

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 -- 160

Research on various aspects of medicinal plants

1 Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:

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

- (a) the details of the research undertaken by the accredited institutions and universities on various aspects of medicinal plants so far in the country;
- (b) whether these researches have helped in developing new medicines in Ayurveda;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote ayurvedic medicine globally?

Herbal medicine research centres

2 Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) the number of herbal medicine research centres developed/ functioning in the country till date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether Government provides training for production, extraction, storage and marketing of herbs, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special scheme has been formulated to promote research in the AYUSH sector particularly for the development of quality, effectiveness and capacity of ayurvedic products, with reference to the prevailing deadly coronavirus and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the said purpose?

Contradictory protocols for treating COVID-19 symptoms

3 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the AYUSH protocol against COVID-19 mentions hypoxia and breathlessness as mild symptoms which could be cured by herbs mixed in water;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the Ministry of Health's official protocol listing hypoxia and

breathlessness as moderate symptoms not needing immediate medical attention; and
(c) the reason behind this contradiction and why has the same not been corrected by the AYUSH Ministry?

Research collaborations with foreign countries

4 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

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

- (a) whether Government has set up any research collaborations, interactions with mainstream institutions or signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign countries in the field of AYUSH system; and
- (b) the status of the National AYUSH Mission and Health Facilities created; and
- (c) if so, the details of beneficiaries, allocations and expenditures during 2019-2020?

High pendency of Utilisation Certificates

5 Shri Dinesh Trivedi:

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

- (a) the number of pending Utilisation Certificates (UCs) at present in National Medicinal Plants Board and National AYUSH Mission;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to liquidate pending UCs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has operationalised a digital online portal to solve the problem of high pendency; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Market opportunities for AYUSH products

6 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether the market of Ayurveda, that holistically diagnoses health problems, is now growing rapidly in the world due to the fear of side effects of allopathic medicines;
- (b) whether Government is ready to become the promoter to revive the civilisation; and
- (c) if so, the number of products that were exported to various countries during the year 2019-2020 and the amount of profit made from the same?

Preservation of old Ayurveda colleges

7 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether Ayurveda colleges including that at Kolkata (West Bengal) have been converted into modern medical colleges thereby reducing the importance of Ayurveda;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to preserve old Ayurveda colleges while at the same time establishing new Ayurveda colleges; and
- (c) the number of new Ayurveda colleges opened and planned to be opened in the year 2019-2020?

Establishment of Ayurveda based cancer hospitals

8 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to open Ayurveda based cancer hospitals in view of the increasing number of cancer patients in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Surgical operations performed by Post Graduate practitioners of Ayurveda

9 Shri Anand Sharma:

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

- (a) whether trained Post Graduate practitioners of ayurveda are permitted to perform surgery under the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Amendment Regulations, 2020 and, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether such surgical procedures adequately ensure the health, safety and post-surgical care of patients concerned and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether such procedures are identical in any form to those practised in allopathic medicine?

AYUSH University in Tamil Nadu

10 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to set up Ayush University in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Ayurvedic University or Research Centre is to be set up in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Research on plant based diet

11 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether any research is being undertaken on various aspects of plant based diet in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government validates the international health bodies to work on plant based diet to cure diseases, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has prepared plans to change the mindset of the people to adopt/embrace plant based diet, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is considering to formulate any such study; and
- (e) the details of institutions involved in such research work?

Promotion of Yoga education

12 # Smt. Kanta Kardam:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to promote Yoga education on a large scale across the country at various levels, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government plans to train a large number of people in 'Yoga' and sends them to various countries to promote and spread it all over the world and, if so, the details thereof?

CSR spending on national heritage

13 Shri Ripun Bora:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during 2016-19, companies operating in the country have spent maximum amount on national heritage than on local development from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund;
- (b) if so, the details of amount spent from CSR funds during 2016-19, State-wise and project-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is a drop of over 56 per cent of CSR spending during 2019-20 on such heritage projects and, if so, the details of expenditure thereof; and
- (d) the details of CSR spending since Financial Year 2017-18 to till December 2020, State-wise and company-wise?

CSR Fund for COVID-19 Crisis.

14 Dr. Banda Prakash:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the expenditure from Public Sector and Private Sector companies from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards the mitigation of the COVID-19 crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the activities carried out from the CSR funds during the last 11 months; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any special step to incentivise the companies to increase the utilisation of the CSR funds for the COVID-19 crisis?

Tax subsidy to IT companies

15 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the tax subsidy given to IT companies in the last three years, State-wise; and
- (b) whether any additional benefit to the agriculture-based companies operating in the country is also being extended, if so, the details thereof?

Economic stimulus given to companies during the COVID-19 pandemic

16 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of economic stimulus given to companies under the special package

announced during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) the number of companies which went bankrupt and how many jobs were lost due to shutdown of many companies; and

(c) the details of companies closed during the last financial year?

Historical forts in Maharashtra

17 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

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

(a) whether any survey of the forts in the State of Maharashtra, which are of historical importance has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of these forts are in a dilapidated condition and are in urgent need of repairs and further maintenance;

(d) if so, whether the Archaeological Survey of India could take over these forts and ensure proper upkeep and maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Scientific studies to establish the age of Ram Setu

18 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

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

(a) whether Government has any major plan to conduct scientific studies at Ram Setu to arrive at its age;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agencies that are roped in for conducting the study and the role ASI is likely to play; and

(d) the timeline fixed to complete the study and make available the observations?

Major excavations at ancient sites conducted by ASI

19 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

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

(a) the details of ancient sites where ASI is conducting excavations during the current field season (2020-2021);

(b) the quantum of funds that have been earmarked to ASI exclusively for carrying out excavations for 2020-2021 field season; and

(c) whether the ancient sites put to excavations have been identified based upon archaeological problem and, if so, the details with respect to each site?

Establishment of new Circle offices of ASI

20 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

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

(a) whether a few more new Circle offices have been established by ASI in the last six months down-sizing the earlier ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their respective jurisdiction;

(c) whether Government has created fresh posts for administering the new Circles or these would be managed through the already sanctioned manpower infrastructure which was skeletal even before; and

(d) whether downsizing the jurisdiction of existing Circles would bring improvement in better

overall management and development of ancient monuments and archaeological research even though the manpower infrastructure is not strengthened further and the details thereof?

