

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

Total number of questions — 160

#### Suicide by farmers

3357. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in farmers' suicides in the year 2016, if so, the details thereof in the past three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of loans given to farmers in the past three years along with the details of loans waived off post demonetisation, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether there has been an increase in farmers' suicides post demonetisation, if so, the details thereof?

#### Suicide by farmers

3358. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being run by Government to mitigate incidents of suicide by farmers in the country along with

the details of funds allocated and utilized for the same during 2015-16 and 2016-17, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to announce special package for farmers as announced by the Prime Minister in UP, recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the time-frame for the same, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Measures to improve yield of different crops

3359. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the yield of different crops; and

(b) the details of impact of measures taken by Government during the last three years?

### **Drought in the country**

3360. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any inter-Ministerial scheme to tackle drought in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government in cooperation with Ministries like Rural Development and State Governments during the last three years and in the current year, to tackle drought problem in various parts of the country;

(c) whether Government has put state-of-the-art infrastructure including monitoring through satellite system for macro and micro coverage of monitoring drought, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government for mitigating the effect of drought in the country?

### **Record production of foodgrains**

3361. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is heading for an all-time record in foodgrains production this year;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to build a substantial buffer stock of foodgrains to meet the challenges in the future; and

(c) the details of procurement process to meet the target?

### **Cultivation of millets**

3362. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation of different varieties of millets, State-wise and year-wise, since 2010 ;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to promote cultivation of millets especially in drought prone areas like Marathwada in Maharashtra as they consume less water and are a great source of nutrients;

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

(d) the average market price for different varieties of millets and details of their MSP provided by Government, if any, year-wise, since 2010?

### **Requirement of warehouses and cold storages**

3363. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and private warehouses and cold storages existing in the country, State-wise and year-wise, since 2010;

(b) whether this number is enough to deal with the requirement of warehousing and cold storage in the country, if not, how many more are required;

(c) the incentives being offered by Government to allow for private investment in warehouses and cold storages; and

(d) the present combined capacity of the existing warehouses and cold storages and the capacity required thereof?

**Affiliation of private agriculture college with ICAR**

3364. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private B.Sc. agriculture college must be affiliated with ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Decline in area covered under rice cultivation**

3365. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area covered under cultivation of rice crop in this year has come down compared to the last year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the area covered under rice in Kharif season during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for a decrease in the area covered under rice, particularly with reference to Andhra Pradesh?

**Fall in prices of pulses**

3366. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of Tur (Arhar) and other pulses have nosedived recently in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. which has adversely affected the producers, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to protect

the interests of pulses producers of Maharashtra and other parts of the country?

**Distribution of Soil Health Cards**

3367. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers during the last one year, State-wise and district-wise; and

(b) whether Government has planned to increase distribution/issue of Soil Health Cards for the welfare of farmers who are in distress, if so, the details thereof?

**Measures to fix MSP**

‡3368. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the effective measures taken to fix the Minimum Support Price of agricultural products, foodgrains, pulses, vegetables and fruits for the benefit of farmers and to balance the purchase price prevalent in the market for consumers properly and outcome thereof?

**Promotion of farming of small scale produces**

‡3369. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to promote those agricultural produces which are produced on a small scale;

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

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

#### **Organic farming in the country**

3370. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana;

(b) the key characteristics of organic farming; and

(c) the total number of farmers practicing organic farming, State and Union Territory-wise?

#### **Restriction on cultivation of paddy and sugarcane in Karnataka**

3371. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had imposed restriction on cultivation of sugarcane and paddy in view of droughts, causing huge losses to the farmers but no compensation has yet been provided, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the cultivated land during 2016-17 has reduced to 61,600 hectare from 96,200 hectare during 2015-16 affecting cultivation of even ragi, maize and pulses; and

(c) the reasons for not extending timely support to farmers for cultivation to overcome constraints?

#### **Commercialisation of Centres of Excellence for fruits and vegetables**

3372. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has prepared a scheme for commercialisation of Centres of Excellence for fruits and vegetables to improve the economic condition of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all mandis across the country have been provided with internet connectivity, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken by Government to help the farmers?

#### **Measures to reduce cost of cultivation for farmers**

3373. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agrarian States of the country have benefitted from the National Project on Organic Farming, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether measures have been taken to reduce the cost of cultivation for farmers in case they want to switch to organic farming, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Remunerative price for potato and tomato growers**

†3374. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of potato and tomato has increased significantly during the last two years, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has ensured that producers of potato and tomato not suffer losses due to rise in their production and that they get proper remunerative price, if so, the details thereof?

**Production of organic and bio-fertilizers in West Bengal**

3375. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal has taken lead in the production of organic and bio-fertilizers and is the largest producer of bio-fertilizers in the entire Eastern part of the country;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to provide financial support to West Bengal to supply essential organic and bio-fertilizers and pesticides to farmers at subsidized rates; and

(c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for promotion of organic fertilizers in West Bengal, district-wise, separately showing details of funds for National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) during last three years?

**Crops earning remunerative income to farmers**

3376. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any crop cultivated in the country earns a remunerative income to its cultivators, if so, the details thereof;

(b) in the case of non-remunerative crops how do Government expect farmers to continue their cultivation; and

(c) whether Government's proclaimed

aim of doubling income of farmers within a few years will motivate them to continue in agriculture?

**Bonus on Ragi and Jowar crops**

3377. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has requested the Prime Minister for announcing ₹ 700 as bonus for Ragi and Jowar over and above MSP to help small and marginal farmers and poor consumers in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and action taken by the Ministry thereon; and

(c) by when the bonus is going to be announced by the Ministry?

