

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, November 19, 2019/Kartika 28, 1941 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy
(AYUSH); Corporate Affairs; Culture; Earth Sciences; Finance; Health and
Family Welfare; New and Renewable Energy; Power;
Science and Technology; Tourism)

Total number of questions — 160

Cultivation of medicinal plants along the banks of river Ganga

161. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:
Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA
& NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA
AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to
state:

(a) whether a five km. long green belt
for the cultivation of medicinal plants will
be developed on the banks of river Ganga,
if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has earmarked
any such similar project of cultivation of
medicinal plants along the banks of river
Ganga in the State of West Bengal; and

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

Measures for implementing AYUSH medicine system

†162. DR. SATYANARAYAN
JATIYA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI,

SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be
pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise measures adopted for
the implementation of AYUSH medicine
system and the District hospitals where
action for their establishment has been
taken; and

(b) the details of AYUSH policy of
Government and action plan for its
implementation thereof?

AYUSH educational institutes

†163. DR. SATYANARAYAN
JATIYA: Will the Minister of
AYURVEDA, YOGA &
NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA
AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to
state:

(a) the State-wise details of the
institutes providing the best education in
each system of AYUSH and the year-wise
numbers of such educated teachers, trainers
and doctors and the scale of the people
employed in the services; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the measures taken to develop the quality of the practices of AYUSH and to repose the public faith in them?

**Financial aid for establishing
Ayurvedic centres**

164. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote Ayurveda in the country;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been given to those who set up Ayurvedic centres; and

(c) if so, the total quantum of assistance provided during the last financial year?

**Central Regulatory System for
AYUSH based medicines**

165. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Regulatory System is being constituted to check the quality of AYUSH based medicines in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the details of the functioning of such systems in Kerala;

(b) if not, the existing mechanism for that purpose at present; and

(c) whether the recruitment of the technical persons were completed, if not, reasons therefor?

**Ayurveda medicines for treating life-
style diseases**

166. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Ayurveda as an effective treatment for life-style diseases in view of the increasing popularity of this Indian System of Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government proposes to launch effective Ayurvedic medicines developed on a large scale for the foreign markets and if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made in this direction?

**Promotion of AYUSH system of
medicines**

167. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policies/programme undertaken by Government to promote AYUSH for population control at the domestic, as well as at international level; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government for development, promotion and construction of better infrastructure and facilities for AYUSH treatment and alternative medical treatment in the country?

Funds allocated/granted to Telangana under AYUSH

168. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated/granted under various schemes of the Ministry to the State of Telangana during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds released under such schemes to the State during the last three years;

(c) the details of funds yet to be released/ due to the State; and

(d) the time-frame fixed by which these funds would be released to the State?

Yoga and Naturopathy institutions in TSP areas

169. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions providing the services of Yoga and Naturopathy in Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) areas under Schedule V in the country, State/ UT-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up similar institutions in other Tribal Sub-Plan areas of the country;

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promoting research in AYUSH system of medicines

170. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to encourage and promote research in AYUSH system of medicines across different States; and

(b) what has been the response of different States and UTs so far towards these measures?

Conservation of medicinal plants

171. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been creating a repository to conserve medicinal plants; and

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance given in last three years for conservation of medicinal plants and infrastructure development?

Share acquisition of Associated Journals Limited

172. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken

steps to probe the 99.1 per cent share acquisition of Associated Journals Limited by the Young Indian Private Limited, if so, the progress till date; and

(b) if not, whether the Ministry is aware of the alleged illegalities to the acquisition and being probed by the Income Tax Authorities and the Ministry of Urban Development?

CSR spending by Nav-ratna and Mini-ratna companies

173. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total year-wise CSR spending by each of Nav-ratna and Mini-ratna companies and each of 10 corporate entities having the highest turnover during the last three years;

(b) whether any mechanism is available to ensure transparency in such CSR spending, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) amounts of CSR money spent by aforesaid companies during the last three years, year-wise?

CSR spending in Madhya Pradesh

†174. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by various industrial units in Madhya Pradesh under CSR; and

(b) the details of the amount spent, area-wise?

Geo-tag of assets created under CSR

175. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when assets created under NREGA are geo-targeted, what are the constraints to geo-tag assets created under CSR activities; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has, henceforth, decided to transfer unspent CSR fund to Government, if so, the reasons therefor?

Declaration of Ram Setu as a national heritage monument

176. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued notice, in Transfer Petition No. 27 of 2006 to the Ministry seeking reply on whether any steps have been taken to declare Ram Setu (Adams Bridge) as a National Heritage Monument under the criteria laid out in Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act;

(b) if so, whether a reply has been filed accordingly in the Supreme Court; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Relocation of office of eastern zonal cultural centre

177. SHRI AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programs/festivals/workshops organised by the eastern zonal cultural centre for the preservation of folk and tribal arts of Odisha in the last two years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Government is considering a proposal to relocate the office of the eastern zonal cultural centre from Kolkata to a location in Odisha to promote and develop the arts of Odisha?

Heritage buildings in Odisha

178. SHRI AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been sent to the State Government of Odisha for information regarding the identification of heritage properties/buildings in the State; and

(b) the details of information that has been gathered by Government on heritage buildings and sites in the State so far?