CSR Funds for Cultural and Heritage Sites

21 Shri Ripun Bora:

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

- (a) whether Government has a report on receipt of CSR funds for the Cultural and Heritage sites in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that during 2015-2020 in last five financial years, national heritage places in the country have received more than 60 percent of total Corporate Social Responsibility Fund therein; and
- (c) the details of fund received and actual spendings by Government on these sites from CSR funds during 2015-2020?

Action program to preserve the nation's heritage and culture

22 Dr. Bhagwat Karad:

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

- (a) whether Government has any action program to preserve the heritage and culture of the nation; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the project under consideration?

Setting up of IIHs

23 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) the list of States considered for setting up of Indian Institutes of Heritage (IIHs);
- (b) whether a place in Andhra Pradesh has been identified by Government to set up an IIH; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

New science centre under SPoCS in Darjeeling Hills

24 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

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

- (a) whether the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has made any such proposal for setting up of a new science centre under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) in Darjeeling Hills; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

New ASI Circles

25 Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe:

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

- (a) the number of new ASI circles announced by the Ministry in past one year, State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the efforts that have been made to preserve the historical monuments in these newly identified circles and details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of money spent by the Ministry during the last one year for the upkeep and

maintenance of the historical monuments across India, State-wise details thereof?

Conservation of ancient pillars

26 # **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

- (a) whether Government will take steps for the conservation of pillars of ancient temples that have engraving in various languages and most of which are getting ruined these days; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to conserve them as historical monuments in the museums after decoding the said writings?

Development of Science City

27 # **Smt. Kanta Kardam:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to develop "Science City" in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to set up science city/ science park in the country?

National Insitute of Ocean Technology

28 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has information that the foundation stone of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) at Thupilipalem village in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh was set up in 2016;
- b) whether the project has been expedited after the Hon'ble Vice President's direction in 2019; and
- c) whether an expected date of completion has been decided by Government, if so, the details thereof?

GST Council's recommendation on hassle-free registration of entities

29 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Law Committee of the GST Council has recommended several changes for strict and hassle-free registration;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed changes;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that GST Council now proposes Aadhaar-based authentication process;
- (d) if so, to what extent this would help in bringing down registration period from 60 days to an acceptable level; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to weed out fake entities?

Fall in foreign exchange reserves

30 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) whether the foreign exchange reserves of India have fallen significantly in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and its impact on the Indian economy;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measure to increase the foreign exchange reserves of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Compounding interest on moratorium amount

31 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) whether Government has received complaint regarding charging interest on interest or compound interest on moratorium amount by some Housing Finance Companies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including steps taken or to be taken in this regard?

Complaints against NBFC Banks

32 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) whether Government has received complaints against some NBFC Banks and some Housing Finance Companies, NBFC's agent who first attracts the customer by guaranting PMAY subsidy and lower ROI, but once the customer got trapped they do not support or guide for availing PMAY subsidy;
- (b) whether there are thousands of complainants who are eligible for PMAY subsidy but above said banks are not applying for PMAY subsidy for those eligible customers too and complaints are raised by the customers with RBI, Ministry of Finance and PMO also in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Loans under extended credit line guarantee scheme

33 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

- (a) the details of 26 stressed sectors identified by KV Kamath Committee for extending loans under Extended Credit Line Guarantee Scheme;
- (b) the details of loans so far disbursed under ₹3 lakh crore emergency credit line guarantee scheme so far;
- (c) whether any moratorium period is prescribed under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that there are demands to increase the repayment period from 4 years to 10 years; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Viability Gap funding scheme

34 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

- (a) the details of the revamped ₹ 8,000 crore Viability Gap Funding Scheme for infrastructure proposed by Government;
- (b) whether the scheme has been extended till 2025;
- (c) the contribution of Government in social infrastructure projects;

- (d) whether it is a fact that some pilot projects are being proposed in some States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Cash circulation amount in the country

35 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cash circulation amount in the country has reached 1.54 times that of the pre-demonetisation level;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) given that going cashless was one of the objectives of demonetisation, the reasons for Government's failure to achieve that; and
- (d) the estimate with Government about the estimated cash levels in the economy in the coming years?

Economic package for the revival of Hotel and tourism industry

36 Dr. Banda Prakash:

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

- (a) whether the hotel and tourism industry has been badly affected due to COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, the details thereof along with the guidelines issued by Government to ensure safe tourism practices;
- (b) whether Government proposes to announce economic package for the revival of hotel and tourism industry, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to compensate the hotel and tourism industry by other methods like tax rebate or reduced liability on terms of Employee Provident Fund and more, if so, the details thereof?

GST dues to States

37 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) the details of the current GST outstanding dues to each State for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for delay in payment of GST to States;
- (c) whether Government is considering borrowing money from the RBI to compensate States for GST dues; and
- (d) the number of States which have availed the increased borrowing scheme announced by Government as part of the financial package in May 2020?

Aadhaar enabled Payment Systems

38 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) the details of entities and schemes which utilise Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) for transfer of payment;
- (b) whether payment can be denied to beneficiaries if a bank account is not linked with Aadhaar in case of benefits for which payment is transferred through AePS, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether payments have been denied, if so, the amount of payments denied, State-wise and scheme-wise in the last one year; and

(d) the remedy available to someone to whom payment has been denied benefits through AePS because bank account was not linked with Aadhaar?

Prevention of corruption

39 # **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken to prevent corruption during the last three years;
- (b) the outcome of said steps taken in this regard;
- (c) the situation of our country in terms of corruption; and
- (d) the details thereof?

Setting up of Bad Bank

40 **Shri Anand Sharma:**

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

- (a) whether Government is considering setting up a Bad Bank to absorb Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of banks and financial institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such a proposal is being considered purely as a one-time measure; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Conversion of NBFCs into banks

41 **Shri Anand Sharma:**

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

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for conversion of Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) into banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether RBI has received any application for such conversions as of January 10, 2020; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Written-off bad loans

42 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) the details of bad loans written-off by Government in last three years, State/UT-wise, Bank-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the names of persons/companies whose bad loans of more than rupees 50 crores has been waived off in the said period;
- (c) the criteria followed for waiving off bad loans; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government for recovery of such bad debts before writing them off?