**Inclusion of Mayurbhanj district under NFSM**

3378. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government will relax the criteria to accommodate Mayurbhanj district of Odisha under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), as the district has 11 thousand hectares of land covered under Maize farming annually and is on the increase?

**Surplus production of pulses**

3379. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India produced 16.5 million tonnes of pulses in 2015-16 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that production of pulses has vastly increased in 2016-17;

(c) whether the surplus production of pulses in 2016-17 has created a glut in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to help farmers meet this glut?

#### **Upsurge in farmers' suicides**

3380. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in India in 2015-16 and in the current year;

(b) whether there has been an upsurge in suicides in 2015-16 and in 2016-17 due to agrarian crisis and poverty; and

(c) whether Government has done any study in this regard?

#### **Adverse effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human health**

†3381. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that impact of deadly diseases is on the rise in the country due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) if so, whether Government has carried out any study to assess the relation between lethal diseases like cancer and use of these fertilizers or pesticides, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to promote bio-fertilizer to protect the people from the ill effects of chemical fertilizers, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in the production of foodgrains**

†3382. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of decline in the production of foodgrains during last two years and the comparative details of all the crops including rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, jute and cotton etc. separately for a period of last ten years; and

(b) the comparative details of enhancement in Minimum Support Price during 2004 to 2014 and 2014 to September, 2016 for above crops?

#### **Compensation to vegetable growers**

3383. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country recently distributed their vegetables free of cost to general public as the prices of vegetables nose dived and threatened not to grow vegetables in future, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken to compensate the vegetable growers of Maharashtra and of other parts of the country?

#### **Drop in sale of vegetables and fruits**

3384. SHRI K.T.S TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total contribution, in percentage, of vegetables and fruits to the total agricultural produce in the country; and

(b) whether any drop in sales reported in vegetables and fruits to APMCs post demonetization, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Employment in agriculture sector**

3385. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population, in number and percentage, which is directly or indirectly employed in the agriculture in the country; and

(b) the total number of individuals, in percentage and number, affected by demonetization, on account of losses in production, sales and non-payment of wages?

#### **Setting up of ICAR-CPCRI in Andhra Pradesh**

3386. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry to set up ICAR-CPCRI in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also written a letter in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action the Ministry has taken so far on the above proposal?

#### **Student READY scheme**

3387. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the student READY scheme rolled out by the Ministry;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote agricultural education in the country; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to incentivise the youths to take up agriculture as a profession?

#### **Policy to reduce cost of drugs**

3388. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of non controlled drugs is many times higher than that of controlled drugs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to lower the prices of drugs for cancer and AIDS as well as of other life-saving drugs, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some pharmaceutical companies have threatened to stop manufacturing of drugs in protest against this policy; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

#### **Opening of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras**

3389. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open several Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs) by March, 2017 to promote unbranded quality generic medicines in the country, if so, the details and the status thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to open such Jan Aushadhi Kendra in every block and Gram Panchayat; and

(c) if so, the details of expenditure likely to be incurred and time-line drawn for the purpose?

#### **Target for production of fertilizers**

3390. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has very little reserves of fertilizer raw material and natural gas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the issue;

(c) the target fixed for production of fertilizers in the next five years; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the same?

#### **Empowering the Election Commission to regulate registration of political parties**

3391. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has suggested that legal provisions be made to regulate the functioning of political parties and the Commission should be empowered to regulate registration as well as de-registration of political parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend rules in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Loss making pharma PSUs**

3392. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether the State-owned drugs

manufacturing companies are running under losses, if so, the details of such companies, State-wise, unit-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes to revive the above companies with more investments and introduction of modern machines, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **PCPIR in Andhra Pradesh**

3393. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) was conceived in Andhra Pradesh and the objectives behind the same;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to shelve the PCPIR, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of investments it has attracted and employment it has generated;

(d) whether the investments are as per expectations; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not attracting investments in PCPIR?

#### **Release of fertilizer subsidies**

3394. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of fertilizer subsidies is pending for release by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for delay in release of fertilizer subsidies; and

(c) whether Government has suggested any alternative mechanism for fertilizer



companies to overcome this shortage of funds?

**Non-compliance of ceiling prices fixed by NPPA**

3395. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as 634 drugs of various strengths produced by various firms are suspected to be non-compliant with ceiling prices as notified by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether NPPA has issued a price ceiling compliance list after analyzing the market data of various medicines in December last year, if so, the details thereof?

**Subsidy on chemical fertilizers**

3396. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on reducing the subsidy being given for potassic and increasing the subsidy given on phosphatic fertilizers, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of the fertilizers on which subsidy is being reduced and those on which subsidy is being increased?

**Opposition to control of stent's pricing**

†3397. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that industries have opposed controlling of prices of cardiac stent used in heart operations by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and have said that it would affect the quality of treatment which would have an adverse effect on patients;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that patients in the hospital get the cardiac stents on price fixed by NPPA?

**Selling of medical devices at inflated prices**

3398. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government is aware that medical devices including cardiac stents, orthopedic implants, intraocular lenses and artificial heart valves as well as consumables such as syringes, needles, catheters etc. are sold at inflated rates by hospitals?

**Renovation of Sindri fertilizer factory**

†3399. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work for the renovation of Sindri fertilizer factory has started since 2015-16;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is scheduled to take steps towards the balanced regional development alongside the renovation of the factory; and

(c) if so, with reference to part (a) and (b) above, whether Government proposes to start production in the fertilizer factory by 2017-18 and restore general facilities in Sindri, if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Difference in import and domestic cost of medical devices**

3400. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the huge difference between import cost and domestic hospital cost in case of hip and knee implants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

**Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Uttar Pradesh**

†3401. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) are functioning in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has raised issues regarding functioning of JAKs in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of JAKs established/ functioning in schedule tribe dominated backward areas in the country including Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the number of JAKs proposed to be opened in the said areas including Ramtek in Uttar Pradesh?

