

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, November 22, 2019/Agrahayana 1, 1941 (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

Creation of Cold Chain Grid

*61. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to create a Cold Chain Grid to link every nook and corner of the country by its 42 Mega Food Parks, 234 Cold Chain projects under the PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the total number of Cold Chain Storage facilities available in the country as on date, State/UT-wise?

Burning of stubble residue in open

*62. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in States like Punjab and Haryana are forced to burn paddy/parali/stubble residue in open due to lack of technology for its management and lack of provision of cash incentives to dispose it scientifically; and

(b) if so, the urgent actions taken by Government to tackle this issue which worsens Air Quality Index (AQI) in the Northern parts of the country, particularly in Delhi?

Assistance to Maharashtra for development of clusters of farmers

*63. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government is not providing any assistance

to farmers of Maharashtra to cultivate, develop and market agricultural produces, especially mangoes;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to provide special financial assistance to farmers of Maharashtra for development of clusters of farmers and if not, the reasons therefor?

Privatisation of railway routes

*64. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning large-scale privatisation of railway routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof including authority for controlling fare system in these rails; and

(c) the number of routes that would be privatised during the next three years?

Linking of MGNREGA wages to inflation

*65. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the constraints that the Ministry is facing to link MGNREGA wages to inflation so that labour would get hiked wages every year;

(b) whether any consultations in this regard have been held with the Finance Ministry;

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

(d) whether it is a fact that wages recommended by the Committee of Ministry of Labour and Employment for MGNREGA workers is ₹ 375/day whereas the Ministry fixed it at only ₹ 178.44/day; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not fixing the wages as recommended by the said Committee?

New railway line from Hajipur to Mahua

†*66. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey has been got conducted by Government recently for the construction of a new railway line from Hajipur to Mahua;

(b) if so, what further action has been taken after the survey till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that demand for this railway line segment was being made for years to cater to the transport needs of a large population; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take quick action by according priority to it?

Definition of a farmer

†*67. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of a farmer as laid down by the Central Government and the number of farmer families under this definition in the country;

(b) whether Government conducts any survey to find out the number of farmer families in the country, if so, the details of surveys conducted during the last three

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

years, State/region-wise including Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down by Government for declaring a person as a farmer, if so, the details thereof?

Privatization of operation of railways

*68. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to privatize operations of railways in a phased manner including the maintenance of the platforms;

(b) if so, the details on the exact plan of Government; and

(c) the manner in which this plan would be executed?

Weekly unemployment allowance

*69. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether, on the lines of other countries of the world, Government is considering to provide weekly unemployment allowance to unemployed persons till they get employment; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Outsourcing of employees in Railways

†*70. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are conducting an assessment in its Departments to ascertain the places and

the number of employees that can be outsourced;

(b) the number of employees working in Railways through outsourcing and the details of social security schemes applicable for benefiting these employees; and

(c) the minimum and maximum salary fixed for outsourced employees in Railways and the actual salary that these employees are getting?

Rural development schemes in tribal areas of Jharkhand

*71. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various rural development schemes being implemented in several tribal areas of Jharkhand along with the details of the funds allocated for the said purpose, Scheme-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to accord ownership rights to the tribals residing in forest land of rural areas of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has decided to construct roads and other infrastructural facilities in the said areas?

Empowerment of women farmers

*72. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy for Farmers proposes joint pattas for both homestead and agricultural land to ensure recognition and empowerment of women farmers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of number of joint pattas given as per the policy;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of schemes and entitlements for women farmers and number of women who have benefited therefrom?

and e-commerce technology, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the farmers in the country are deprived of weather-related information, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Barren land in the country

†*73. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of barren land in the country, in hectares, and the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any action plan to convert barren land into arable land across the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Use of modern information technology by farmers

*74. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any scheme to provide aid to the farmers for use of modern information technology

Utilization of grants by food testing laboratories

*75. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) number of food testing laboratories that received grants from Ministry till date;

(b) total amount of funds disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) towards food testing laboratories since 2016;

(c) the number of food testing laboratories not accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories which received grants under PMKSY;

(d) number of food testing laboratories not yet notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India which received grants under PMKSY; and

(e) the manner in which the Ministry recovers unused grants disbursed under PMKSY?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th November, 2019
Kartika 25, 1941 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 62, 63, 67, 72, 73, 74,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Commerce and Industry	: —
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: —
Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	: —
Food Processing Industries	: 61, 75,
Panchayati Raj	: —
Railways	: 64, 66, 68, 70,
Rural Development	: 65, 71,
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