Loans disbursed by cooperative banks in the agriculture sector

43 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether the percentage of loans disbursed by cooperative banks in the agriculture sector has increased over the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including targets set and achievements made against the targets, State-wise including the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether Government has identified any constraint being faced by cooperative banks in disbursing loans; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including action taken by Government in this regard?

Special Tax and Tariff Exemptions to the multinational players of the IT sector

44 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to provide special tax and tariff exemptions to the multinational players of the IT sector who are willing to invest on a large scale in the country as of date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Odisha;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the mechanism being set up to monitor the said proposal?

Relaxation in Tax Slabs and Interests

45 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

- (a) whether industries in the country have been affected financially and some of the industries became sick in view of the impact of the corona virus pandemic;
- (b) whether Government can provide the details of industries that became sick due to COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) whether industrial associations have drawn attention of Government to provide relaxations in the tax slabs and interests at par with the prevalent rates in the developed countries; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to save the industries?

Restructuring packages to reset the economy

46 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

- (a) the details of the restructuring packages announced by Government to reset the economy affected due to COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (b) the progress made so far and the incentives being offered to the MSME and direct benefits being offered to the individuals to cope up with the loss suffered due to COVID-19?

Financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh

47 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) the total amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released to the States of Andhra

- Pradesh and Telangana during the current financial year;
- (b) the details of the above assistance by schemes-COVID-19 related, for disaster management, under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and special projects like Polavaram, etc.; and
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned towards revenue deficit grants to Andhra Pradesh?

Progress of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in Jharkhand

48 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

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

- (a) the State-wise breakup of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) bank accounts currently operational;
- (b) the district-wise breakup of PMJDY bank accounts in the State of Jharkhand;
- (c) the measures Government has taken to facilitate the exponential expansion of bank account access among the rural populace; and
- (d) the total amount credited to PMJDY accounts in the State of Jharkhand between April and August 2020?

Expenditure incurred on implementation of Atmanirbhar Packages

49 Dr. Ameet Yajnik:

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) the quantum of revenue expenditure incurred in the 2020-2021 financial year to implement components of the Atmanirbhar Packages 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0;
- (b) the quantum of revenue expenditure incurred to implement components of the Atmanirbhar Packages 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 upto December 31, 2020 as a proportion of total Budget Estimates for the 2020-21 financial year; and
- (c) the quantum of capital expenditure incurred to implement components of the Atmanirbhar Packages 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 upto December 31, 2020 as a proportion of total Budget Estimates for the 2020-21 Financial Year?

Growth rate of the economy

50 Dr. Ameet Yajnik:

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

- (a) the growth rate of the economy during the last two years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of the slowdown in the world economy affecting foreign trade of the country;
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (d) whether India is lagging behind China in economic endeavours; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of India's own cryptocurrency

51 Shri Sanjay Raut:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that many business companies are using cryptocurrency for international transactions during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

- (c) whether Government is considering the possibility of introducing India's own crypto-currency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Disconnect between financial markets and real economy

52 Shri Sanjay Raut:

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

- (a) whether RBI has raised concern over the impact of the increasing sovereign debt and the growing disconnect between the financial markets and the real economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that bad loans / NPAs of the banking sector are expected to shoot upto 13.5 percent before September, 2021; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon?

Fall in credit lending rates of PSBs

53 Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that reduced credit lending rates among Public Sector Banks (PSBs) can contribute to a liquidity crunch in the economy; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard to address the issue?

Disinvestment of PSUs

54 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) the names of PSUs which have been earmarked for disinvestment and the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are some PSUs which are profit making but Government decided to disinvest;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether public undertakings like BSNL, MTNL, NTC Mills and Indian Pharmaceuticals Ltd. would be provided with working capital to manage their functioning and to work effectively;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons for not reviving such public undertakings, and the details thereof?

Selling of majority stakes in nationalised banks

55 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) whether there is any plan to further reduce the number of public sector banks (PSBs);
- (b) if so, the rationale behind it;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to sell majority stakes in some of the nationalised banks as strategic disinvestment plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is a partial disinvestment plan which will lead to gradual privatisation of these public sector undertakings in due course; and
- (f) whether any objection has come from the stakeholders like the employees, customers, etc., if so, the response of Government thereto?

RBI expert committee on adverse impact of COVID-19 on bank debt

56 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) whether an expert committee of the RBI has given a report on the adverse impact of COVID-19 on bank debt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the percentage of banking sector debt affected by COVID-19 and the action taken to relieve the already stressed assets and the details thereof?

Use of PMJDY accounts during COVID-19

57 Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe:

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

- (a) the Ministries which used Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts during COVID-19 so as to provide certain services to the beneficiaries and the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of beneficiaries covered and the details thereof; and
- (c) the total amount of cash transferred directly to the beneficiaries of PMJDY accounts during the lockdown and the details thereof?

Extending of unsecured loans by PSBs

58 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that various Public Sector Banks (PSBs) extended unsecured loans or loans without building plans to major builder/construction companies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against such PSBs who extended such loans during the last three years?

Funding for cultivation of different crops

59 Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:

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

- (a) whether different banks in the rural sector are funding the farmers for the cultivation of different crops;
- (b) if so, the amount of funding in the country for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 upto December 2020, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of farmers who have received insurance benefit for damages of their crops which have been funded by the banks?

Appointment of Bank Mitras

60 Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:

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

- (a) whether Government has appointed Bank Mitras to facilitate the banking services to the people of rural, urban and metro areas;
- (b) if so, the number of Bank Mitras in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the remuneration they are getting per month from the banks or agencies appointed by the banks;

- (d) the negotiating terms and conditions set by NABARD with the banks for these Bank Mitras; and
- (e) whether all the terms and conditions are fulfilled by the banks?