**Inclusion of coronary stents under NLEM**

3402. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when notification was issued and sent to the Department of Pharmaceuticals to include coronary stents under the National List of Essential Medicines;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that foreign companies selling their stents without any price control are lobbying to stop stents entering into the Drug Price Control Order 2013;

(c) whether lobbies are trying to categorize stents in the name of 'improvement and material' and want high pricing; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is going to deal with such issues?

**Opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Chhattisgarh**

†3403. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Jan Aushadi Kendras (JAKs) in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Government has entered into any contract with some companies/ NGO for the establishment of JAKs, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of JAKs established/ functioning in tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha and the location-wise details of the proposal for opening of JAKs in the above regions including Sarguja section in Chhattisgarh?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Make in India mission in pharma sector**

3404. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government has taken any initiative to promote domestic manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medical devices under the "Make in India" mission, if so, the details thereof?

**Factories for production of Neem-coated urea**

†3405. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken decision to establish factories for production of neem-coated urea in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider establishing one of those factories at Udham Singh Nagar or Haridwar in Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, by when construction of the factory is expected to begin and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Revival Plan for IDPL**

3406. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to sell land of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Hyderabad;

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

(c) why the plan to restart production of formulations and bulk drugs at IDPL is languishing; and

(d) what happened to the revival plan that the Ministry proposed with an estimated cost of ₹ 900 crore earlier?

**Artificial shortage of stents**

3407. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is aware of the artificial shortage of Bare Metal Stent, Drug Eluting stent (DES) and Biodegradable Stent (BS) in the market recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any emergency steps have been taken by NPPA against those manufacturers and suppliers who have created this artificial shortage and ensure easy availability of DES and BS for patients, the details thereof?

**Availability of coronary stents at reduced prices**

3408. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to bring down the cost of coronary stents substantially in the country;

(b) how the price of coronary stent being stipulated by the Government is related to its landing cost;

(c) the details thereof and whether the same would be strictly followed by the corporate hospitals in the country; and

(d) the steps to be taken against the defaulting corporate hospitals in case they violate to follow the instructions?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Gram Panchayats connected through OFCs**

3409. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) as on 15 March, 2017;

(b) out of the GPs where OFCs have been laid, how many have live and functioning internet;

(c) the steps taken by Government to effectively resolve last mile connectivity challenges;

(d) the expected timeline by which all GPs under NOFN project would have live and functioning internet; and

(e) whether Government is monitoring the functioning of DoT with regard to disbursal of funds towards NOFN project after Parliamentary Committee on IT expressed its displeasure towards DoT's lack of proactive involvement in the project?

**Vacant posts in Telecom Commission**

3410. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently, all the posts of Member, Telecom Commission are vacant;

(b) if so, since how long and reasons therefor; and

(c) when are these posts going to be filled?

**Centralized Monitoring System**

3411. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of operationality of the Centralized Monitoring System (CMS);

(b) the objectives behind having the CMS;

(c) whether the data monitored by the CMS would be shared by third parties; and

(d) given the lack of privacy protection measures, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the privacy rights of the citizens are not breached by the CMS?

**Post Office Senior Citizen Savings Scheme**

3412. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, who availed Post Office Senior Citizen Savings Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to include more benefits in the scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of deposits increased during the demonetization period; and

(d) if so, whether any survey conducted in this regard and the action taken thereon?

**Review of issues concerning Telecom Department**

3413. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently reviewed issues concerning the Telecom Department, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has stressed the need for fixing

accountability at all levels to bring about a visible change in the situation as far as issues like poor service quality, connectivity and non functioning of landline connections, etc. are concerned, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reduction in landline connections**

3414. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of landline connections State-wise have reduced drastically;

(b) if so, the number of landline connections functional at present, State-wise;

(c) the number of landline connections in use, State-wise, from last five years; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to make landline connections popular?

#### **Increase in diffusion rates for broadband and mobile phone services**

3415. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the diffusion rates for broadband and mobile phone services;

(b) the current number of broadband subscribers in the country and whether Government has met the desired target of subscribers, as envisaged in the National Telecom Policy (2012); and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase digital literacy to ensure that internet is used effectively and adoption of Wi-Fi is optimum?

#### **Interconnecting problems of BSNL and MTNL networks**

3416. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for facing connectivity problem when migrating from BSNL to MTNL as both are owned by Government; and

(b) whether Government has a plan to merge BSNL and MTNL for better performance?

#### **Direct procurement of pulses**

3417. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the buffer stock of pulses to protect the interests of farmers;

(b) whether Government has any plan to engage Central agencies to procure pulses directly from farmers; and

(c) whether Government has received any complaints that farmers are not getting MSP for Moong and Arhar pulses, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production and distribution of foodgrains through PDS**

3418. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the total production of foodgrains during last three years in the country;

(b) how much of that was distributed

through PDS during these years and the current financial year; and

(c) what has been the increase in prices of food articles under PDS during last three years and the current year?

#### **Impact of sugar import on Sugar industry**

‡3419. MAHANT SHAMBHU PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding impact of import of sugar on Sugar industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for recession being faced by Sugar industry on account of sugar import?

#### **Increase in prices of food items after demonetization**

‡3420. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the details of increase in wholesale and retail prices of food items during the last three years and whether these items have become dearer after demonetization;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government machinery in tackling inflation;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons behind increase in prices after demonetization; and

(d) the details of impediments that come in the way of curbing increase in prices of essential food items, the complete details thereof?