Documentation of forts of Maharashtra

179. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has a specialized branch named Building Survey Project for undertaking survey, documentation and research on monuments of secular nature in the country;

(b) if so, what substantial work it has undertaken in the last three years and physical progress achieved;

(c) whether ASI has surveyed, documented, studied the architectural details of the protected forts of Maharashtra and published the findings in details; and

(d) if not, why the building survey project is not engaged for this purpose?

Deendayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology

180. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new building for the Institute of Archaeology has recently been built at Greater Noida;

(b) if so, whether the Institute of Archaeology has been shifted in the newly constructed building;

(c) whether Government has done any homework to design courses and draw up their syllabus after the Institute of Archaeology takes a new shape or it would continue to offer only post graduate diploma in Archaeology which is not even recognized by any authorized body of higher learning; and

(d) whether there is any plan to equip the institute with permanent faculty or it would continue to function on *ad-hoc* basis?

Five-year plan to revamp ASI

181. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared five-year plan to revamp Archaeological Survey of India, setting up of museums etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount to be budgeted for each year;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide training in archaeology, museology, conservation etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any funds have been specifically provided for excavations in

Keeladi, Tamil Nadu where rich deposits were found, if so, the details thereof?

Ancient folk culture in Gujarat

†182. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ancient folk cultures in Gujarat which are being conserved and details of measures adopted and schemes under which such measures are being adopted;

(b) the places from where these folk cultures are related;

(c) the quantum of fund sanctioned/ allocated for these conserved folk cultures during last three years; and

(d) the details of measures being adopted for conservation of the above folk cultures?

Status of classical language to Marathi

†183. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue with regard to giving the status of a classical language to Marathi is once again under consideration in consultation with various Ministries and linguists through Sahitya Akademi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made with regard to conferring the status of classical language to Marathi?

Cultural centres in India

184. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to setup cultural centres in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;

(b) whether any cultural centres will be setup in Jharkhand and Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the work on it is likely to be started and completed?

Historical remains found in Andhra Pradesh

185. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found early historical remains of the current era in Gottiprolu, Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, if so, details of the discovery; and

(b) the details of the exact remains that the ASI could find and steps taken by the Ministry to excavate and preserve them?

Zonal Cultural Centres

186. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCC) are making any progress in terms of protecting local art forms, if so, the details of each ZCC;

(b) the amount of fund allocated and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

utilised by the seven ZCC for the last three years; and

(c) what are the funds allocated and the cultural activities undertaken to preserve the culture of Haryana?

Upgradation of Ravindra Bhawan Auditorium

†187. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals pending with respect to upgradation or rebuilding of the Ravindra Bhawan Auditorium functioning under the Department of Culture of Government of India;

(b) the amount of required funds released therefor and the amount that remains yet to be released; and

(c) the reasons for not releasing remaining amount and the time-limit fixed for its release?

Archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu

188. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the archaeological excavations in Keeladi, Vaigai Plains, Tamil Nadu have confirmed rich cultural deposits dating back to 6th Century BC, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the role of ASI in the excavations and the funds allotted for the purpose in the last two years, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry would take up the findings and rich Tamil culture seriously and make arrangements for

proper display of those collections in various archaeological museums in the country, apart from establishing a museum near Keeladi itself, if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Indian literature in foreign countries

189. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of establishment of libraries in foreign countries in last three years, country-wise:

(b) the allocation and utilisation of funds for promotion of Indian literature in foreign countries during last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for promotion through translation of Indian literature in foreign languages including the allocation and utilisation of funds for the same in last three years, country-wise?

Scheme for pension and medical aid for artists and scholars

190. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of artists and scholars who have availed benefits under the scheme for pension and medical aid to artists in the past three years;

(b) what is the total amount released by the Ministry for the above mentioned scheme in the past three years; and

(c) how many new beneficiaries, if any, have been added under the above mentioned scheme in the past three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Earthquake warning and security system

191. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented Earthquake Early Warning System in India, if so, the details thereof and the status of the project along with the time-limit of the project;

(b) whether this project is working on the prediction of an impending earthquake or process data to farthest cities through GPRS after sensing the primary waves of an earthquake; and

(c) whether there is any technology available with all security features to sense primary waves of an earthquake, if so, the details thereof?

Conservation of marine resources

192. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to engage local communities to preserve and conserve marine resources, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) has Government allotted any budget for conservation of marine life, if so, the details thereof?

International Ocean Drilling Programme

†193. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has been

partner to international Ocean Drilling Programme in the past years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the achievements made during this programme; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to work with other countries on such joint missions in the coming years, if so, the details thereof?

Inclusion of gas and ATF under GST

194. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to include gas and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under GST; and

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

Transfer of Central Funds to Odisha

195. SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of Central funds transferred to States for the past three years, year-wise;

(b) total amount of Central funds transferred to Odisha over the past three years; and

(c) the reasons for increase/decrease of Central funds transfer, if any?

