

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, February 8, 2019/Magha 19, 1940 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Coal; Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public
Distribution; Electronics and Information Technology;
Food Processing Industries; Law and Justice; Railways;
Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions — 160

Relief measures for tackling drought in Karnataka

603. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government is aware about
the severe drought situation in 24 districts
in the State of Karnataka, if so, whether
the Central Government has received
any reports of the State Government or
any agencies regarding the losses
incurred; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the
Central Government to release financial
assistance for taking up drought relief
activities and paying compensation to the
affected farmers, along with the details
thereof?

Revival of cashew industry of Kerala

604. SHRI SURESH GOPI: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government has taken
or planning to take to revive the cashew
industry of Kerala;

(b) the details of communication from
Cashew Export Promotion Council of
India, Kollam about the Union Government
asking them to put forth a concrete proposal
for revival of the cashew industry; and

(c) the urgent steps Government has or
in planning to take in the interest of small
scale cashew entrepreneurs, whose
accounts have turned NPA or stressed?

Promoting cooperative farming

605. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the distribution of landholdings in hectares per farmer households, State-wise, including Punjab;

(b) the average incomes earned from land less than 0.5 hectares, between 0.5 and 1 hectares, between 1 and 2 hectares and greater than 2 hectares, State-wise, including Punjab;

(c) whether Government has any action plan to promote cooperative farming to make farming financially viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including how the plan aims to tackle the shortcomings in previous cooperative farming plans, such as corruption, poor governance and capital shortages; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Additional work for farmers

606. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the findings of NABARD's All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016/17 regarding necessity for close to 88 per cent of farming households surveyed to engage in other work in order to provide household sustenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to help farming households to gain additional work;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of agro-processing industries sanctioned and commissioned in rural areas across the country, State-wise along with the funding patterns and timeline for implementation of each project?

Marketing and trading of farm produce

607. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH

TOMAR:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH

YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether development and upliftment of farmers is the first priority of Government, if so, whether Government is working on a concrete plan to link the farmers with markets to help the farmers in trading of foodgrain, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether marketing in farm produce is carried out through the State Governments across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether forward trading is an index of predictive pricing and as a result both buyer and seller can plan their futures trading, if so, details thereof and the extent to which it would help farmers?

Financial support to States for implementing schemes for farmers

608. SHRI HARNATH SINGH

YADAV:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH

TOMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments

have come out with various schemes to protect farmers from price volatility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to support farmers under the existing schemes with remunerative prices for agricultural and horticulture produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the produce which are not covered under MSP are likely to be covered under Price Support Schemes (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and financial support provided to States in this regard?

Implementation of National Project on soil health and fertility

609. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Soil Health Card Scheme along with the number of data collection rounds conducted per year;

(b) the details of budget allocated and actual amount spent since the inception of the scheme, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for revising the budget to half of the original amount allocated for the National Project on soil health and fertility; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to simultaneously build real-time online portals that can help farmers to gain quicker access to soil health data, if so, the details thereof, including a time-line for its implementation?

Institutional and regulatory support for tobacco growers

610. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether institutional and regulatory support is given by Government for tobacco growers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has fixed a common mechanism to regulate buying and selling of tendu leaves from pluckers as they rely on this for their livelihood,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government has put in place a scheme or framework to shift farmers from tobacco farming to alternate farming, if so the details thereof?

MSP for farmers' produces

611. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops has taken care of infrastructure of purchase centres, transportation and storage facilities, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a foolproof system has been devised in this regard, in the interest of the farming community, so that every farmer gets these rates, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether increase in MSP for these crops will lead to increase in retail inflation?

Multiple reforms for doubling the income of farmers

612. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multiple reforms initiated by Government to double the income of farmers have not yielded the desired results, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reforms initiated by Government to double the income of farmers during the last four years; and

(c) whether Government is proposing any changes in the reforms initiated, to accomplish the desired results?

MSP for paddy and wheat

613. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of formula adopted by Government for determining Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy, wheat, etc.;

(b) whether the latest MSP for crops matches with the price formula of C2 plus 50 per cent as recommended by Swaminathan Commission, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that MSP is equal to C2 plus 50 per cent?