GST dues to State Governments

61 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has expressed its inability to pay GST dues to the State Governments including Delhi;
- (b) whether Government has asked the State Governments to explore some other option to fulfill their financial needs, at the time when the State Governments are suffering due to COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Gross bad loan ratio of banks

62 Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the gross bad loan ratio of banks which stood 7.5% as of September 30, 2020 may almost double to 14.8% under a severe stress scenario;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has since taken any concrete step to challenge the current stress in the banking system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Additional borrowing for States

63 Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

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

- (a) whether Government allowed States for additional borrowing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise in the last three years comparatively and the current year; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Total Tax transfers to States

64 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) the total amount of tax transfers to States by Government in the past three years, State-wise; and
- (b) the total amount of tax transfers pending with Government to be transferred to States, State-wise?

Total Cess collection

65 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) the total amount of Cess collected by Government over the past three years, year-wise; and
- (b) the total amount of Cess distributed by Government to the States?

Financial packages announced during COVID-19 pandemic

66 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) the details of financial stimulus packages announced so far since the COVID-19 crisis;
- (b) the quantum of funds which have been distributed/sanctioned from these packages to various States and schemes, and the details thereof;
- (c) the specific actions taken by Government to stimulate the economic sectors through these packages; and
- (d) the details of funds sanctioned/allocated for various sectors?

Excise Duty on petrol and diesel

67 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to cut down the higher excise duty on petrol and diesel and would like to issue advisory in this regard to the States to mitigate the suffering of common man in view of the recent sharp rise in prices of these products throughout the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) when Government last increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel cumulatively, and the details thereof?

Efforts to increase economic growth

68 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

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

- (a) the efforts being made by Government to increase the growth rate of the economy 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;
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to compete with China in the field of economic growth, if so, the details thereof?

Bringing petroleum products under GST ambit

69 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether LPG, kerosene, naphtha and light diesel come under the ambit of Goods and Services Tax (GST), but five petroleum products namely crude oil, high speed diesel motor spirit, natural gas and aircraft turbine fuel have been exempted from GST, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) by when Government proposes to bring these products under the ambit of GST; and
- (c) whether the matter of inclusion of these petroleum products has been discussed in the meetings of the Goods and Services Tax Council, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in Government borrowing

70 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) the extent of increase in quarterly Government borrowing in 2020-21;
- (b) the data for Government borrowing for the quarters of the previous two financial years;
- (c) the details of sources from which borrowing has been increased; and
- (d) whether there is a plan for further borrowing from the same sources and the details thereof?

SHG'S availing credit facility under livelihood programme

71 Shri K.P. Munusamy:

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

- (a) whether Government has any detail of the registered Self Help Groups (SHGs) availing credit facility from banks under livelihood programme;
- (b) if so, the details of criteria laid down by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise, including State of Tamil Nadu?

Shortage in availability of safe blood and blood components

72 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the massive shortage in the provision of safe and timely availability of blood and blood components;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the issue of access to safe blood on priority; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to introduce legislation in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

Maternal Mortality Rate in Odisha

73 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government in the State of Odisha during the last three years with the objective of reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) under various schemes;
- (b) the budget provision and central aid provision for the current year for the objective of reducing MMR, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of action plan for reducing MMR for the year 2021?

Assistance to the States for COVID-19

74 # Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

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

- (a) the details of assistance and material provided to the States for fighting COVID-19, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of resources asked for and the States which were provided assistance as per their demands, State-wise?

Learning disabilities in children

75 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government keeps a record of the children facing learning disabilities and disorders like dyscalculia, dysgraphia and dyslexia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to formulate a scheme to address these issues; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Role of PG students in controlling COVID-19

76 # Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that doctors pursuing PG courses are playing an important role in COVID-19 treatment;
- (b) the number of such doctors who were/ are engaged in COVID-19 treatment alongside their studies;
- (c) the details of the allowance and other facilities given to such doctors; and
- (d) whether any concession has been given in the fees of these students in view of this difficult period?

New COVID-19 variant cases in the country

77 Shri Rajeev Satav:

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

- (a) the number of persons who have been tested positive for the new UK variant of COVID-19 in the country, State/UT-wise and the treatment given to them;
- (b) whether the new variant of the virus can be a super spreader with its higher transmissibility potential and, if so, the preventive steps taken by Government to stop its spread in the country; and
- (c) whether Government has issued a new standard operating procedures for all international passengers who have travelled from or transited through UK to check entry of new UK variant of COVID-19 and, if so, the details thereof?

Rise of diabetes cases in youth

78 Shri Rajeev Satav:

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

- (a) whether the number of diabetes patients especially among younger population has increased drastically (b) if so, the number of people affected by diabetes during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise along with the reasons for rise in the cases of diabetes;
- (c) whether Government has developed any indigenous system of medicine for prevention of diabetes and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by Government to prevent and treat the spread of diabetes, especially in rural areas?

Amalgamation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana with State health schemes

79 Shri Ripun Bora:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to amalgamate Central health Ayushman Bharat Yojana with State health schemes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of expenditure since 2018 till December, 2020, disease-wise, and comparative study of State health schemes, if any?

Insufficient funds with hospitals for ordering COVID-19 testing kits

80 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several hospitals do not have sufficient funds to order as many testing kits are required in these areas; and
- (b) the response of Government to the fact that they are not able to function with the available capacity?

Vaccination schedule for inoculation of COVID-19 vaccine

81 Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) the number of vaccines developed in the country to combat COVID-19 along with the progress of trials, stage-wise; and
- (b) whether a triage or vaccination schedule to inoculate 130 crore people of the country has been conceptualized by Government, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

Rising cases of cesarean delivery

82 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has observed that 'normal delivery' in private hospitals is no longer 'normal';
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that in some States/UT like Telangana, West Bengal and J&K, cesarean share of delivery in private hospitals is more than 80 per cent; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which the Ministry is planning to persuade the States and private hospitals to go in for cesarean only when it is required?

Higher deaths per million population due to COVID-19

83 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the COVID-19 related deaths per million population in India is much higher than that in other South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, etc.;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for the deaths-per-million-population in India much higher than other economically and geographically similar nations in spite of the imposition of one of harshest

lockdowns in the world?