Strategic disinvestment of State-owned companies

196. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

aggressive strategic disinvestment of several State-owned companies and also reduce its stakes in many PSUs to raise funds to offset the massive revenue loss due to recent Corporate Tax cut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has planned to sell its entire stake in BPCL, Container Corporation, Shipping Corporation of India etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has appointed consultant and merchant bankers for arriving at valuations of these strategic disinvestment proposals;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) other steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Exchange of information with FTA

197. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the first tranche of details about financial accounts of its residents in Swiss banks;

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

(c) whether the Switzerland's Federal Tax Administration (FTA) has exchanged information on financial accounts within the framework of global standards on Automatic Exchange of Information(AEOI);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the data received by India can be quite useful for establishing a strong prosecution case against those who had any unaccounted wealth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Impact of Corporate Tax cut on economy

198. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:
PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister announced Corporate Tax rate cut through an Ordinance titled 'The Taxation Laws Amendment (Ordinance), 2019';

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expected revenue loss from the tax exemption was estimated at ₹ 1,45,000 crore by the Minister;

(c) the details of methodology of arriving at the aforementioned amount; and

(d) the amount of money that has re-entered the market in the form of fresh investments by the beneficiaries of the tax rate cut?

PMC Bank Scam

199. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big scam has recently been detected in Maharashtra based Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of account holders affected due to the scam;

(c) why the scam could not be detected at the initial stages;

(d) whether most of the account holders in PMC Bank are under shock and some of them even lost their lives; and

(e) what action Government has taken or proposes to take to ensure that the money of the account holders is safe and they will get their money back?

Special Category Status for Odisha

200. SHRI AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken towards inclusion of Odisha among States with Special Category Status (SCS) and the details thereof;

(b) the kind of assistance extended to Special Category Status States in the year 2019, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has developed any uniform standards for the identification of future SCS States?

Losses to banks due to banking frauds

†201. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NPAs of Banks are ever increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of incidents of banking frauds that have been detected in the last three years; and

(d) the details of the losses suffered by banks due to such banking frauds?

Bringing down NPAs

202. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of NPAs of all the

Public Sector Banks in the last financial year;

(b) how does this compare with the figures of the previous year; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down NPAs?

Rate of Corporate Tax

203. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Corporate Tax is the lowest among the South East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any plans to increase the Corporate Tax; and

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

Investment of Pension Funds in share market

204. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to invest the Pension Funds in the share market; and

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

Prevention of fraudulent banking practices

205. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cognizance of fraudulent banking practices in the country that have adversely affected many depositors and the economy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in Public Sector Banks for the last three years;

(c) what steps are being taken by the Ministry to eliminate fraudulent banking practices; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Ministry to guarantee depositors their savings in such banks?

Streamlining of GST system

206. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note that the present GST system needs corrective measures to streamline the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has invited suggestions to improve the system, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has so far received any suggestions from economists and industrialists with regard to improving the present system, if so, the details thereof?

Infusion of capital to PSBs

207. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide ₹ 70,000 crore in capital to the Public Sector Banks (PSBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the announced amount of ₹ 70,000 crore is higher than the total capital requirements projected by banks;

(d) whether the additional capital will be used to fund growth by the PSBs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Selling or trading of gold reserves

208. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had been selling or trading its gold reserves;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per RBI's weekly statistical supplement data, it bought gold worth US\$ 5.1 billion and sold about US\$ 1.15 billion of its gold reserves; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction of income tax under Direct Tax Code

209. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the panel on Direct Tax Code;

(b) whether Government proposes to reduce personal income tax as per the recommendations of the above panel;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the timeline therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Improving the conditions of PSBs

210. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to improve the conditions of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), which are only hope and source of financial help for more rural as well as urban people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Shortage of staff in PSBs

†211. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a huge shortage of staff in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) due to which they are not able to perform their work properly;

(b) the details thereof along with the response of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to do away with the shortage of staff in banks?

Frauds in PSBs

†212. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2480 cases of fraud worth ₹ 31,898.63 crore in 18 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have come in the cognizance of Government during April to June 2019;

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

(c) the reasons for unabated frauds involving huge amount of money in banks especially in the State Bank of India;

(d) whether involvement of bank personnels has also been detected therein; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop economic frauds and the results thereof?

Infusion of money into rural economy

213. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to infuse money into the rural economy through welfare programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Opening of ATMs in unrepresented areas

214. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals are with the banks for opening and putting ATM facility in various parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had asked the banks to open branches in unrepresented areas; and

(c) whether the banks have also been asked to put up ATMs in all areas which do not have this facility?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact on profitability due to bank mergers

215. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the 10 banks that Government has decided to merge to create four, nine have net Non-performing Assets of over 5 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to high bad loans of the merged entities, profitability could be impacted in the near term?

Smart contracts system

216. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has developed a policy proposal on the smart contracts system; and

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

Impact of payment banks on PSBs

217. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of payment banks functioning in the country at present;

(b) the payment banks that have already been given approval but are yet to start their operations;

(c) the criteria followed for allowing such payment banks;

(d) in what way the functioning of payment banks affects the Public Sector Banks;

(e) whether there is any payment bank that started or is going to start as a joint venture between any Public Sector Banks; and

(f) the number of complaints received so far by the competent authority against payment banks and the actions taken on those complaints?

Shrinking GDP growth rate

218. SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GDP growth rate has fallen to 5 per cent during April-June, 2019 quarter, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the projected GDP growth rate by World Bank for the current fiscal year is below that of Nepal and Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for shrinking of Indian economy?

Written-off bad debts

†219. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has written-off the bad debts worth ₹ 55,356 crore in the last month, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the bad debts written-off in the last three years till date, State/ Union Territory-wise and bank-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for recovery of such bad debts before writing them off?