Occupational exposure of farmers to pesticides

614. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been farmers'

deaths due to occupational exposure to pesticides in the last four years and the current year in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the common pesticides involved in these cases; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to ban or prohibit the use of these pesticides by farmers to protect public health?

Protection of the rights of tenant farmers

615. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is mulling to bring forward a legislation to protect the rights of the tenant farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a tenant farmer is unable to obtain loans from banks in the absence of patta papers; and

(d) if so, the urgent steps Government is taking to protect the rights of tenant farmers?

Old age pension for farmers

616. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up an old age pension scheme for farmers over the age of 60 years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government plans to provide for alternate source of income for such farmers who are too old for agricultural labour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Adverse effect of plastic waste in fisheries areas

617. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has recently found that fishing areas of Mumbai have highest plastic waste concentration in the country, which is adversely affecting fish and other sea food production in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government has initiated or proposes to initiate to deal with this serious situation?

Lack of technical know-how in deep-sea fishing

618. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a complete lack of technology and technical know-how in deep-sea fishing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to overcome this lacunae due to which foreign companies are taking advantage of the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Pest attack on vegetable farming

619. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that vegetable growers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country are facing new pests damaging their crops, low prices and rising input costs which is making them distressed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the interest of vegetable growers in Maharashtra and other parts of the country?

Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra

620. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is the worst hit in terms of farmers' suicide and has the highest number of farmers committing suicides; and

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

Pink bollworm menace in Maharashtra

621. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of pink bollworm pest attack on cotton crop every year in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study to assess cotton loss due to pest attack, and reasons behind it, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether action has been taken to compensate farmers for crop loss due to such attack, if so, details thereof along with number of cases where compensation is pending, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of farmers who have died or faced adverse effects of chemical spraying following a pink bollworm attack in cotton-growing States?

Profit margin of insurance companies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance companies have earned a profit of ₹ 15,795 crore in the past two years (2016-17 and 2017-18) under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) across the country;

(b) if so, the details of compensation disbursed, against the premium collected in the last two years, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether Government should have given this much money to the farmers as compensation directly instead of giving thousands of crore to the insurance companies as premium, because the farmers have to pay 1.3-2.0 per cent, while balance is paid by the State and Centre?

Agrarian unrest

623. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agrarian unrest has been growing with violent consequences in the last one- year;

(b) whether Government has not fulfilled its promise of providing at least 1.5 times the production cost while procuring produce from farmers;

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to sensitise farmers to shift to mixed farming practices based on scientific inputs; and

(d) the schemes implemented by Government to prevent losses in the event of bumper production?

Increase in reach of benefits of Minimum Support Prices

624. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fully implemented the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee, as promised;

(b) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) provided by Government to the farmers actually benefits only six per cent of the farmers in the entire country;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to ensure that the benefits of higher MSPs reaches to more farmers; and

(d) whether Government is considering enhancing the quantum of the produces purchased by it to the maximum possible limit so that it benefits a large number of farmers, and if so, the details thereof?

Use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes

625. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural land in hectares that has been utilised for purposes other than agriculture during the last three years;

(b) the State-wise data of the above; and

(c) the factors responsible for this and whether any steps are being taken to utilise agricultural land for the right purpose?

Destruction of crops by abandoned cows and bulls

626. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that abandoned cows and bulls are destroying crops and is becoming a menace;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any steps to secure and rescue these abandoned lots and provide them shelter; and

(c) if so, the measures taken so far along with the details thereof?

Full implementation of Swaminathan Commission Report

627. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of rise in MSP, the national average prices for the month of October, according to the Government's own price information network Agmarknet have actually been below the official MSP for 14 of the 20 crops;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the MSP set by Government is not being released to the farmers in some States; and

(c) by when Government plans to implement fully the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission Report on MSP for farmers?

Doubling the income of farmers and animal rearers

†628. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various measures taken so far by Government to double the income of farmers and animal rearers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the current income of farmers and animal rearers and collected data thereof during the last one year;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of farmers welfare schemes

†629. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any planning to waive off the debts of the small and marginal farmers, if so, by when;

(b) the details of the schemes of the Central Government for the welfare of farmers; and

(c) whether Government has promised to double the income of farmers by 2022, if so, the details thereof and the process would be followed in this regard?