Purchase of ventilators for COVID-19

84 Dr. Banda Prakash:

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

- (a) the number of ventilators, PPE equipment and gloves purchased by Government since January, 2020, month-wise;
- (b) the quantum of funds spent on the aforementioned purchases, head and item-wise;
- (c) whether Government has provided any special fund and multiple medical equipments to various hospitals and State/UTs Governments across the country to fight against COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of these medical equipments supplied to hospitals, State/UT-wise and district-wise?

Death of healthcare workers due to COVID-19

85 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) the number of healthcare staff, including doctors, nurses and ASHA workers who have been affected by and died due to COVID-19;
- (b) whether the Ministry has collated any data from the State Governments regarding the same; and
- (c) whether the data presented by the Indian Medical Association regarding the number of healthcare workers who have died due to COVID-19 has been taken note of by the Ministry and any follow up verification of the same done?

Development status of AIIMS in the country

86 Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

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

- (a) the details of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) granted/approval for construction across the country during the last three years, State-wise including the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of AIIMS under constructions, State-wise;
- (c) the details of AIIMS whose construction has been completed and are functioning during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that construction of AIIMS at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh is yet to be completed, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

High level committee for distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines

87 Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) whether Government had constituted any high level committee to work on the sourcing, distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of any time-bound programme drawn up for the vaccination of frontline workers and high risk groups in view of surge in the COVID-19 positive cases;
- (d) whether the vaccines will be administered free of cost to all citizens in the country; and

(e) if so, whether the State Governments would be given funds for this purpose and details thereof?

Exponential multiplication of COVID-19 cases

88 Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) the reasons for exponential multiplication of COVID-19 cases in the country;
- (b) whether there was a wrong approach at the initial stage by Government in focusing on testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine management to prevent spread of the pandemic;
- (c) whether there was laxity in effective monitoring and coordination by Government in regard to issuing of guidelines, protocols and SOPs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether geo-tagging was done in the area that have maximum number of COVID-19 cases, if so, the details thereof?

Suicide and other mental health cases, during COVID-19 pandemic

89 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) whether the number of suicide cases and other mental health cases, especially among the youth are on the rise post March 2020, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the number of suicide cases reported from March 2020 till now, State-wise and month-wise;
- (c) the details of sensitisation programs being started by the Ministry on mental health post lockdown; and
- (d) whether measures have been taken in coordination with the Ministries of Social Justice and Home Affairs and State Governments to fight the mental health crisis being faced by many people post lockdown, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Shortage of blood banks in districts

90 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 districts in the country do not have blood banks, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps/will take steps to ensure that all the districts in the country have at least one blood bank;
- (c) if so, the efforts taken by Government in this direction;
- (d) whether there has been reports of shortage of bloods in those blood banks currently functional in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure 24x7 availability of bloods in these blood banks?

Allocation of COVID-19 vaccines to States

91 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

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

- (a) whether Government has started COVID-19 vaccination in the country during the month of January, 2021;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the details of the States which have been provided with the vaccines;
- (d) the details of the States which have not been provided vaccines till date along with the time frame to provide the same, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of targeted population to be vaccinated, during 2021, State-wise?

Bio-medical waste management during COVID-19 pandemic

92 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

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

- (a) the details of bio-medical waste generated by hospitals of the Central Government during COVID-19, State-wise;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Central Government hospitals to manage and dispose the huge bio-medical waste generated during COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) the details of Central Government hospitals which are equipped with bio-medical waste management facility, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of Central Government hospitals which are not equipped with bio-medical waste management facility, State-wise?

Access to family planning measures during COVID-19 pandemic

93 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

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

- (a) the number of male/female sterilisations, condoms and oral, emergency, intrauterine device, injectable contraceptive services provided from March to September, 2020, State/district-wise;
- (b) the number of pregnancies, live births, unintended pregnancies, terminated pregnancies and maternal deaths from March to September, 2020, State/district-wise;
- (c) the number of couples who were unable to access contraception from March to September, 2020 and the reasons for the same, State/district-wise;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to expand availability, access and choice of family planning services, especially through front-line workers in light of COVID-19; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Welfare of ASHA workers

94 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated to ensure minimum wage, health and life insurance to ASHA workers during COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) the details of ASHAs who have received supplementary COVID-19 pay;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in remuneration of ASHAs, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of disbursements under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan (PMGK) package to ASHAs till December, 2020;
- (e) whether there has been delay in disbursements under the PMGK, if so, reasons therefor;
- (f) whether ASHAs fall under Code on Social Security and the Code of Wages, 2020; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor?

New European COVID-19 Virus strain

95 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

- (a) whether Government has given approvals for the vaccines invented for treating COVID-19 to be used in the country for treatment of new European COVID-19 virus strain also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the proposed vaccines are able to protect from COVID-19 new variant strain, if so, the details thereof?

Pricing and supply agreement with SII

96 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) whether Government has finalized a pricing and supply agreement with Serum Institute of India (SII) Limited for COVID-19 vaccines;
- (b) if so, the time when the pricing and supply agreement for the vaccine was finalized, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) when was the approval granted to Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in India; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that multiple doses of the vaccine produced for India could not be rolled out despite approval due to the lack of a formal agreement for supply, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Data collection through Co-Win application

97 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) the details of data that will be collected and monitored through Co-Win application; and
- (b) whether a person will be denied COVID-19 vaccination if he/she cannot download Co-Win application for any reason and the details thereof?

Side-effects of COVID-19 vaccines

98 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) the side-effects of COVID-19 vaccines; and
- (b) the authority liable for any adversity faced by a patient administered with COVID-19 vaccines?

Vacant seats of PG/ MBBS/BDS in colleges

99 Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo:

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

- (a) whether large numbers of seats in PG/ MBBS/BDS courses in Government/ Private colleges/Deemed Universities are left vacant across India especially in the State of Punjab this year due to high fee structure allowed by Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of vacant seats, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the steps proposed by Government to help economically weaker section of the society so that they are not deprived of higher education in medical profession?

Expenditure on fighting COVID-19

100 **Shri K. Somaprasad:**

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

- (a) whether Government has finalised the total expenditure so far in fighting COVID-19, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any special assistance has been provided to the States and UTs in fighting the COVID-19; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including Kerala?