#### **Fall in production of sugar**

3421. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lowest sugar production is expected this year, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the measures being initiated to avoid the possibility of its shortage and price rise?

#### **Buffer stock of pulses**

3423. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of pulses procured by Government for buffer stock;

(b) whether the quantity of pulses for import has been increased by increasing the buffer stock; and

(c) if so, whether Government has adopted any new policy to control the rise of prices of pulses in the country?

#### **Transparency in PDS**

‡3423. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

use Smart Card Technology in Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(b) whether Government has consulted the States in this regard, if so, the reaction of States thereto;

(c) the other steps taken by Government for effective implementation of PDS and to bring transparency in it;

(d) whether Government has decided to open outlets in all wards of Gram Panchayats across the country under PDS; and

(e) if so, the number of Panchayats in the country, State-wise?

#### **Linking of PDS with Aadhaar**

3424. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the States have been requested to seed Aadhaar numbers in beneficiary database under Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total number of beneficiaries under PDS and other welfare schemes along with the number of beneficiaries in whose case seeding with Aadhaar data has been completed, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Rise in price of sugar**

3425. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic production of sugar has come down sharply in the current year leading to exorbitant price rise thereof;

(b) if so, the details of domestic production, consumption and price of sugar for the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to contain the rising prices of sugar?

#### **Decentralization of procurement system**

3426. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Government for implementation of schemes for decentralized procurement in the country;

(b) whether Government has taken adequate measures or implemented schemes for doorstep delivery of foodgrains through TPDS outlets for ensuring supply to entitled persons, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of digitalized ration cards made in last three years for online foodgrains allocation and status of online grievance redressal committee; and

(d) the funds allocated/utilised for centralized procurement during the last three years, State/UTwise?

#### **Decline in production of sugar**

3427. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of sugar mills across the country have been closed due to lack of cane availability, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the

production of sugar is estimated to be at an all time low during the sugar season this year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sugar prices are also sky rocketing in recent months?

**Drive to give up subsidized commodities under PDS**

3428. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has quietly begun a 'give it up' drive, covering all the essential commodities, that are being provided at heavily subsidized rates, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that though there is no formal announcement regarding the drive, any PDS beneficiary can give up all the commodities permanently or block them for a specified period, if so, the details thereof?

**Services under e-Governance**

3429. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of services covered under e-Governance in the country, particularly at the infrastructure level;

(b) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to rural people through the scheme; and

(c) the time by which e-Governance facilities are likely to be provided across the country?

**Digital literacy rate**

3430. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the digital literacy rate data of the country as a whole and State-wise separately;

(b) the number of smartphone users in the country, State-wise data thereof; and

(c) the avenues for the people to resolve any dispute that arises due to digital transactions?

**Making Aadhaar based e-KYC compulsory for mobile subscribers**

3431. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make Aadhaar based e-KYC compulsory for mobile subscribers;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to restrict SIM cards for subscribers therein, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposal of Government on security check therein?

**Promotion and progress of digital transactions**

†3432. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) whether it is a fact that due to the unsatisfactory performance of NITI Aayog in promoting digital transactions, the said work has been entrusted to some other Ministry, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of month-wise progress in digital transactions subsequent to demonetisation?

**Adverse effect on growth of IT companies due to change of USA Government policy**

3433. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of IT companies has been affected adversely due to the policy change in USA after the changeover of Government there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the negative situation is likely to reduce the jobs in IT sector; and

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

**Training and employment under Digital India Programme**

†3434. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of youth targeted for providing employment every year under Digital India Programme and the amount allocated for this purpose, the details thereof;

(b) the number of students trained in pursuit of the target fixed for towns and villages for providing employment in IT

sector and the number of students who have been provided employment, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated under India BPO Promotion Scheme and North East BPO Promotion scheme and the number of BPOs established, the details thereof?

**Impact on Indian IT Sector due to policy changes in USA and Europe**

3435. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developments that are taking place in the United States of America have a bearing on the Indian Information Technology sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Information Technology sector has been badly affected due to certain changes that are taking place in USA and European countries, if so, the details thereof?

**New IT Investment Region**

3436. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to develop a new Information Technology Investment Region, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the country would become self sufficient in IT equipment production by 2020, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Poor technological competence of  
IRCTC website**

3437. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRCTC website is a poor demonstration of India's technological competence and finesse;

(b) whether Architects of IRCTC system visited the website of private bus aggregators or public bus corporations such as KSRTC to learn a few simple tricks about online ticket management; and

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

**Development of Food Processing  
sector in North-East**

3438. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions of National Mission for Food Processing; and

(b) the steps being taken for development of Food Processing sector in the North-East?

**Budgetary allocation and expenditure  
in Food Processing sector**

†3439. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total allocation under the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure (Plan and Non-Plan) for Food Processing Industry during five years of Twelfth Plan along with Plan and Non-Plan Budget Estimate for 2017-18;

(b) whether the total budgetary allocation (Besides Non-Plan) for 2017-18 is ₹ 725 crore which is less than 50 per cent of the projected allocation (₹ 1606 crore) by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such huge difference between projected and actual allocation and its effect on implementation of schemes during the current financial year?

**R&D in Food Processing sector**

3440. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has felt the need to focus attention on the Research and Development (R&D) in the Food Processing sector to make farmers earn more benefits;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to make Food Processing sector more farmer friendly, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Ongoing food processing projects**

3441. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing food processing projects in the country, State/ Union Territory-wise along with their present status;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for these projects;

(c) the details of achievements made under these projects so far; and

(d) the action taken by Government for timely completion of all pending projects for making them fully operational, the details thereof?