Pending GST refunds

220. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the GST refunds that are remaining pending;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any initiatives to expedite GST refunds;

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

(e) the details regarding GST refunds issued during the last six months?

Investigations of companies by ED

221. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several companies undergoing proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) are also facing investigations by the ED over alleged money laundering by their promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government agencies are facing problems to seize the assets of several such companies and their promoters in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Projects funded by AIIB in Andhra Pradesh

222. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are three on-going projects relating to 24x7 power, rural road connectivity and urban water supply in Andhra Pradesh funded by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with an estimated cost of US \$2000 million with AIIB's share of US \$ 1,000 million; and

(b) if so, the status of each of the above projects and by when all the three projects are going to be completed?

Reforms to strengthen PSBs

223. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to strengthen the Public Sector Banks (PSBs); and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken on reforms and capital infusion in Public Sector Banks so that they can serve their customers better?

Additional funds to Andhra Pradesh

224. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh was given additional funds during

the last three years and in first seven months of the current fiscal year as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act besides devolution and Central share of Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Improvement in economic growth rate

225. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actuals with respect to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of the country during the last three years;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the economic growth rate of the country?

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Cess

226. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Cess after 1st of July, 2017;

(b) the details of initiatives and programmes on which the money was spent; and

(c) the reason(s) why Government continued collecting revenue even after the abolition of the cess?

Indian Banks NPAs

227. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian banks' gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad loans, stood at ₹10.25 lakh crore as of 31st March 2018; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Storing banks payment data in foreign country servers

228. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banks and Government financial institutions are processing and storing the data relating to payments in foreign country servers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any guidelines or instructions for data-localisation to ensure safety of customers?

Development financial institution for infrastructure financing

229. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is considering to set up a development financial institution to solve the infrastructure financing needs of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the banks do not have the long term funds to finance such projects;

(c) whether Government's said proposal is aimed at improving access to long term finance for projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fixation of pay from pre-revised grade pay

230. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued general orders for fixation of pay for officials who were promoted from pre-revised grade pay of ₹ 4,200/- to ₹ 4,600/- between 01/01/2006 to 29/08/2008 to minimum at ₹ 18,460/- as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Union of India and others *versus* Rajkumar Anand dated 14/03/2019 to avoid unnecessary litigation and expenses incurred thereon;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date and number of the said orders;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when said orders would be issued?

Banking facilities to senior citizens at doorsteps

231. SHRI RAJKUMAR
DHOOT:
SHRI D. KUPENDRA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the banks in the country to provide doorstep facilities to account holders especially;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be implemented by the banks?

Violation of rules against the interests of account holders

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken, by the Reserve Bank of India in the cases of violation of rules against the interests of account holders of banks and finance companies/societies during last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to laxity of Reserve Bank of India the money of account holders has been stuck with banks and finance companies/societies and they are unable to withdraw their money; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount of guarantee provided to account holders in case of bankruptcy of banks and finance companies/societies?

Inclusion of petroleum products under GST

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring the petroleum products under Goods and Services Tax (GST);

(b) the reasons to keep the petroleum products out of GST;

(c) whether it is a fact that the various taxes on petroleum products by Central and State Governments are equal to their original price; and

(d) the original prices of petroleum products and State-wise prices thereof after the levy of taxes by State and Centre?

Making India a five lakh crore economy

†234. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to make five lakh crore economy;

(b) the extent to which we are lagging behind to achieve the target of five lakh crore economy;

(c) the steps taken to fulfill the basic needs to enable India to become five lakh crore economy; and

(d) the details thereof?

Slowdown in national economy

235. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is intending to revise fiscal deficit from the current deficit target of 3.3 per cent in view of the economic slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would push for spending by various Ministries, as per the Budget plan, in view of slow pace of spending;

(d) if so, the percentage of spending by various Ministries as on 31st October, 2019; and

(e) any other measures proposed to boost and to revive the national economy, the details thereof?

Growth rate of economy

236. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of the economy

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during the last two years and the current year;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the slowdown in the world economy affecting foreign trade of the country, if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether India is lagging behind China in economic endeavours, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether as per the estimates of the World Bank, the Indian economy will overtake China?

Corporate tax under dispute

237. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has maintained any data regarding Corporate Tax under dispute;

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

(c) whether amount of corporate tax under dispute has risen in recent years;

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

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce corporate tax under dispute?

Stake sale and monetisation of assets in PSUs

238. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously

considering a proposal to reduce its stake in a number of State-owned companies below 51 per cent and monetisation of land and other assets of PSUs;

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

(c) the details of formula/guidelines fixed by Government for stake sale and monetisation of land and other assets of PSUs?

Elimination of certain centrally sponsored schemes

239. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 15th Finance Commission has recommended eliminating certain centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the step is being taken in consultation with the States;

(d) the amount of fund that will be available post elimination of these centrally sponsored schemes; and

(e) the details of any plan that has been made about the utilisation of these funds?

Investments in J&K

240. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to attract more investments in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Transfer of Central funds due to
Telangana**

241. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA
RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an
inordinate delay in transferring funds due
to Telangana under devolution, central share
in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and
other schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds released to
Telangana under various heads from
Government during last three years?