Provision of free of cost vaccine to public

101 **Shri K. Somaprasad:**

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

- (a) whether Government intends to issue COVID-19 vaccine free of cost to the States and UTs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether any of the State has announced to supply the COVID-19 vaccine to the public free of cost including the State of Kerala, if so, the details thereof?

Planning for post COVID-19 health infrastructure

102 **Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

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

- (a) the extent of improvement in health infrastructure in the country in terms of availability of ventilators, oxygen and ICU beds etc., post COVID-19, the details thereof, State-wise, public sector-wise, private sector-wise giving pre-COVID numbers and projected post-COVID present status;
- (b) the availability of health infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (c) the plan to improve health infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities of the country; and
- (d) the number of hospitals that are expected to come up in UP, AP and Telangana with support of Viability Gap Funding announced by Government?

Efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines

103 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

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

- (a) whether the COVID-19 vaccines being administered guarantee complete protection against all strains and variations of the virus;
- (b) if not, the details of side effects, if any;
- (c) whether Government shall administer the vaccine on the Hon'ble Prime Minister; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Increasing the expenditure on health sector

104 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to spend 6 per cent of gross domestic product on health services in the country during the coming years with reference to the deadly COVID-19 virus in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for an increase in budget expenditure regarding health

during each coming year to achieve the said target; and
(d) if so, the details of such a proposal?

Selection and procurement of COVID-19 vaccines

105 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

- (a) the criteria adopted by Government to select and procure COVID-19 vaccines;
- (b) the total quantum of vaccines that have been already procured and the total cost of procurement; and
- (c) the total quantum of vaccines for which pre-procurement agreements have been entered into?

Severe adverse events to COVID-19 vaccinations

106 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

- (a) whether severe adverse events have been reported in relation to any COVID-19 vaccines currently being developed and/or manufactured in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of events reported; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken to ensure safety of vaccines?

Free COVID-19 vaccines for Bihar

107 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

- (a) whether Government will be purchasing COVID-19 vaccines at a nominal cost and providing the same to the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the cost at which vaccines will be provided to the State of Bihar;
- (d) whether the rate per vaccine for Bihar will be the same as the rate provided to the States other than Bihar; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Awareness strategy for COVID-19 vaccination

108 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any strategy to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines and prevent misinformation against vaccination due to religious and ideological beliefs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is urging the Indian leaders and public figures to get the first shot of coronavirus vaccination to build people's confidence, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Confidentiality of data under NDHM

109 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) the current status of roll out of health ID under National Digital Health Mission (NDHM);

- (b) whether Government is planning to store the personal data of citizens with the help of an Indian company or some external company, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a violation of the privacy of Indian citizens if the data is stored with an external company; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to protect the confidentiality of the data?

Death of infants due to fire in Maharashtra

110 Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that several infants were killed after a fire broke out at the neonatal care ward of the district hospital in Maharashtra's Bhandara district recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether similar incidents have happened in the past year in other States also, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the funds released to the State Governments for maintaining safety measures are properly utilized by the State Governments; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future?

IMA's concern over AYUSH treatment protocol for COVID-19

111 Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

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

- (a) whether Indian Medical Association (IMA) has expressed concern about issuing AYUSH treatment protocol for COVID-19 treatment; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof on the basis of evidence of anecdotal and based on individual subjective experiences before implementing?

Setting up of trauma centre at Barauni, Bihar

112 # Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to setup a trauma centre at Barauni, the only industrial town of Begusarai district of Bihar, where thousands of workers are employed and the city is situated on the National Highway No.31 and thousands of vehicles pass through this city on daily basis;
- (b) if so, by when;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the people with casualty are not getting an immediate treatment due to lack of trauma centre; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Rejigging the National Population Policy

113 # Shri Narayan Rane:

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

- (a) whether Government considering giving a rejig to the National Population Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received proposals in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of progress made in this regard so far?

Mental health crisis in the country

114 Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government plans to tackle mental health crisis given that the National Mental Health Survey of 2016 showed 150 million people with mental illnesses in the country;
- (b) whether the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the mental health crisis in India and is leading to a new mental health pandemic;
- (c) the reason for one of the lowest spending by a Government on mental health in the world; and
- (d) the steps being taken to boost up the mental health infrastructure?

Rush in approval of Covaxin vaccine

115 Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Phase-3 trial results of Covaxin vaccine that has been approved recently for emergency uses, have not been made available;
- (b) if so, the basis on which Government gave the approval;
- (c) the authority responsible in case of any adverse side-effects which come to light post administration of the vaccine, and (d) the reason for such rush in giving approval?

Deaths due to cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases

116 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) the details of cases registered and the deaths occurred due to all types of cancers, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases during last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the programmes initiated by Government to create awareness about these diseases;
- (c) the details of Government's take on plant based diet and its ability to prevent such diseases;
- (d) whether there is any research showing a positive correlation between the animal based diet and above mentioned diseases, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the schemes launched by Government in providing healthcare to address the mitigation of these diseases in the rural areas?

Assistance to States during Coronavirus pandemic period

117 # Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) the amount of funds released to the States during coronavirus pandemic period for prevention of coronavirus;
- (b) the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the State-wise details of resources and other types of assistance provided other than the funds during the said period?

Free and universal vaccination against COVID-19

118 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

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

- (a) the details of actions that have been taken by Government to ensure free and universal vaccination against COVID-19;
- (b) whether Government has ensured the successful completion of all mandatory trials for the COVID-19 vaccines;
- (c) the details of trials conducted for the COVID-19 vaccines;
- (d) whether Government has enlisted any criteria/preference for distributing vaccines; and
- (e) the amount of vaccine doses that have been distributed to various States so far?

Apprehensions regarding COVID-19 vaccines

119 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are many apprehensions in the minds of people regarding emergency approval for locally produced vaccine for COVID-19, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any step/initiative to allay those fear/apprehensions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Spread of new mutant of COVID-19 in India

120 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete efforts to curtail the spread of 'new mutant of COVID-19 virus' which is the cause for second wave of COVID-19 spread; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mental health professionals in India

121 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) the total number of registered mental health professionals in the country including psychiatrists working in Government and private sectors, sector-wise;
- (b) the total number of clinical psychologists in the country in details, Government and private, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to augment the strength of mental health professionals;
- (d) the number of additional seats for degree in psychiatry that have been added since the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 came into force; and
- (e) the number of additional seats for a degree in clinical psychology added since the Mental Health care Act, 2017 came into force?