#### **International standards in Food Processing sector**

3442. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to improve/develop the standard of processed food industry of the country to international standards, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Increasing employment in Food Processing sector**

†3443. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the processing rate of various produces in the country is just 2 to 35 per cent, despite it being the largest producer of milk, pulses, sugarcane and tea, if so, whether Government has identified Food Processing sector so as to attract labour from agriculture to manufacturing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for increasing employment opportunities in Food Processing sector?

#### **Cold storage facilities**

3444. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has enough cold storage facilities to manage their demand in the country;

(b) the details of New Food Parks and cold storage units announced by the Ministry, region-wise;

(c) whether foreign companies have shown an increased interest in investing in cold storage units in the country;

(d) if so, the details of inflow of FDI over the past three years; and

(e) the details of funds allocated and disbursed for building of cold storage units in West Bengal, district-wise?

#### **Mega Food Parks**

3445. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed new Mega Food Parks (MFPs) to some States and private firms for the development and promotion of Food Processing sector, thereby creating employment opportunities;

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

(c) whether Government has set any target to develop basic infrastructure of MFPs across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Market orientation and skill  
development in Food  
Processing sector**

3446. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: 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 through Public Private Partnership (PPP) 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 the Food Processing Industries, viz., dairy, confectionary, frozen foods and beverages, if so, the details thereof?

**SC/ST/OBC Judges**

†3447. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes working in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, Court-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Judges that have been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium to the Government for appointment in Supreme Court and the High Courts: and

(c) the number of Judges, out of them, belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, the details thereof, Court-wise and category-wise?

**Summary trial to cut down pendency  
of cases**

3448. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that justice delivery system is very slow in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government is working on a proposal to drastically cut down time in court proceedings by introducing summary trial in most of the cases, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Strength of Judicial Officers**

3449. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come across a report of Supreme Court which claimed that there is a severe shortage of Judges in the lower judiciary;

(b) the sanctioned and actual strength of Judicial Officers in the lower Judiciary as on date in comparison to Civil Servants and police officers, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is going to increase the strength of Judicial Officers to deal with large number of pending cases based on the study and keeping in mind the future of growth in institution of cases?

**Regulation of legal profession**

3450. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers any need to review all relevant aspects relating to regulation of legal profession in

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the country in consultation with all concerned;

(b) if so, the details of points of reference, if any, Government has made in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has appointed any Committee/Study Group/Expert Committee in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Financial assistance to poor in filing petitions**

‡3451. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been difficult for the poor and low income group people to file petitions in the Supreme Court due to high fee, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any scheme has been introduced by the Supreme Court for facilitating the filing of petition and providing financial assistance to the poor and people belonging to low income group, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Disposal of cases**

3452. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the rate at which cases are disposed of by Courts;

(b) if so, by when huge arrears of cases will be disposed of; and

(c) if not, the steps Government intends to take to bring down the number of pending cases?

#### **Establishing All-India Judicial Service**

3453. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far with respect to the proposal to establish All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) for appointment of District Judges through a common entrance exam to be conducted by the UPSC since the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts in 2013;

(b) how many State Governments and High Courts have given their views on AIJS till date; and

(c) by when the AIJS is expected to be constituted?

#### **Computerisation under e-Courts Mission Mode Project**

3454. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the e-Committee of the Supreme Court has prepared any policy document with the objective of enhanced ICT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts for Phase-II of the e-Courts Project, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of the High Courts where e-filing of cases has been introduced;

(c) the number of District and Subordinate courts computerised under Phase-I of e-Courts Mission Mode Project, State-wise, including Odisha as also the number of Courts proposed to be computerised under Phase-II; and

(d) the benefits accrued/likely to accrue as a result of introduction of ICT in Courts?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Law officers/Advocates of SC/ST/OBC categories**

‡3455. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Law Officers/Advocates appointed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts by the Government;

(b) the total number of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, the details thereof, Court-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the status of representation of Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Subordinate Courts/District Courts, the details thereof, State-wise and category-wise?

**Representation of SC/ST/OBCs in higher judiciary**

‡3456. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons owing to which reservation system is not in place until now for the proper representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the higher judicial services in all the States, the details along with the current status thereof State-wise;

(b) despite the provision of Indian Judicial Service in the form of first All India Service under Article 312 of the Constitution, why the All India Judicial Service has not been constituted till date; and

(c) the efforts put by the present Government in this regard?

**Electronic Voting Machines**

3457. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) procured by the Election Commission during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 along with the cost thereof, year-wise;

(b) the details of the company which has supplied EVMs to the Election Commission during the said period, procurement-wise; and

(c) the details of the company which manufactures EVMs procured by the Election Commission along with the details of manufacturing units?

**Code of Conduct for public speech during elections**

3458. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether we need a Code of Conduct for people holding high office and politicians, especially when they speak publicly as has happened in the recent Assembly elections;

(b) whether the beauty of democracy is that political parties can criticise each other without making personal attacks; and

(c) if so, the effective steps Government is going to take in this regard during campaigns in the future election?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Foreign visits of Parliamentary delegations**

3459. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Parliamentary delegations have gone abroad in the last three years; and

(b) the detailed list of representation of MPs of both Houses in these delegations?

**Chartered train/bogies**

3460. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons/organisations that utilized chartered train/bogies during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to reduce tariff for chartered train/bogies for maximum utilization in the country; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce chartered freight train in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Reconstruction of old railway bridge in Amritsar**

3461. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to reconstruct Rego railway bridge in Amritsar which was constructed during British regime and is in a very dilapidated condition and cause danger to human life due to heavy traffic; and

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

**Placement of Uttarakhand under two railway zones**

†3462. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are States which have been placed under more than one railway zone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and reasons for placing Uttarakhand under two railway zones;

(c) whether the State representatives had requested to keep Uttarakhand under one railway zone; and

(d) if so, the reservations Government has about placing the State under one railway zone?