Devaluation of rupee against dollar

242. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
refer to the answer to Unstarred Question
1787 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th July,
2019 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still the value
of rupee as on 24.11.2019 is 70.98 against
the dollar; and

(b) what are the reasons for constant
low value and the factors responsible for
it?

**Raising minimum pension under
Employees' Pension Scheme**

243. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to raise
minimum pension under the Employees'
Pension Scheme;

(b) whether the existing Government
contribution to the scheme is under
consideration for increase; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Losses incurred by PSBs

244. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks
(PSBs) in the country are reportedly
incurring losses in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of profit earned or
losses incurred during the last three years
and the current year, along with the reasons
for such losses, bank-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or being
taken by Government/Reserve Bank of
India (RBI) in this regard?

Action against financial crimes

245. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) details of the number of persons or
agencies summoned and/or investigated for
violating the Prevention of Money
Laundering Act, 2002 and Foreign Exchange
Management Act, 1999 during the last three
years, year-wise and Act-wise;

(b) the details of the value of financial
crimes suspected and/or reported, penalties
imposed, the value of attachment and
confiscation of properties as proceeds of
crime for the last three years, year-wise;
and

(c) the details of all cases investigated, with details of persons involved, financial crime committed/suspected, and action undertaken in the last year?

(c) if so, whether Government has any plan to balance GST rates which have been levied on food and post-meal process?

GST Review Committee

246. SHRI VAIKO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a GST review committee to augment GST collection and administration, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it would also include encouraging voluntary compliance and traders friendly system, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other measures proposed to make the GST simple and trader friendly, especially for small traders, handloom and powerloom weavers etc.?

Balancing the rates of GST on food and post-meal process

†247. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government implemented GST on food items at the rate of 5 per cent whereas on toilet and other sanitary materials, the GST rate is 12 per cent or more;

(b) if so, whether this GST rate does not seem to be fair and contrary to nature as for eating and the post-meal process which spreads dirt; and

PSBs accounted for bulk of frauds

248. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) which constitute the largest market share in banks lending have accounted for the bulk of frauds reported in 2018-19;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that many hundreds of counterfeit notes of the demonetised ₹ 1000 denomination had been detected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Vision for \$5 trillion economy

249. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Honourable Minister set a vision for a \$5 trillion economy during Parliament's Budget presentation 2019;

(b) whether the economy increased by \$0.85 trillion in the preceding five years at an average rate of \$0.17 trillion per year;

(c) whether the economy will have to expand by \$3.3 trillion to reach from \$2.7 trillion as on 31.03.2019 to \$5 trillion as on 31.03.2024;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the rate of GDP growth that would be required to achieve the target; and

(e) the current GDP growth rate and the projections for upcoming years?

Transfer of total revenue contributed by States to Centre

250. SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) transfer of total revenue contributed by States in India to Centre, year-wise, for the past three years;

(b) the reasons for the increase or decrease, if any, in terms of total revenue contributed by States; and

(c) the percentage of total revenue contributed by States to Centre with reference to total Centre revenue collection?

Expenditure outlay for NHM

251. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has targets of public expenditure of 2.5 per cent of the GDP by 2025 under National Health Mission (NHM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether it is a fact that achieving this target of 2.5 per cent of GDP would take longer than 2025; and

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

Modification of provisions of NMC Act

252. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that some of the provisions in the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act are detrimental to the patients as the Act provides eligibility to the unqualified persons to practice medicine with pursuing simply a five months bridge course, and so needs to be reconsidered, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has made any plan to rethink on its implementation in view of the public health?

Shortage of doctors

†253. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge shortage of doctors in the country;

(b) if so, whether there should be at least one doctor for every thousand population in the country;

(c) if so, the plans of Government to achieve this target;

(d) whether Government is considering to upgrade the district hospitals into medical colleges to improve the health services of the country;

(e) if so, the total number of district hospitals being upgraded in the first stage under this scheme; and

(f) the details thereof, district-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Awareness about pollution hazard in India

254. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were nearly 1.2 million deaths in India that were caused by exposure to air pollution, as reported in the State of Global Air 2019 Report;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to raise awareness regarding this hazard; and

(c) the current statistics of air pollution related deaths and diseases, State-wise?

Skewed doctor-patient ratio in Government hospitals

255. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average doctor-patient ratio in Government hospitals across India, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of doctors in Government hospitals;

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

(d) the steps being taken to improve this situation?

Elimination of TB

256. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has committed to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, requiring a reduction of 10 per cent a

year, but in 2017, it only managed a 2 per cent reduction from the previous year;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that positive TB test is not always a cause for worry; and

(d) whether Government is focusing on preventive treatment of those who are in contact with those tested positive, if so, the details thereof?

Sale of tobacco products near prohibited spots

257. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco companies in India are systematically targeting children as young as eight by selling tobacco products and placing tobacco advertisements near schools, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that around 32.5 per cent sellers offered free tobacco products to children, and 37.5 per cent offered discounts on these tobacco items, if so, the details thereof?

State Health Index

258. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Bank and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has brought out a "States' Health Index" document;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the healthcare status of Kerala; and

(c) whether there are grievances from States like Kerala which stands high in the ranks to the effect that they are less considered in the disbursements of Central funds for healthcare facilities as compared to lower ranking States in the index and if so, the details thereof?