Coverage under e-NAM

630. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States are still not covered under e-NAM platform, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether introduction of e-NAM and establishment of soil testing labs throughout the country has yielded good results in competitive online bidding system for farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of e-NAMs and soil testing labs established till date, State-wise?

Irrigated area in the country

†631. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where net irrigated area is less than 15 per cent of its gross irrigated area for last five years till date;

(b) the details of all the Government policies and schemes ensuring effective increase or stimulating agriculture management in net irrigated area; and

(c) the details of all the States which spend 15 per cent or more of their total expenditure on agriculture during the last five financial years, year-wise?

Impact of groundwater pollution on organic farming

632. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all organic food in the market is not 100 per cent organic, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether groundwater pollution is one of the major causes of chemicals seeping into crops, raising doubts on how any organic food is produced in India, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of organic produce are on the higher side in comparison to non-organic produce, if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government plans to support production and marketing of organic produce in the country to reduce their cost, if so, details thereof?

Implementation of PMFBY in Andhra Pradesh

633. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance companies which have been designated as 'Implementing Agency' of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the premium collected by insurance companies during each Rabi and Kharif season from farmers as well from State Government since the inception of the scheme; and

(c) the details of compensation paid to the farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh during each Rabi and Kharif season?

Steps to achieve the targets of doubling the income of farmers

†634. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many experts have expressed their apprehensions on successfully achieving the targets of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 under Agriculture Policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken till date for achieving the target of Agriculture Policy; and

(c) the area of agriculture land dependent on monsoon for irrigation, in terms of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

percentage and the acre-wise land for which the resources of Government and farmers are sufficient for irrigation?

Implementation of Soil Health Cards Scheme

635. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soil Health Cards that have been distributed to farmers since inception of the Soil Health Card Scheme;

(b) the number of soil samples that have been analysed in accordance with the scheme so far, since 2015;

(c) the number of soil testing labs that have that been assigned to the States in the aforementioned period; and

(d) the impact that has been created by the steps stated above?

Managing stubble burning

636. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to stop stubble burning in Northern States;

(b) the efforts made by Government to initiate research to manage the stubble without burning it; and

(c) whether Government proposes to give bonus to the farmers for managing stubble, if so, the details thereof?

Enhancing MSP as per real cost of production

637. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1794 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th December, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cost of production taken into account by Government does not match the real cost of production being borne by farmers and that is the reason why farmers across the country are agitating and demanding implementation of Swaminathan Commission on real cost;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the cost of production and enhance the MSP on real costs of production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government would bring perishable items like vegetables and fruits also under MSP; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in amount of subsidy and assistance provided to farmers

†638. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance/subsidy provided to farmers during last three years and current financial year, year-wise;

(b) whether subsidy/assistance being provided to Indian farmers is relatively less than the amount being granted to farmers of developed countries like United States of America;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the amount of subsidy/ assistance being given to farmers in the country has been reducing during the last few years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/planned to be taken by Government in this regard?

Framework for doubling farm income

639. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any framework for doubling farm incomes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of farm incomes earned by rural households in real terms in the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the recommendations of the inter-ministerial committee set up to suggest ways on doubling farm incomes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations along with the impact of those measures on farm income therefrom?

Cultivation of oilseeds in the country

†640. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cultivable area of oilseeds is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to provide incentive to promote increase in its cultivation area; and

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

Participation of pharmaceutical companies in PMBJP

641. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has failed to attract pharmaceutical companies and has managed to achieve only a limited success; and

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

Plight of Hindustan Insecticides Limited

642. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) is on the verge of closure due to scarcity of working capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the banning of certain pesticides has affected HIL adversely;

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive HIL and to help its employees;

(d) whether Government is ready to hold a Ministry-level meeting with the stakeholders to address the issues pertaining to HIL and resolve it; and

(e) whether Government would provide more working capital to HIL and try to usefully utilise the machinery in it?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Wage revision of contract workers in IDPL

643. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total turnover of the Indian Drug and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) in the last four years, year-wise;

(b) the total number of people who are employed in IDPL on contract basis;

(c) the details of the wages that have been paid to the contract workers in the last four years, month-wise;

(d) when the wage of contract workers was last revised; and

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to revise their wages in the last four years?