**Encroachment on railway land**

3463. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD:  
MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI  
TUNDIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding encroachment of railway land all over the country;

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

(c) whether Government has any plan to make this land free?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Air conditioned sleeper and general category coaches**

†3464. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to air condition the sleeper and general category coaches;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step in this regard; and

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

**Guarantee of loan taken by railway employees**

†3465. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways release loans to its employees (Stakeholders) from cooperative committees/banks and Railways give guarantee of refund of this loan;

(b) if so, the basis of this guarantee of refund of loan lend to employees by the cooperative committees/banks and when was the order passed in this regard; and

(c) whether Railway Administration will consider to provide the same facility as given in case of loan taken from cooperative committees/banks to those railway employees who borrow the loan from nationalised banks, the details thereof?

**Provision of local cuisines in running trains through Self-Help Groups**

3466. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have partnered with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to provide local cuisines on running trains for the passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the estimated employment generation from SHG and women empowerment expected throughout the country, with details; and

(c) the progress made so far, in introduction of local cuisines in trains, Zone-wise and express train-wise, with details?

**Pending old railway projects**

†3467. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:  
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH  
NAGAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ongoing rail projects are as old as 20 years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for indefinite delay in execution of these projects and the new time-limit fixed for their completion;

(c) whether these long pending projects are reviewed from time to time for viability and evaluation of project implementation and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether a mechanism is in place to give priority to the pending projects and if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Capacity augmentation of Railways  
on major trunk routes**

3468. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided a massive capacity augmentation on certain major trunk routes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the time by which passengers are likely to get train ticket reservation on demand on all the premier and mail/express trains?

the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiries have been conducted into such complaints, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of penalties imposed on contractors and number of contracts terminated in such cases;

(e) the role played by the Catering Monitoring Service Cell (CMSC) in addressing such complaints and imposition of said penalties; and

(f) the other steps being taken by Government to improve catering services?

**Strengthening safety infrastructure of  
Railways**

3469. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations made in the report of Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar in February, 2016;

(b) the present status of action taken on the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to strengthen the poor safety infrastructure of Indian Railways?

**Dynamic fare system**

3471. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the dynamic fare system introduced recently by Railways;

(b) its effect on revenue in passenger segment, the details since introduction of the dynamic fares;

(c) whether there has been any adverse impact on seat bookings due to introduction of dynamic fares, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Railways have taken any other measures to increase its revenue in passengers segment, if so, the details thereof?

**Complaints regarding poor food quality  
in long distance/premium trains**

3470. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from passengers regarding poor food quality in long distance/premium trains during the last three years;

(b) whether such complaints have increased during the last three years, if so,

**Increase in passenger and freight  
traffic**

3472. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last 64 years, the traffic of both passengers and

freight over the Railways network has increased by 1344 per cent and 1642 per cent respectively, but the route kilometres has grown by only 23 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for this sluggish rail network expansion;

(c) whether the growth of passenger and freight traffic has put undue burden on the existing infrastructure, leading to safety compromise and severe congestion; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to expand the rail infrastructure?

**Derailment as cause of train accidents and casualties**

3473. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether derailment is the second highest reason for consequential train accidents and casualties, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of train accidents occurred between 2003-04 to 2016-17 and how many of those accidents were due to derailment;

(c) whether reasons for derailment is defect in the track/rolling stock;

(d) the steps taken to maintain tracks in safe and fit condition;

(e) the laid down safety standards of rail tracks;

(f) the total track length and how many kilometers of tracks should be renewed annually; and

(g) the total track length renewed during the last five years, year-wise?

**Illegal occupation of railway land/ assets**

3474. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Railway land/ assets under illegal occupation in the country;

(b) the effective steps taken by the Government to prevent such illegal occupation of railway land and to get back the encroached land; and

(c) whether Government is preparing any road-map to check such incidents in future and if so, the details thereof?

**Flawed water quality monitoring procedure**

3475. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have admitted that it has persisted with flawed water quality, monitoring procedure with the result that drinking water available at platforms and in its staff flats is contaminated with bacteria; and

(b) if so, whether railway passengers have to use water available at platforms which causes stomach infections and diseases; and

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof and the further steps Railways propose to take to ensure that the water available at platforms for poor commuters is safe?

**Modernisation and manufacture of rail coaches**

†3476. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to modernise the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

rail coaches in the last three years and status of their manufacturing and the target set for each of the next five years; and

(b) the zone-wise number of rail coaches at present and the programme and action plan for converting the old coaches into new ones?

#### **Development of railway stations of Haryana**

†3477. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop major stations of Haryana on the lines of Delhi railway station, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the requirement of escalators in railway stations having many platforms and terminals and whether any time bound programme has been commenced in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-limit set for the implementation of this scheme?

#### **Execution of Bhadrachalam-Kovvur-Manuguru-Ramagundam railway line**

3478. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the Government of Telangana regarding allocation of sufficient funds and early execution of Bhadrachalam-Kovvur-Manuguru-Ramagundam railway line, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of the Ministry to the request, the details thereof?

#### **Installation of water coolers at railway stations**

3479. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether free and clean drinking water facilities are installed at all railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, by when Government is planning to install the same at all stations;

(c) whether water coolers are installed at all railway stations of tier one, tier two and tier three cities of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when Government is planning to install the water coolers at railway stations of the aforesaid cities?

