coaches facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways have asked its zonal railways to take action on it; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by them in this regard?

**Loss to Railways due to slashing of
loading target by FCI**

1426. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foodgrains of Food Corporation of India (FCI) carried by Railways during each of the last three years, zone-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Railways have been suffering losses, since many States have reduced grains' purchase from the FCI;
- (c) if so, the details of losses suffered by Railways as a result thereof during the last six months;
- (d) whether the loading target was slashed by FCI without prior information to Railways that led to large number of rakes lying idle; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Railways to use the rakes lying idle?

**Incurring of losses due to faulty
freight policy**

1427. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent report of CAG, Railways have suffered a loss of over ₹ 29,000 crore due to its faulty freight policy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of measures Government has taken to fix accountability of those responsible for this huge loss, along with the action taken against those who were found guilty for the loss; and
- (c) the details of corrective measures Railways would take in this regard to check further losses?

Touts in railway reservation system

1428. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that during summer season of the current year, touts had once again become very active in railway reservation system;
- (b) if so, the details of touts arrested during the last three months;
- (c) whether touts are also controlling the HOR quota in connivance with railway officials, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of action Government would take to free railway ticket reservations from touts?

**Proposal for Rajdhani and Durgam
Express trains**

†1429. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from North Eastern Railway regarding operation of Rajdhani and Durgam Express trains from Delhi to Guwahati *via* Lucknow and Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the date, when the proposal was received and the details of action taken thereon, the details thereof?

Works for Simhastha Kumbh Mela

†1430. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works to be done regarding Simhastha Kumbh Mela being organized in 2016 in Ujjain, and by when each work will be completed; and

(b) the details of operation of special passenger trains, including extension of platforms of Ujjain, the arrangements of drinking water, light, public convenience, ticketing, extension of foot-over-bridge, exit and entry of railway passengers, etc. therefor?

Developing green railway stations

1431. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop some railways stations as green stations to achieve zero waste discharge from trains starting from and terminating there;

(b) if so, the names of the railway stations identified for development as green stations by Railways;

(c) whether there is any proposal for private participation to implement development of green railway stations, along with green depots, green divisions and green corridors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

**Development of handlooms in
Chhattisgarh**

†1432. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received, any proposal from weavers of Champa, Chhattisgarh, to set up a handloom park, and an approval is awaited in this regard;

(b) whether Government of Chhattisgarh has sought approval from Central Government for the said pilot project, wherein residential and other infrastructural facilities would be constructed, if so, whether approval for the same will be accorded; and

(c) whether Central Government will accord the approval to three proposals sent to it regarding handloom cluster at Umreli-Korba, Kera-Janjgir and Seoni-Janjgir under National Handloom Development Programme?

Incentives to jute industry

1433. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jute Mills closed in the country at present and the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of State Governments which have announced policy for compulsory purchase of jute bags by Rice Mills, the details thereof;

(c) whether jute bags imported from Bangladesh are cheaper than those manufactured in the country; and

(d) whether Government is considering imposition of higher duties on import of jute bags and provide similar other concessions to jute industry as extended to sugar industry, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of funds to Textile Industry

1434. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocations made for Textile Industry during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period, sector-wise;

(b) the percentage of decrease/increase over the allocations made during this period, sector-wise;

(c) whether any new schemes have been launched for the development of Textile Sector during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details of the schemes along with the targets fixed for achievement?

Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector

1435. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries from Telangana, district-wise, under Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package announced in 2011-12 Budget;

(b) the details of fresh subsidized credit

to Handloom Cooperative Societies and weavers covered under the above package; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that some norms have been relaxed in the Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package and if so, the details thereof?

Strategy Paper on textiles and its exports

1436. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textiles sector, particularly handloom, is passing through difficult times; and

(b) whether Government is planning to bring out a Strategy Paper on textiles and its exports to address the problem, if so, the details thereof?

Comprehensive scheme for development of handicrafts

1437. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance granted by Government for development, promotion and upliftment of handicrafts in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for development of handicrafts in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Welfare measures for weavers and artisans

1438. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers and artisans are facing problems on account of funds not being made available to them and also on account of less marketing facilities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has got any welfare measures for weavers/artisans, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana projects

1439. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the list and names of beneficiary organizations of Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) projects, State-wise, during the last ten years;

(b) the State-wise list of completed, discontinued and ongoing projects out of them;

(c) the State-wise and project-wise details of the total money sanctioned and

utilized in respect of all completed, ongoing and discontinued projects; and

(d) the reports of all completed projects?

Promotion and Development of handloom sector

1440. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom industry has the capacity of generating more job opportunities compared to other textile industries of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has introduced any special promotional schemes for expansion and development of the said sector during the last two years; and

(c) if so, the details of average annual expenditure incurred on the said schemes?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th July, 2015
Shravana 3, 1937 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	:	1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324,
Communications and Information Technology	:	1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1384,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368,
Food Processing Industries	:	1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374,
Law and Justice	:	1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389,
Railways	:	1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431,
Textiles	:	1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440.