Margin of profit in trading of drugs

644. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit on sale of drugs of the wholesalers and retailers is as high as 30 per cent or more because some of the retailers offer 10 per cent to 20 per cent discount on the price quoted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to bring down the profit margin to a reasonable extent to make the medicines affordable to the common people in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of fertiliser vending machines

645. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer vending machines have been set up in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the States wherein these vending machines have been set up;

(c) whether the fertilizer vending machines will be set up in other States including Karnataka also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of NIPER in Andhra Pradesh

646. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would come up with proposal to set up NIPER, keeping in view of the enormous potential in the form of human resource in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Non-compliance of pharmaceutical norms

647. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any notice to drug manufacturers regarding non-compliance of pharmaceutical norms during current and last three years;

(b) if so, the detailed list of such notices;

(c) the details about the outcome of the same so far; and

(d) the details about the action taken against such drug manufacturers so far?

Subsidy to farmers by Government

648. SHRI HARNATH SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy made available by Government on various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether the poor and marginal farmers are not getting the benefits of subsidy on fertilizers and if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide fertilizer subsidy directly through accounts of farmers by Direct Benefit Transfer scheme; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

Wage revision of contract workers at Singareni coal mines

649. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total turnover of Singareni coal mines in the last four years, year-wise;

(b) the number of employees being employed in Singareni coal mines on contract basis;

(c) whether these contract workers are paid less than the minimum wages;

(d) the details of the wages and other allowances paid to these contract workers in the last four years;

(e) when was their wage last revised along with the details of the last wage revision; and

(f) whether Government has taken any steps to revise their wages?

Production of coal by CIL

650. SHRI ANIL DESAI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal production by Coal India Limited (CIL) is not adequate and unable to meet the demands of power plants, both in the public sector and private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry is thinking of importing coal to meet the demands of power plants; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Fire accidents in coal mines

651. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country along with loss of life and property caused during each of last five years, company and State-wise and the reasons for repeated fire accidents in the coal mines;

(b) whether any investigation has been carried out in this regard and if so, details thereof along with the action taken by Government; and

(c) the total funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines during the said period, company-wise, along with funds released to compensate the victims of accidents?

Shortage of coal in Raichur Thermal Power Station

652. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) has shortage of coal supply since two years;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for shortage of coal in RTPS;

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

(e) the details of total quantity of coal

required in power stations across the country per year, State-wise?

Profit earned by Coal India Limited

653. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) has earned substantial profit during the quarter ending September, 2018 in comparison to similar period during 2017-18;

(b) whether the results obtained meet the expectations of the market analysts and Government; and

(c) the reasons for such a satisfactory improvement in the functioning of Coal India Limited?

Report of Pratyush Sinha Committee

654. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry the problems in coal bidding, not permitting part of output of coal in the market, issues with bank guarantee, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pratyush Sinha Committee has recently submitted a report for revamping the coal auction process in the country;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the details of action taken by

Government on each of the recommendation, recommendation-wise?

Underground fires in coal fields

†655. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new coal deposits discovered in the country from the year 2016 to 2018;

(b) the arrangements being made to rehabilitate the residents of those coal fields (for example, Jhariya) which are affected by underground fires; and

(c) the efforts being made to douse the fires?

Allocation of new coal mines

†656. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new coal mines allocated to both public and private sectors since 2014 to till date; and

(b) the estimated increase in the coal production of the country due to functioning of these new mines?

Scarcity of coal

657. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints regarding the scarcity of coal since 2014, sector-wise and amount-wise;

(b) the quantity of coal which is being wasted in the transportation through Railways since 2014;

(c) the steps Government has undertaken to ensure efficient transportation of coal; and

(d) the quantity of coal which has been auctioned by different coal mines since 2014 and losses incurred in the process, since 2014?