Scheme for development of SC/ST women and children

259. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any healthcare scheme specially focusing on SC/ST women and their children, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the financial support made under such scheme to States/UTs and particularly for Kerala?

Inadequate infrastructure for blood banks

260. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to inadequate infrastructure pertaining to blood banks, there is shortage of blood supply to patients, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has conceived any long term plan to ensure timely supply of blood to patients through blood banks across the country; and

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

Empanelment of hospitals in Gujarat under PMSSY

†261. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel of hospitals has been prepared in Gujarat to provide medical facilities under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any fund has been released to Gujarat under this scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have fixed discretionary quota for the Members of Parliament in this regard?

Autonomous body for regulating medical devices

262. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog have rejected the proposal to bring medical devices under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO);

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons for not accepting the proposal of Government; and

(c) whether Government is considering to set up an autonomous body on the lines of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for medical devices/equipments and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Register on organs for transplantations

263. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains any national register on donor and supply of hearts and kidneys in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of any large scale illegal transplantations of hearts and kidneys by private hospitals in the country; and

(c) if so, the details and action taken thereon?

Exemption of customs duty on life-saving drugs

264. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has withdrawn the exemption of customs duty on certain life saving drugs used in the treatment of cancer, HIV and cardiac failure;

(b) whether it is going to further create problem and increase the treatment cost for patients using these drugs;

(c) if so, the alternative medicine Government suggests for the patients using those drugs on whom the exemption of the customs duty has been withdrawn; and

(d) whether Government has surveyed the availability of the alternative medicines in the Indian market as substitutes for those drugs whose customs duty has been withdrawn?

AB-NHPM

265. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) aims at providing a coverage of ₹ 5 lakh per family annually benefitting more than 10 crore poor families in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with salient features of the said Mission;

(c) whether a number of State Governments have shown reluctance to implement the said Mission in their States as they already have similar Mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has completed the empanelment of hospitals under the said Mission and if so, the details thereof, State -wise?

Reforms in MBBS curriculum

266. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes major reforms in MBBS curriculum;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which new curriculum is likely to be ready for medical students?

Cancer hospitals

267. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated

any scheme to introduce more hospitals specialised in cancer treatment in the country; and

(b) how many such new hospitals are being added in the next two years?

Medical devices under the jurisdiction of CDSCO

268. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to bring all medical devices under the jurisdiction of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) with an aim to improve their quality as well as safety;

(b) whether Government also proposes to establish a separate statutory body on the lines of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for the regulation of medical devices; and

(c) if so, details of the proposal and time-frame for implementation of the plan?

Deaths of children under age of five

269. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 500 children below the age of five years die of diarrhoea everyday;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote awareness as well as provide proper medication and health facilities to the children under age of five; and

(c) the State-wise data of the number of deaths caused due to diarrhoea and other such diseases?

Enhancing research work in the pharmaceutical science

†270. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of research work in the field of pharmaceutical science has come to light in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering on enhancing the research work in this sector; and

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

Cancer hospitals in Himachal Pradesh

271. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the increasing number of cancer patients in the country;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to start new hospitals equipped to treat cancer patients in Himachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof?

Circuit faculty system in newly established AIIMS

†272. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider adopting 'circuit faculty system'

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to make AIIMS established in different parts of the country fully functional;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of establishment of various AIIMS, there is no reduction in the burden on AIIMS, Delhi because the infrastructure similar to AIIMS, Delhi is not available in the rest of the AIIMS; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider sending faculty of AIIMS, Delhi to various other AIIMS for some time by adopting 'circuit faculty scheme' to provide credibility to other AIIMS, excluding AIIMS, Delhi?

Replication of Waiting Huts for Pregnant Women project

273. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government is planning to replicate West Bengal's 'Waiting Huts for Pregnant Women' project throughout the country, which has recently won the Skoch Award and has increased the institutional delivery of babies, if so, the details thereof?

Ban of Pan Masala

274. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains data of oral cancer deaths due to consumption of Pan Masala, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether steps have been taken to ensure the ban on Pan Masala and similar products; and

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

Cold chain for vaccines

275. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended financial and technical support to the States/UTs for proper storage of vaccines in the rural areas, particularly those with inadequate supply of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to encourage use of solar-powered refrigerators and vaccine coolers to store vaccines in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

Re-examining schemes/policies in health sector

276. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to re-examine the existing schemes and policies in the health sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has found any shortcomings in these schemes and policies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/being taken by Government to make these schemes and policies more effective?

Ill-equipped hospitals

277. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

and private-run hospitals are unprepared for natural disasters like the recent one in Chennai floods, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that hospitals including primary health centres are not equipped with properly trained staff, adequate machines to help the victims, lack of medicines and poor sanitary conditions, if so, the details thereof and steps taken/being taken to equip the hospitals to face any untoward incidents in future?

Working conditions of new AIIMS

278. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities available in the new AIIMS are inadequate when compared to the number of patients coming on daily basis;

(b) if so, the details of the amount spent on improvements of facilities, maintenance and construction of new buildings in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any submission from the Kerala Government demanding an AIIMS for the State; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

Survey on doctor-population ratio

279. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey or study on the doctor-

population ratio in India during the past one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and under one allopathic Government doctor, how many people are being treated in the country;

(c) whether this ratio is complying with the WHO's recommended doctor-population ratio; and

(d) if not, the actions taken in this regard?