Solar Power Projects in Leh and Kargil

122 **Shri Dinesh Trivedi:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current progress/status of implementation of the Leh and Kargil solar power projects under the State-run Solar Energy Corporation of India;
- (b) whether Government has awarded any bids till now in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh

123 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh (AP) has the second highest biogas plants at 5.6 lakh after Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government is aware that only two districts, Prakasam and Krishna, have the most biogas plants in AP;
- (d) if so, efforts being made by Government to install biogas plants in other districts of AP;
- (e) whether Government is also aware that Government of Andhra Pradesh is now pushing hard in setting up of more and more biogas plants; and
- (f) if so, financial and other assistance that Government would provide to the State for this purpose?

Marketing of solar power

124 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) itself generates power and renewable energy or does it only coordinates between potential customers and power generators;
- (b) the quantum of power generated by various solar power generators and the number of agreements signed along with the capacity and the names of DISCOMs, in the last two years;
- (c) the initiatives being taken by Government for marketing of generated and surplus solar power; and
- (d) whether this marketing situation would disrupt the country's solar energy expansion plan, if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this situation?

Generation of power from MSW

125 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of total power generated in the country from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), State-wise;
- (b) the number of Waste-to-Energy Plants which are currently generating power from MSW;
- (c) whether Government has come up with any scheme to recycle the huge chunks of waste generated by metro cities like Mumbai and Delhi and details thereof;
- (d) whether Government gives any incentive to promote power generation from MSW by private players and, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has also taken any step to increase the capacity of production of power from biomass in the country, details thereof and reasons therefor?

Off-grid solar power generation

126 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the target for off-grid solar power generation for the next three years;
- (b) the achievement during the past three years; and
- (c) the number of villages that have been covered under any Government program towards this end?

Promotion of renewable energy

127 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes for development of renewable energy sources in the country and has set a target of 4.50 lakh megawatts of production by 2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to promote renewable energy sources in a big way across the country by adopting suitable methods, increasing the investments and protecting the Purchasing Power Agreements (PPAs)?

DISCOMs and TRANSCOs

128 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) the details of late payment surcharge charged by various DISCOMs and TRANSCOs in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has directed State DISCOMs and TRANSCOs not to impose late payment surcharge more than 12% due to COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) if so, details of States that have followed the above direction and details of States that have not complied with the direction; and
- (d) the steps taken against DISCOMs and TRANSCOs which have not complied with the directions of Government?

Electricity connections in Maharashtra

129 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) the district-wise details of number of villages or houses in Maharashtra connected/yet to be connected with electricity line; and
- (b) the details of average number of houses for which electricity is provided in these villages?

E-RLNG scheme

130 **Shri Dinesh Trivedi:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to revive E-RLNG (e-auction of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas) scheme as recommended by a High Level Empowered Committee, taking note of 24,000 MW of stranded gas-based assets; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of PSUs in areas beyond their expertise

131 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Undertakings working under the aegis of Ministry of Power have expertise in different sectors such as hydel, thermal, etc. and these PSUs have adequate potential for growth in their respective sectors; and
- (b) whether Government has taken any decision that they can use or expand their resources in the sectors other than those of their expertise?

Implementation of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020

132 **Dr. Amee Yajnik:**

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to offer any assistance to farmers to meet the added financial burden that will result from implementation of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has calculated the financial implications of the Bill on the agricultural sector in terms of electricity costs and irrigation costs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Power blackout in Mumbai

133 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that large parts of Mumbai and its suburbs have faced a power blackout that disrupted train services and threw life out of gear for millions of residents due to grid failure in the month of October, 2020;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether any Central team has visited Mumbai to identify the problem and to find out possible solutions against such break down again; and
- (d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop such sudden power blackout in the country?

Wastage of electricity in domestic sector

134 **Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a significant amount of electricity is wasted in domestic sector due to leakages, faulty appliances and usage of energy inefficient electric devices etc. and, if so, details of energy wasted in last three years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the details of power consumed in the domestic and industrial sector during last three years along with the schemes under implementation for Demand Side Management (DSM) including saving and conservation of electricity; and
- (c) whether Government has introduced any scheme to provide cash incentives to States saving energy and minimizing leakage/theft and, if so, details thereof?

Dues owed by DISCOMs

135 Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the power producers' total dues owed by distribution companies or DISCOMs have increased manifold in the past few years;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to recover the dues from the power distribution companies?

Power generation in India

136 Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) the position of power generation in the country for 2019 and 2020;
- (b) whether demand and supply of power is satisfactory; and
- (c) the various sources of power generation in the country and its consumption, percentage-wise?

Power Generation

137 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) the maximum capacity of power generated from various energy sources in the country as on 30th June, 2020 and 31st December 2020 respectively;
- (b) the difference between demand and supply of power and measures taken to bridge the above supply gap, State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the measures to be taken by the year 2025 in the country keeping in mind the sources of power generation and potential demand and supply thereof?

Uninterrupted power supply to essential establishments

138 Shri K.P. Munusamy:

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

- (a) whether Government has empowered the State Electricity Boards and private DISCOMs to provide uninterrupted power supply to essential establishments like hospitals, vital institutions and police establishments etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to facilitate Tamil Nadu to meet its huge power requirements; and
- (d) the amount allocated for the same during the last three years, year-wise?

SERB-POWER Initiative

139 Shri Rajeev Satav:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched the SERB-POWER initiative and, if so, the details thereof and the aims and objective behind the move;
- (b) whether it is a fact that India has less than two women researchers out of every 10 scientific researchers in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken by

Government to encourage women scientists in research activities; and
 (d) the details of initiatives taken by Department of Science and Technology to encourage women entrepreneurship under Start-up India-Stand up India and the achievements made so far?

Progress of INSPIRE programme

140 **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made under Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspire Research (INSPIRE) programme of the Ministry during the last three years;
- (b) the details of applications received from young Indian students/researchers/faculties during last three years; and
- (c) the number of young Indian students/researchers/faculties enrolled in the programme during the last three years?