#### **Law against open defecation on railway tracks**

3480. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to make strict laws against open defecation on railway tracks considering that thousands of people defecate in open on railway tracks and it is a matter of serious concern which has been long ignored, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken to stop people from defecating on railway tracks, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has created public toilets, especially in the peripheries of the towns and cities around the railway tracks?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Introduction of High Speed Rail  
between Mysore, Bengaluru,  
Chennai and Vijayawada**

3481. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are contemplating on introducing a high speed railway network between Mysore-Bengaluru, Chennai and Vijayawada, linking the State capitals of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Railways to extend the High Speed Rail upto Visakhapatnam, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Railways in this regard, the details thereof?

**Installation of ATMs at railway  
stations**

3482. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to give space for about 2000 ATMs on the platforms in order to earn additional revenue;

(b) if so, whether the ATMs will be installed only at major railway stations or even at the not so popular stations and whether the stations covering rural and remote areas will also be covered; and

(c) who will be responsible for the safety of these ATMs?

**Train branding packages to earn non-fare revenue**

3483. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to offer train branding packages through bidding in a phased manner, starting with Rajdhani and Shatabdi services;

(b) whether it is in a bid to earn revenue from non-fare sources of Railways; and

(c) the other plans of Railways to earn revenue from non-fare sources?

**Maintenance of passenger coaches and  
development of vacant railway land/  
yards**

3484. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government appreciates that maintenance of passenger coaches, irrespective of class, sanitation/cleanliness at railway stations and development of vacant railway land/yards is far from satisfactory wherein enough attention has not been paid in the past;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken to bring improvements in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would identify only a few trains and railway stations for development as models in the first place, considering the gigantic nature of task?

**Railway projects in Jharkhand and  
Gujarat**

3485. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects

which were approved/sanctioned during the last three years and the current year in Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) the details of ongoing/running behind schedule/lying pending railway projects during the above period, State-wise, Zone-wise and Project-wise;

(c) the estimated cost, including the extent of cost overrun of these projects, Project-wise and Zone-wise;

(d) the reasons for excessive delay in completion of these projects; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to expedite completion of these projects within a stipulated time-frame?

#### **Digitalization of Railways**

3486. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are problems in digitalizing the Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether waiver of service charges on purchase of railway tickets, digitally, would have an additional burden of ₹ 500 crore on Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps the Ministry has taken to make Railways fully cashless and the timeline and details of additional financial burden which the Ministry will incur after this?

#### **Disinvestment of railway PSUs**

3487. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three railway PSUs, viz., Indian Railway Construction

Company Limited, Indian Railway Finance Corporation and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation are set for disinvestment; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Details of railway projects in Telangana**

3488. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects, viz., new railway lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification under execution in Telangana;

(b) the projects completed within the scheduled time and the number of projects pending for more than three years; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to complete these projects as per schedule, especially those located in the backward districts?

#### **Development of small stations**

†3489. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make any special plan to develop small stations in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified the stations to be developed, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount earmarked by Government for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government has stipulated any time-frame, if so, the details therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Constitution of committee for monitoring of food served in trains**

†3490. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints are being received by Government about the food items being served in the trains, if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years;

(b) whether Government is contemplating constituting a special committee to check the quality and purity of food items being served in trains; and

(c) if so, the level at which such types of committees would be constituted and by when along with the details of the norms on the basis of which these committees would function?

**Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh**

3491. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create special safety fund for railway passengers and railway safety under Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK);

(b) if so, whether this is the first of its kind in the Railways' history;

(c) if so, the plan details thereof and if not, the detail of the safety fund and the allocations and the use of such funds made during the last ten years; and

(d) the details of proposals for maintenance, replacement of railway tracks and coaches and upgradation of infrastructure?

**Plantation of trees in vacant railway land**

†3492. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to plant trees in the vacant land belonging to Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Laying of second railway line from Madurai to Kanyakumari**

3493. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of laying a second railway line from Madurai to Kanyakumari;

(b) by when Government proposes to complete the project in view of very high utilization of line capacity in this section;

(c) whether adequate funds have been allocated to this project; and

(d) if so, whether Southern Railway has utilized the entire allocation?

**Gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines**

†3494. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any survey in various States, including Bihar and Jharkhand, for laying new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification of old railway lines;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of the length of new railway lines to be laid, the length of railway line to be considered for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

gauge conversion and electrification in various States, including Bihar and Jharkhand;

(c) the plan of Government for laying new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines in current financial year; and

(d) whether Railways propose to construct a dedicated freight corridor, if so, details thereof?

#### **Decline in freight earnings of Railways**

3495. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report points out that the annual growth rate of freight earnings has declined from 12.66 per cent to 3.23 per cent for the year ended March, 2016; and

(b) whether the Ministry is taking steps to increase the annual growth of freight earnings, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Losses on passenger fares and addition of extra coaches**

3496. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that Railways incurred a loss of ₹ 33,821.70 crore on passenger fares and for addition of extra coaches during 2014-15;

(b) whether the Ministry is planning to hike passenger fares to recover operating costs, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking any

other steps to recover costs, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bio-toilets in trains and at railway stations**

†3497. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bio-toilets installed in passenger coaches and at railway stations in the country and the number of bio-toilets installed in coaches and at railway stations before the introduction of Green Train Corridor Scheme, Year-wise details thereof; and

(b) the number of bio-toilets targeted to be installed in passenger coaches during the year 2017-18 and the amount allocated for this purpose, the details thereof?