Diabetes and cholesterol impairment in children

280. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the reports submitted by the National Nutrition Survey of Children and Adolescents, there are increasing cases of diabetes and high cholesterol among children in the country, if so, what actions have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Population control and legislation to curb population growth

281. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest steps taken by Government in consultation with State Governments to control the population;

(b) whether Government proposes to adopt any law to control/stabilise population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Availability of generic medicines in
CGHS dispensaries**

282. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that generic medicines are, quality-wise and cost-wise, equal to traditional allopathic medicines;

(b) if so, whether such medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries all over the country;

(c) whether doctors are prescribing such medicines to patients; and

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

Control of vector-borne and water-borne diseases in flood affected areas

283. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the people of flood affected areas in the country are prone to vector-borne and water-borne diseases spreading due to the clogging of water in the flood affected areas;

(b) whether Government, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, has taken all necessary steps in dealing with these diseases; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in recent floods across the country, State-wise?

AB-PMJAY

†284. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objective of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is to incorporate more than 10 crore poor and weak families in this scheme while providing coverage of upto ₹ 5 lakh per year to each family being admitted in the secondary and tertiary hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana provides paperless and cashless facilities to its beneficiaries while availing services in empanelled hospitals (both Government and private) across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Research on developing new medicines

†285. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research work in the country on the diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and dengue that mostly affect the poor are negligible;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to do researches on new medicines for these diseases; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Transforming HSCs and PHCs into HWCs

286. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme, Health Sub-Centres (HSCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are being transformed into Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details of HSCs and PHCs which have been covered under the scheme in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the details of HSCs & PHCs which have been transformed and those which are yet to be transformed, along with the fund allocated/released to Himachal Pradesh under the scheme?

Cutting spread of anti-microbial resistance

287. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) has asked the member countries including India to adopt classification in their health systems to cut the spread of anti-microbial resistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is going to adopt the classification of WHO as it would help our medical professionals to select the right antibiotic, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mental health awareness initiatives

288. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the mental wellness of the people including children, women and the elderly;

(b) the amount allocated for the mental health and amount spent on it;

(c) the initiatives undertaken by Government to increase awareness about mental well-being of people; and

(d) whether Government has laid down any guidelines with respect to mental health awareness in school and college children, if so, the details thereof?

Banning sale of loose cigarettes

289. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to ban sale of loose cigarettes as a preventive measure, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering increasing the legal age of consumption of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years, if so, the details thereof?

Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh

290. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilisation Fund) set up by Government almost an year back is successful;

(b) if so, the success achieved in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for sustainable population growth and the details thereof?

Rise in TB cases

291. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was substantial increase in number of TB cases reported in the first half of the year 2019 as compared to the corresponding period in 2018, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government will be able to completely eradicate TB by 2025, and if so, the details thereof?

Assault on doctors and hospital staff

292. SHRI G.C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether assault on doctors and hospital staff have been reported in various Government hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof of such cases reported during last two years, hospital and State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Indian Medical Association had directed the members of all its State branches to stage protests against such attacks on doctors across the country which led to shutdown of OPD, Emergency services and resulted into death of patients, if so, details thereof;

(d) whether there is urgent need for a specific legislation to protect doctors/health professionals; and

(e) the preventive steps taken by Government in this regard?

Establishment of floating solar power plant

293. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on establishment of a floating solar power plant in Penna-Ahobilam water tank situated in Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any methodology has been chalked out for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Electricity production by renewable and non-renewable sources

294. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electricity production by renewable and non-renewable sources in the country, year-wise and State-wise, for the last five years;

(b) whether any new wind stations, hydro power projects and solar stations have been set up by Government in the last five years, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is taking any measures to increase the production of electricity by renewable sources; and

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

New and Renewable Energy

295. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering norms to attract developers to set up solar projects; and
- (b) if so, complete details thereof?

Wind energy projects

296. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the recorded progress on the proposal for installing 20 GW capacity of wind energy projects by March, 2020; and
- (b) what steps have been taken in land acquisition for the 20 GW wind energy projects, the details thereof?

Promotion of new and renewable energy

†297. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared any work plan to end dependency on traditional sources of energy and to promote use of new and renewable energy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of renewable energy plant/institutes established during last five years in the country and electricity production capacity of these plants/institutes in megawatt; and
- (c) the target set by Government for energy production through renewable

sources till year 2022, and percentage of total energy requirements expected to be fulfilled by this production?

Lower tariffs of solar energy

†298. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during last three years production of solar energy has increased in the country and due to increased production the tariffs have been reduced;
- (b) if so, the details of current tariff rates thereof; and
- (c) the details of sale of solar energy during last three years by DISCOM of various States?

Generation of power from biomass, biofuel

299. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce new policies to boost the generation of hydro power and electricity from bio-mass and bio-fuel, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to check the transmission bottlenecks and losses incurred thereby, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reforms being brought in distribution, transmission of energy to achieve capacity utilisation of power grids?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Electricity connections under
Saubhagya Yojana in
Uttar Pradesh**

300. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the electric connections provided under Saubhagya Yojana in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the details of the connection to be provided under Saubhagya Yojana during the next two years in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise?