Young Scientist Research Programme

141 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

Dr. Ameer Yajnik:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted/planning to conduct any programme to encourage young scientists to engage themselves in scientific activities/undertake research work;
- (b) if so, main characteristics of Young Scientist Research Programme and details of funds allotted and utilized for the same during the last three years and, if not, the future plan of Government in this regard;
- (c) the eligibility criteria for availing benefits under this programme and the details of achievements made under this programme so far; and
- (d) whether scholarship or any other special incentives are being provided by the programme, if so, the details thereof and, if not, reasons therefor?

Scientific Social Responsibility

142 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes 'Scientific Social Responsibility' policy to make the benefits of science reach the society fast; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board

143 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the functions of National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB);
- (b) the innovative products that have been promoted by the Board; and
- (c) the commercial value of these products?

Promoting coastal tourism in Odisha

144 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures to promote coastal tourism in the State of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details of the budgetary allocation made for the same; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to attract foreign tourists to the beaches of Odisha?

GST rates

145 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is 28% GST on hotel rooms whose rent is ₹ 7,500 or more and 18% for rooms between ₹ 2,500 and ₹ 7,500;
- (b) whether these GST rates are on much higher side which impact flow of tourism;
- (c) whether Ministry has ever taken this before the GST Council for reducing the same;
- (d) if so, details thereof and, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) in view of severe impact on tourism sector, particularly hotel industry, whether Ministry will consider approaching the GST Council for reducing GST on all hotel rooms to 12%; and if not, reasons therefor?

Programme for attracting foreign tourists

146 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any programme to promote Indian culture abroad, specially related to Buddhism and Hinduism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any programme to attract tourists from abroad specially from South East Asian Countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

PRASHAD Scheme

147 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

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

- (a) whether Government has been implementing projects under the Capacity Building, Skill Development component of the PRASHAD scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of projects being implemented thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated and utilized under the Capacity Building component of the PRASHAD scheme; and
- (d) the details about the number of beneficiaries who were trained under the Capacity Building Component of the PRASHAD scheme?

Engaging corporate CSR for PRASHAD scheme

148 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether Government has been engaging with corporate CSR for the implementation of

- the PRASHAD scheme during the last three years;
 (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Media Campaign for promoting domestic tourism

149 Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:

Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether Government has been conducting media campaigns for promotion of domestic tourism in India;
 (b) if so, the quantum of funds allocated and spent on Domestic Media Campaigns during the last three years, year-wise; and
 (c) if so, the State-wise details of activities conducted under the media campaign including the State of Odisha?

Action plan to develop tourism in Tamil Nadu

150 Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) whether Government has any action plan for developing tourist places in Tamil Nadu by connecting them under tourism circuit;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) whether Government would develop infrastructure to attract more tourists in the State, particularly in south Tamil Nadu which has a lot of potential for tourism development?

Development of tourism infrastructure in Jharkhand

151 Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu:

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

- (a) the details of assistance provided by Government for development of tourism infrastructure in Jharkhand;
 (b) the status of projects taken up in the State of Jharkhand and the amount of funds released to each of them during the last three years and the current year and the status of fund utilised; and
 (c) whether Government proposes to provide financial assistance for developing a spiritual tourism in Jharkhand and the details thereof?

Development of the Rural Circuit and Spiritual Circuit in Odisha

152 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

whether Government will consider sanctioning funds for the development of the Rural Circuit and Spiritual Circuit in Odisha under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme and the details thereof?

Impact of COVID-19 on tourist arrivals

153 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) the decline in number of domestic and foreign tourists in 2020 compared to the

- corresponding period in the previous three years;
- (b) the decline in the number of tourists on pilgrimage so far in the current financial year;
- (c) the specific steps taken up by Government to increase the flow of domestic and foreign tourists to pre-COVID levels; and
- (d) the estimated revenue loss to the tourism industry so far in 2020;
- (e) whether Government has provided any special incentive to the tourism sector to overcome COVID impact; and
- (f) if not, whether Government is considering any such proposal and the details thereof?

Way-side facility

154 Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether Government has implemented the component of development of Way-side Facility or Toilet Development Facility under the Swadesh Darshan scheme;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof including the State of Odisha; and
- (c) the details of utilization of Central financial assistance for toilet development during the implementation of the scheme?

PRASHAD scheme in Odisha

155 Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Odisha has submitted any proposal under the PRASHAD scheme during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the location-wise details along with the actions taken by Government so far in this regard and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the details of utilization of funds sanctioned to Jagannath Dham, Puri district for infrastructure development?

Triveni Sangamam

156 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Triveni Sangamam at Kanyakumari is a major tourist attraction both domestic and international;
- (b) if so, whether Government will take steps to declare it as international tourist place; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Effects of lockdown on tourism sector

157 Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has to order lockdown in various parts of the country to curb the spread of COVID-19;
- (b) if so, the effect of complete lockdown announced and implemented by Government on the tourism sector;
- (c) whether there is any plan to open tourism sector gradually; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Tourism projects in the North Eastern States

158 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether Government has sanctioned more than fifteen projects in the recent past covering all North Eastern States to boost tourism, if so, details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the status of the project;
- (c) whether any time line for completion of these projects has been given; and
- (d) the amount sanctioned and spent so far, and details thereof?

Revenue generation from Tourism in 2020-21

159 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) the estimated revenue collected by Government via tourism in 2020-21, quarter wise data; and
- (b) whether Government has looked into losses in tourism industry and made a report on the details of the same, if so, the details thereof?

Tourism in Kashmir

160 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) the number of tourists who visited the States of Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh since August, 2019;
- (b) how many were pilgrimage tourists;
- (c) the details of job losses in in these States in the tourism and handicraft sector, since August 5, 2019;
- (d) the details of job losses of artisans and weavers, tour operators, House boatowners, tourist transport, shikaras, Hotel and restaurant industry, tour guides and other allied sectors- since August 5, 2019 till date; and
- (e) whether Government has provided any financial aid to the people dependent on tourism sector to compensate their loss of job, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

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

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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