

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, February 2, 2021/ 13 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions -- 15

New strategy for achieving GDP growth

1 Shri K.J. Alphons:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to revise the target date for achieving Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD five trillion in the light of the collapse of global economy due to the pandemic; and
- (b) the new strategy for achieving the target considering the fact that there are very strong headwinds?

Low expenditure on research and development

2 Shri Dinesh Trivedi:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of the Ministry's expenditure that Department of Health Research accounts for;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the allocation on health research is the lowest compared to the allocations for similar departments engaged in Research and Development (R&D) activities;
- (c) if so, the reasons for low expenditure on research;
- (d) whether Government plans to increase allocation to health research; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Contribution of farming sector to economy

3 # Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the contribution of farming in the economy of the country in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- (b) the extent to which the farming sector contributed in strengthening the economy of the country during the COVID pandemic;
- (c) the extent to which the industry helped to bail out the economy in the COVID period;
- (d) the details thereof; and

(e) the likely decline in the economy of the country, if the contribution of farming to bail out the economic slowdown in the period is kept aside?

Additional finance on working capital and rescheduling of loans

4 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether industries which have seen their turnover affected for more than nine months required more financial assistance beyond 20 per cent additional finance on working capital for industries extended by Banks, which is a generalised advantage given to all the industries; and

(b) whether Government has envisaged any plan of rescheduling loans along with extending moratorium for two years on interest and loan repayment without marking as NPAs?

Citizen-centric reforms by States and additional borrowings

5 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified citizen-centric areas for reforms to be undertaken by States so that States become eligible for enhanced borrowing limits, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has undertaken any reform in those areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has granted permission for additional borrowing, if any, to the State of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof?

National Suicide Prevention Policy

6 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any measure to draft a National Suicide Prevention Policy, as provided for in the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017;

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

(c) whether any inter-sectoral initiative has been undertaken by Government for suicide prevention, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has a strategy for reducing deaths by suicide and attempted suicides in India, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has held any consultation with suicide prevention experts in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

COVID-19 treatment under AYUSH

7 Shri Anil Desai:

Will the Minister of **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that treatment for COVID-19 is also available under Ayurveda and homoeopathic streams, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the efforts being made by Government to make common people aware of such effective treatment of COVID-19?

GST Compensation Fund to Tamil Nadu

8 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States that experienced an increase in their revenue collection due to the provision of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compensation Fund, and the details for the past two financial years, financial year-wise;
- (b) the number of States that experienced a fall in their revenue collections with the introduction of GST, and the data for the past two financial years, financial year-wise; and
- (c) the details of the payments made to the State of Tamil Nadu from the GST Compensation Fund in 2018-19 and 2019-20?

AYUSH Hospitals in India

9 Dr. Bhagwat Karad:

Will the Minister of **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) hospitals functioning in the country including Maharashtra and the details thereof;
- (b) the number of staff strength, including doctors, and the present position in each of the traditional systems of medicine, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, hospital-wise, stream-wise;
- (c) the corrective measures taken by Government to supplement the efforts of various State Governments to promote AYUSH in the country, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (d) whether Government proposes to set up a AYUSH Research Centre in Maharashtra; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, stream-wise?

India on watchlist of currency manipulators

10 Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US has put India on the watchlist of currency manipulators in 2020;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the plan of action being taken by Government to address the concerns and get India removed from the watchlist?

Improving hospital infrastructure

11 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made by Government to improve infrastructure of hospitals/Public Healthcare Centres in order to provide quality healthcare services in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to deploy sufficient manpower in healthcare facilities across the country and, if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon;
- (c) the concrete action taken by Government to resolve the unmanageable patient load in public hospitals including for expansion of hospital infrastructure; and
- (d) the details of the action taken for ensuring adequate supply of medicines in public hospitals/ healthcare facilities?

Revision of pension of retired bank employees

12 Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pension of retired bank employees has not been revised for the past three decades and the Indian Bank Association at its 72nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) has advised the Bank authorities to update the pension;
- (b) if so, the response of the Ministry thereon when Regulation 35 (1) of Bank (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995 emphasise the updating of Basic Pension and Additional Pension, wherever applicable; and
- (c) the details thereof along with reaction of Government in this regard?

Insurance Scheme for Health Workers

13 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of claims submitted under Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting COVID-19 till December, 2020, State-wise;
- (b) the details of claims approved till December, 2020, and amount disbursed, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any claim pending for disbursement; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the reasons for delay and by when they are likely to be settled?

Amendments to Electricity Act

14 Shri M. Shanmugam:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had proposed to amend the Electricity Act and sent draft amendments for comments, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it proposes to vest the powers of appointing regulatory commissions and subsidy to consumers in the hands of Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any opposition to the proposal has come before Government and, if so, the response of Government thereto; and
- (d) whether subsidy to farmers and common consumers would be ensured in case power distribution is given to private parties?

Shortfall in Compensation Cess collection

15 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the data for compensation to States accruing on account of loss of revenue arising due to GST Compensation from 2017 till now;
- (b) the data for compensation cess collections from 2017 till now, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that GST compensation requirements of States are increasing at faster rates than the compensation cess collections, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the States would be compensated if the cess collections are not sufficient to provide GST compensation to States and the details thereof?

New Delhi
The 27th January 2021
7 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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