

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 31, 2017/Chaitra 10, 1939 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Railway electrification works in Odisha

*316. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Railways would complete the electrification work in the Talcher-Sambalpur, Rayagada-Titlagarh-Jharsuguda and Titlagarh-Raipur sections in Odisha to bring train operations under single traction system?

Increase in freight loading of Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways' freight loading has seen a dramatic increase since late January, 2017, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that freight loading of Railways was affected, post demonetisation, due to 0.4 per cent drop in industrial production and 8.7 per cent

contraction in cement output in December, if so, the details thereof?

Internet connectivity to Gram Panchayats of West Bengal

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

(a) whether the target to cover one lakh Gram Panchayats by December, 2016 under the National Optical Fibre Network has been achieved, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the number of Gram Panchayats out of 3300 in West Bengal, which have been given access to optical fibres;

(c) the details of funds spent on this project in West Bengal for the past two years and the funds to be spent this year; and

(d) whether Government plans to bring internet connectivity to all the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country, the details thereof?

Equipping ration outlets for cashless transactions

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

(a) whether Government proposes to equip all ration shops across the country with devices for cashless transactions;

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

(c) the total number of ration shops in the country and how many out of them are making cashless transactions, at present;

(d) whether Government has held any consultation with State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred in equipping the ration shops with devices for cashless transactions?

Reopening of closed/sick jute mills

*320. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many closed/sick jute mills have been reopened by their Management during the last two years till date;

(b) how many workers have been absorbed therein;

(c) whether the workers are getting all dues such as EPF, etc., properly; and

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

Monitoring of railway projects by State representatives

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

(a) whether representatives from States are appointed to monitor the railway projects running in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details of States whose representatives have not been appointed at present and by when such appointments would be made; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in population of livestock

*322. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant decrease of livestock over the years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a livestock census has been conducted recently, if so, the details thereof?

Adoption of less water-intensive crops in Maharashtra

*323. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation of sugarcane and pulses and the area under different methods of irrigation in Maharashtra for last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether sugarcane is a water-intensive crop and not suitable for a water-stressed State like Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to switch to high-yielding, less water-intensive crops like pulses for farmers of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(e) the steps being taken by Government to switch to less water-consuming methods like drip irrigation in Maharashtra?

Delay in ban on pesticides

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

(a) whether an Expert Committee headed by a former Professor of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) had recommended immediate ban on 18 of the 66 pesticides being highly toxic and dangerous;

(b) whether Government has issued orders to ban 12 of those highly toxic pesticides from a prospective date though these pesticides are highly toxic and harmful in nature; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delaying the ban by 12 to 24 months though it will continue to severely damage humans, animals and the aquatic organism?

Development of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sector

*325. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for assistance to develop/establish Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sector;

(b) the number of such proposals received from other States along with the status thereof; and

(c) whether there is any policy/scheme for assistance to promote/establish Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sector in States, if not, the reasons therefor

and whether there is any planning/consideration to declare scheme of assistance for promotion of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical sector?

Running of high speed and semi-high speed trains

*326. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are working on a multi-pronged strategy of running high speed trains (300 kilometre per hour), semi-high speed trains and running of existing trains with increased speeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the blueprint of introduction of these high speed trains and in what phases and in which sectors, the details thereof;

(c) whether any MoUs/agreements have been signed with foreign companies for the above projects; and

(d) the progress of trials of running Talgo trains and by when it would be operationalised in select sectors?

IT employees in the country

*327. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of technology graduate employees in IT industry in the country;

(b) whether their number has been increasing/decreasing during the last three years, if so, by how much;

(c) the number of women employees among them; and

(d) whether prospects of employment of women in IT industry is likely to increase in the coming years, if so, the estimate thereof?

**Cultivation of new variety of Arhar
PADT 16**

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

(a) whether the new Arhar genotype PADT 16, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, has been tested during Kharif 2016 season in the national trial of All India Coordinated Research Project on Pigeonpea under different agro-ecological niches, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for release of this variety to farmers for cultivation?

**Gram Panchayats connected by
internet under BharatNet**

*329. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gram Panchayats to be connected by internet under BharatNet under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds under BharatNet during 2015 and 2016; and

(c) the progress of BharatNet as on 31st December, 2016, State and Union Territory-wise?

Setting up of JAKs in tribal areas

*330. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) at present functioning in the country, location and State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to open more JAKs in the country, including in tribal regions of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether Government has provided assistance to individuals/agencies for setting up of JAKs in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th March, 2017

Chaitra 4, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	322, 323, 324, 328,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	325, 330,
Communications	:	318, 329,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	319,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	327,
Food Processing Industries	:	—
Law and Justice	:	—
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Railways	:	316, 317, 321, 326,
Textiles	:	320.