**Measures to meet increased load on
grid**

301. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent drive to connect each house with electric connection has increased the load to the grid;

(b) if so, the anticipated peak hour load of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) if so, whether Government has increased power generation to meet out new loads;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Gas based high capacity power plants
in India**

302. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many gas based high capacity power plants are there in different States of the country, the details thereof;

(b) how many of them are functional, how many are facing shortage of gas, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to make available domestic gas so that all plants function in optimum capacity, the details thereof?

**Electricity production by thermal
power stations in the country**

303. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total electricity production by thermal power stations in the country;

(b) how many new thermal power stations have been established in the country during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government proposes to construct new thermal power plants in the future, if so, the details thereof?

Impact of UDAY scheme on States

†304. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special financial aid (grant) provided to those States who participated in UDAY scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that participating States of UDAY scheme are expected to undergo certain improvement in areas like electricity, production, distribution, transmission, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details of improvements carried out by the States in above mentioned areas?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Electrification and allocation of funds for Bihar

†305. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated by Government of India for the electrification in the villages of State of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of villages of Bihar where the electrification has been completed and by when the villages deprived of electrification are planned to be electrified; and

(c) the district-wise details of the electrification done in Bihar?

Electric vehicles

306. KUMARI SELJA:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is encouraging people to use electric vehicles instead of gasoline/diesel vehicles;

(b) whether any action has been taken to provide infrastructures like charging stations for the said vehicles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Companies generating power in the country

307. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies generating

power in the country both in private sector and Government sector;

(b) the details of cost of production of power by each of these units, unit-wise; and

(c) the rate per unit of power sold by these companies, the company-wise details thereof?

Adverse impact of LED on retina

308. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that as per a French Report (ANSAS), blue light in LED damage retina, if so, details of the study;

(b) whether Government is aware that experts feel the need to regulate LED products to ensure low flicker rate;

(c) whether any consultations with stakeholders and industry have been held in this regard; and

(d) if so, how Government is planning to go ahead on this?

Research on energy storage

†309. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is carrying out research work on storage of energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the achievements of the last five years; and

(c) the actions being taken to inspire the students to do research on storage of energy, details thereof along with the outcome?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Research in AI and robots

310. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred as a proportion of total expenditure on research related to Artificial Intelligence and machine learning;

(b) whether the Ministry has undertaken any research activities regarding the use of AI driven robots especially in the medical sector and the details thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred on research activities regarding AI driven robots; and

(d) if not, whether the Ministry is planning on conducting such research in the near future?

Women Scientist Scheme

311. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited under "Women Scientist Scheme" (WOS) during the last three years, the details thereof;

(b) the details of proposal to simplify the rules for recruitment of beneficiaries under the scheme; and

(c) whether girls students have not been considered under the WOS?

Increase in research in the field of Artificial Intelligence

312. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to improve the research in Artificial Intelligence in India since out of the 22,000 Ph.D. educated researchers worldwide in Artificial Intelligence (AI), only 386 are in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to push research in Artificial Intelligence to promote competent research in this field, if so, the details of plans formulated; and

(c) whether Government has allotted any formidable budget for the increase in research, if so, the details of budget allotted?

Scheme to search talented youths from rural areas

313. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government schemes in place to search talented youths from rural areas having innovative scientific ideas;

(b) the innovative ideas that came into focus out of these schemes till date; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps during last three years to further their innovative ideas, if so, the details thereof?

Identification of iconic tourist sites in Odisha

314. SHRI SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iconic tourism sites which have been identified in Odisha from among the seventeen iconic tourist sites identified by Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for not identifying them in Odisha; and

(c) the details of selection criteria for selecting the 17 iconic tourist sites by Government?

Promotion of Buddhist Circuit

315. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared an action plan to promote the Buddhist Circuit to foreign tourists; and

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

Promotion of tourist centres

‡316. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the new schemes implemented during the last three years by Government to promote tourism in the country;

(b) the total financial allocation made for these schemes and the number of old tourist centres updated and developmental works done for new tourism centres, the details thereof, State-wise and place-wise; and

(c) the number of new tourism centres planned to be developed by Government in coming three years, the details thereof?

Funds for development of rural circuit and spiritual circuit

317. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism will consider to sanction funds for

development of rural circuit and spiritual circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Tourism development in last three years

318. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote synergy amongst various stakeholders towards the development of tourism in the last three years including the current year.

(b) what are the new initiatives taken up by Government in order to promote tourism amenities in the country; and

(c) the State-wise list of tourism programmes run by Government to promote the indigenous history of every State?

Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir region

319. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent developments have affected the tourism in Jammu and Kashmir region, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many tourists have visited the region in the month of August, September and October, 2019 and how many in the same period during 2017 and 2018;

(c) the percentage of reduction in revenue received from tourism especially in the month of August, September and October, 2019; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether any step has been taken by Government to improve the scope of tourism in the State post August 5, if so, the details thereof?

Rural Tourism

320. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that share of rural

tourism is less than one per cent of total tourism economy;

(b) the funds allocated in last three years, year-wise and State-wise for the development of rural tourism, if so, the details of growth, if any, in the rural tourism economy, year-wise in the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th November, 2019
Kartika 22, 1941 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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