

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, February 12, 2021/ 23 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Food Processing Industries; Panchayati Raj; Railways; Rural Development; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship)

Total number of questions -- 15

Setting up of Janaushadhi Kendras in every district

121 # **Shri Ram Shakal:**

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a plan to set up Janaushadhi Kendras in every district of the country to provide genuine medicines at affordable rates by Government; and
- (b) if so, the districts in which Janaushadhi Kendras have been set up and by when these Janaushadhi Kendras would be set up in the other districts?

Sanctioning more mandays under MGNREGA

122 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

Will the Minister of **Rural Development** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to sanction more mandays under MGNREGA;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Ministry of Finance thereof?

New bridge maintenance protocols

123 **Shri Dinesh Trivedi:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to review the existing system of bridge classification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce new bridge inspection/maintenance protocols that take into consideration the age of a bridge, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to strengthen 776 and 439 bridges respectively across eastern and western routes of Dedicated Freight Corridor to carry higher axle load; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the current status of implementation?

Alternative protein and plant-based meat

124 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide incentives for development of alternative protein and plant-based meat;
- (b) whether globally consumers are moving towards plant-based meat for nutritional value and its environment impact, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government plans to promote plant-based industries by educating people, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of institutions involved in R&D in this regard;
- (e) whether Government is considering to conduct a study in this regard; and
- (f) the measures taken to revolutionize food system and changing narrative around consumers' perception of protein?

Delay in completion of ongoing railway projects

125 Dr. Bhagwat Karad:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been delays in the completion of ongoing railway projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the reasons for the delays;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the main reasons for delaying of ongoing projects and its effects on the upcoming projects of Railways and the quantum of loss accrued to Railways due to this?

Increasing demand for fertilizers in AP

126 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that demand for DAP, MOP and NPK steadily increased during last three years in Andhra Pradesh (AP);
- (b) if so, details of demand made by the State during last three years and current year, year-wise and fertilizer-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Ministry has not been able to supply the required quantities of the above fertilizers to AP;
- (d) if so, the reasons and details of the fertilizers supplied in 2019-20; and
- (e) the demand for 2020-21 and steps taken by Ministry to supply the same, Kharif and Rabi season-wise?

Contribution of agriculture to GDP

127 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture contributes about 15 per cent of national GDP and provides employment to about 50 per cent of the total population of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some increase in output from agriculture was witnessed during the peak months of the pandemic in comparison to other sectors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the likely contribution of agriculture to GDP in future as a

result of advanced technology developed by agriculture scientists?

Improving soil productivity and quality

128 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce any programme to improve soil health and in turn increase production, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any guidelines have been issued to farmers from time to time regarding soil health; and
- (c) whether training is provided to farmers regarding proper usage of fertilizers for improving the quality of soil?

Average income of farmers and reduction in farming cost

129 # Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the average annual income of farmers in the country;
- (b) the details of steps taken by Government to increase the annual income of farmers;
- (c) whether any steps were taken to reduce agricultural costs during the last five years and if so, the reduction in farming cost due to these steps;
- (d) whether agricultural inputs like diesel for irrigation, usage of urea and other fertilizers lead to an increase in the agricultural costs and reduce farmers' income; and
- (e) whether Government is contemplating to provide essential things like diesel, urea and other fertilizers at controlled rates?

Availability of essential food items at affordable price

130 # Shri Surendra Singh Nagar:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has increased the quantity of foodgrain allocation to the States for supplying through PDS to card holders during the lockdown imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries (PDS card holders, poor and needy people) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme, State-wise;
- (d) whether this scheme is proposed to be extended in the coming months, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of essential food items at affordable rates to the poor and needy people?

Export of COVID vaccines

131 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and value in monetary terms of the COVID vaccine doses that were exported from India to other countries till present day;
- (b) whether Government has put measures in place to avoid a domestic shortage of vaccine in the light of it being exported in large numbers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Achievement under National Policy on Skill Development

132 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of ***Skill Development and Entrepreneurship*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the achievement made by Government under National Policy on Skill Development;
- (b) the number of people who have benefited under the scheme till date; and
- (c) the steps taken to make this policy more effective and beneficial to the youths of the country?

COVID-19 vaccine price affordability

133 Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Will the Minister of ***Chemicals and Fertilizers*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the open market price of the 'Covishield Vaccine' at ₹ 1000 per dose is unaffordable for large sections of Indians, particularly Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS);
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that all citizens would be given affordable access to the vaccine, including vulnerable persons belonging to BPL, EWS and homeless category amongst others;
- (c) whether COVID-19 vaccines have been added to the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Criteria for availing startup fund

134 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

Will the Minister of ***Commerce and Industry*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government would set aside ₹ 1000 crore for investment in Indian startups;
- (b) if so, the details on how entrepreneurs can access this fund;
- (c) whether there would be any specific criteria, with regard to sector, type and scale of business, for access to this fund; and
- (d) whether Government plans to keep track of how funds taken from this account are utilized by startups?

Revival of sick sugar mills

135 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that sugar mills throughout the country are under critical financial condition;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to revive these sugar mills;
- (c) whether Government has considered using sugarcane as bio-fuel to revive these sugar mills and to make them financially viable; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

New Delhi
The 6th February, 2021
17 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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