#### **Release of sufficient funds for completion of Armur-Adilabad railway line**

3498. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the Government of Telangana regarding allocation of sufficient funds in the present budget for completion of Armur-Adilabad *via* Nirmal railway line, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have taken the request into consideration, if so, the details of the funds allocated therefor in the present budget; and

(c) the steps being taken for early execution of the said work?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Establishment of wagon factory in Odisha**

3499. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when will the Ministry establish a wagon factory at the identified patch of land in village Sitapalli of Ganjam district as this is a railway sanctioned work of the year 2011-12 and yet, not a brick has been laid on the spot; and

(b) the status report and plan of action for commissioning this factory as Government of Odisha has kept aside over 100 acres of land for giving free-of-cost to Railways?

**Manufacturing of train sets**

3500. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will soon manufacture its own train sets that can run at a maximum speed of 160 kilometer per hour, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this initiative was on account of Railways' failed attempt to elicit positive response to its global bid, if so, the details thereof?

**Criteria for selection of a railway station for developing as Adarsh station**

†3501. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed criteria to select a railway station for developing as an Adarsh railway station;

(b) the details of additional facilities provided at Adarsh railway stations; and

(c) the details of those railway stations which have been approved for their development as Adarsh railway stations in the last three years?

**Measures to strengthen railway safety**

3502. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken certain measures to step up the safety of passengers in the light of increasing number of accidents and terror attacks during the last one year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some experts have suggested certain measures to improve the railway safety, particularly from Korea and Japan agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to strengthen the railway safety?

**Gauge conversion on Lucknow-Sitapur section**

3503. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gauge conversion work on Lucknow-Sitapur section is going at a slow pace and will not be able to complete as per scheduled time;

(b) if so, the details of progress made so far on this section; and

(c) the estimated time by which train services would be made available to the public on Sitapur-Lucknow route?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Pending railway projects in Bihar**

‡3504. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is determined to strengthen the Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when pending railway project being carried out from Samastipur to Darbhanga and from Sakri to Sarajgarh *via* Nirmali is likely to be completed, the details thereof?

**Computerized railway reservation counter at Bidhan Nagar and Durgapur**

3505. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a computerized railway reservation counter was decided to be opened at Bidhan Nagar and Durgapur;

(b) if so, the present status of the project and the expected date of opening of the same; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider opening of a reservation centre there, considering the concentration of several educational institutes and super-speciality hospital in the area?

**Re-introduction of Amritsar-Katra train**

3506. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amritsar-Katra train, which was introduced to facilitate poor people who cannot afford

luxury travel, was discontinued due to low occupancy of passengers;

(b) whether Government had undertaken feasibility study before and after introducing this train;

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

(d) the reasons this train cannot be re-introduced as a non-AC train to facilitate common man?

**Direct train between Amritsar and Ahmedabad**

3507. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce a direct train between Amritsar and Ahmedabad to facilitate trade and traders in view of the fact that more than 30,000 M.T. tonnes of rice move to Kandla Port in Gujarat through trucks and providing direct connectivity will help Railways earn handsome revenue; and

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

**Setting up of Powerloom Mega Cluster at Erode, Tamil Nadu**

3508. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting up of Powerloom Mega Cluster at Erode in Tamil Nadu is held up due to one reason or the other, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is taking any corrective measures for effective coordination with the State Government to complete this project within a definite time-line; and

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of such steps taken or proposed to be taken in future?

**Clearance of proposals of Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board**

†3509. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry from Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board during the last one year, the details thereof;

(b) the number of proposals that have been approved so far and by when the pending proposals are likely to be approved; and

(c) the reasons for delay in giving approval to the proposals?

**Incentives to Powerloom industry**

3510. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey for ascertaining the number of powerlooms functioning in the country as on date, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware of deteriorating condition of Powerloom industry as also the decline in their number, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for giving incentives to the Powerloom industry?

**Diversifying market for handloom and handicraft products**

3511. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to incentivize local artisans and weavers in the handloom and handicraft clusters across the country to diversify their markets beyond the local sale of their products, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has officially partnered with e-commerce companies for marketing and sale of handloom and handicraft products from local artisans and weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, especially the Memoranda of Understanding, if any, in this regard?

**Clearance of proposals of Chhattisgarh Government for development works**

†3512. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for development works during the last three years from Government of Chhattisgarh and the amount involved therein, scheme-wise and the details of action taken thereon;

(b) the reasons for which proposals received from the State Government are still pending;

(c) whether any time-limit has been stipulated for disposal of the proposals;

(d) whether delay in the execution of proposals hampers the development works; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) how the cost overruns are adjusted, the details thereof?

**Pan India census of handicraft artisans**

3513. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether any Pan India census of handicraft artisans is conducted by the Ministry, if so, the latest details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Revival of closed spinning mills**

‡3514. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills closed down every year during the last three years and this year till now, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of plans envisaged by Government for the revival of spinning mills lying closed in the country since long;

(c) whether Government is aware of the miserable condition of workers due to closure of these mills;

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

(e) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy to resuscitate these mills?

NEW DELHI;  
The 25th March, 2017  
Chaitra 4, 1939 (Saka)

**Tie-up with Ministry of HRD for education of weavers**

3515. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a tie-up between the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the provision of education to weavers and their children through a specially designed curriculum, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of weavers in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of the courses which would be offered and the funds allocated for this scheme; and

(d) the alternative measures undertaken to boost the weaving industry and to hone the traditional skills of weavers?

**Production and consumption of cotton**

3516. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Association of India has maintained the cotton crop for the 2016-17 season at 341 lakh bales of 170 kg. each, the same as in the previous year; and

(b) whether the Cotton Association of India has increased cotton consumption to 295 lakh bales for the ongoing crop year against previous estimate of 290 lakh bales, if so, the details thereof?

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF  
Secretary-General.

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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