

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 6, 2019/Agrahayana 15, 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

Surge in prices of edible oil

*196. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of edible oil in the country due to the failure of soyabean crop to a very large extent in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to arrest the surge in prices of edible oil in the open market due to this?

Waiving off loan of farmers

†*197. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waiving off the entire loan of the farmers was announced by the present Governments of Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entire loan of farmers has been waived off as per the declaration by the said three States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in net returns to farmers

*198. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net returns to farmers for crops like paddy, sugarcane, maize and cotton have actually declined in the past three years; and

(b) if so, the details of decline in respect of these crops in the last five years, year-wise and crop-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Completion of pending railway projects

*199. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to take up new projects until the completion of existing ones;
- (b) the details of the projects in progress and their estimated completion date;
- (c) the details of projects in each State;
- (d) the reasons behind delays in project completion; and
- (e) the measures being taken by Government to ensure that all ongoing projects are successfully completed?

Shrinking of agricultural land in the country

*200. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that agricultural lands are shrinking in the country in recent years;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to expand agricultural land/activities to meet the needs of the growing population in the country;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to acquire agricultural land in other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Protection of Traditional Knowledge under India's IPR Policy

*201. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether studies have been

undertaken by Government in the last three years to determine the appropriateness and extent of applying the existing laws to protecting Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, as per India's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the initiatives undertaken by Government to nurture Human Capital in relation to intellectual property, as per India's IPR Policy, the details thereof?

Launching of "Uber for tractors" app

*202. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch "Uber for tractors" app to aid farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this would help farmers to save precious groundwater and increase productivity by 10 to 15 per cent;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that hitech levellers cost at least ₹ 3 lakh, which is way beyond the reach of the average small farmers; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to help such segment of farmers?

Measures to upgrade agriculture technology

*203. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any major programme to upgrade agriculture

technology, provide quality seeds and farm equipment involving some of the best available outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to promote modified traditional agriculture technology which requires use of cattle, at least for farmers having small land holdings; and

(d) whether introduction of fuel-driven farm equipment and tractors, the menace of adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on soil, stray animals, shortage of organic manure, crop burning, unemployment in rural areas, etc., have caused greater damage than doing good, especially to the small farmers?

Implementation of NFSA

*204. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and procedures followed to identify the beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the action plan formulated by Government to ensure proper and impartial implementation of NFSA; and

(c) whether any improvement in the standard of nutrition of the poor people, particularly children and women, have been noticed after the implementation of the Act, if so, the details thereof?

Research programme on farming

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

(a) whether Government is conducting

any programme to encourage farmers to engage themselves with scientific activities/undertaking research work;

(b) if so, the main characteristics of research programme on farming, together with the details of funds allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years and the current year and if not, the future plan of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is offering any special plan or scholarship under this programme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Status of companies manufacturing fertilizers

†*206. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government aided as well as private companies manufacturing fertilizers like Urea, Ammonium Sulphate, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), as on date, along with the State-wise and location-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of companies in operation and those which have been shut down, as on date; and

(c) the number of companies under consideration of Government for revival, the State-wise and location-wise details thereof?

Starvation death

*207. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is still fighting starvation deaths;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a recent incident of starvation death in a relief camp in Tripura; and

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

Impact of skill development programmes

*208. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 25 crore youth are likely to enter the workforce over the next decade, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the anticipated impact on the skill development programmes launched by Government;

(c) the details of the result of the efforts so far to skill over 40 crore youth by 2022; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in the context of the adoption of new technologies and digitization, job competencies required are changing and if

so, the expected impact on the future job situation with details thereof?

Consumer spending in rural areas

*209. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumer spending in rural areas declined by 8.8 per cent in 2017-18, indicating a fall after four decades and consequent rise in poverty levels; and

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

Construction of double track railway line in Assam

*210. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding construction of double track railway line in Assam and conversion of NBQ (New Bongaigaon) workshop into a full-fledged Coach-cum-Wagon Factory; and

(b) the other steps taken by Government to complete the double track work in Assam in a time-bound manner?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th November, 2019
Agrahayana 9, 1941 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 206,
Commerce and Industry	: 201,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 196, 204, 207, 209,
Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	: —
Food Processing Industries	: —
Panchayati Raj	: —
Railways	: 199, 210,
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