Pending coal projects

658. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of pending coal projects with Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and NLC India Ltd., State-wise, since 2015;

(b) the total cost of the pending coal projects across the country since 2014 till January, 2019;

(c) the steps Ministry has undertaken to expedite the pending projects; and

(d) how much coal has been imported *vis-a-vis* the coal mined in the country since 2014 and the cost of the coal purchased, per tonne, every year, since 2014?

Export of processed food products

†659. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan to promote the export of the processed food products of the country; and

(b) if so, the framework of the said scheme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Blocking of virtual private networks
by ISPs**

660. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports on blocking of virtual private networks and other services by certain ISPs are true or not;

(b) whether the same is a violation of the Net Neutrality license conditions issued by Department of Telecommunications and if so, the steps taken by Ministry to check this; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a certain operator has claimed that Government has asked them to block the same, if so, the details thereof?

**USO Funds for laying of optical fibre
cables under BharatNet Phase-2
project**

661. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USO Funds (USOF) are being spent on laying of optical fibre cables under Phase-2 of BharatNet project at an escalated capital outlay of ₹ 13,461 crore;

(b) whether the BharatNet Phase 2 project for laying 6 lakh kilometres fibre cable is targeted to be completed by March, 2019;

(c) whether, in hindsight, it took more than four years to lay 3 lakh kilometres of optical fibre cables under Phase-I of the BharatNet project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Unavailability of mobile services in
certain inhabited villages**

†662. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 43,066 inhabited villages of the country have not been provided with mobile services so far;

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

(c) the extent to which Government has resolved the said reasons through modern technology and instruments?

**Base Transceiver Stations for urban
areas of Nellore**

663. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that as many as 55 4G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are required to get 4G network coverage in Nellore urban areas, but BSNL has allotted only 30 BTSs;

(b) whether it is a fact that BSNL's Nellore SSA has recommended for 53 4G BTSs for Nellore urban areas; and

(c) if so, the steps undertaken by Ministry to allot recommended BTSs for Nellore urban areas?

Allocation of 4G spectrum to BSNL

664. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of requests from BSNL for spectrum allocation of 4G internet in the last two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has agreed to provide the requested spectrum and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the employees have raised concerns of partisan conduct by Government favouring certain telecom companies and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government has responded to such concerns of employees and the actions taken/planned to resolve the crisis?

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

665. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding merger of BSNL and MTNL is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame and detailed roadmap for merger of BSNL and MTNL?

700 MHz band spectrum allocation to BSNL

666. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from BSNL for allocation of 5 MHz block in 700 MHz band through the equity route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for no allocation of 5 MHz block in 700 MHz band spectrum to BSNL, till date; and

(d) the details of the roadmap for rollout of 4G services by BSNL and MTNL?

Irregularities in Microwave Access spectrum allocation

667. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in allocation of ₹ 69,381 crore Microwave Access spectrum have been found in a recent CAG report and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of revenue earned by Government through auctions of spectrum conducted during the last six years, auction-wise, including targets fixed and the results achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check irregularities in spectrum allocation?

GST on the spectrum

668. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to scrap GST on the spectrum, licence fee or refund of input credits for telecom operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the telecom operators have made any request to TRAI to do so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Cash for Food scheme

†669. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing the Cash for Food scheme on pilot basis in some States;

(b) if so, the objective behind implementing this scheme; and

(c) whether this amount is sufficient enough to purchase better quality nutritious foodgrains from the market, if so, the details thereof?

Diversion of subsidised foodgrains under PDS

670. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI HARSHVARDHAN
SINGH DUNGARPUR:
DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale leakages and diversion of subsidised foodgrains meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details of the diversion of subsidised foodgrains State-wise;

(c) whether creation of the e-portal helped to track these issues more effectively and increased transparency in the system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Relaxation to purchase moisture content paddy under MSP in Andhra Pradesh

671. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large amount of paddy crops has lost and become wet due to recent Titli and Phethai cyclones which devastated Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to relax the MSP norms to enable the State Government to purchase the moisture content paddy under MSP, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision in the matter, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mandatory testing of purity of gold

†672. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on the sale of gold/jewellery which do not bear Hallmark;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would make the use of test-machine mandatory in jewellery shops for testing the purity of Gold?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Direct transfer of subsidy
under PDS**

673. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a scheme for direct transfer of subsidy provided under the Public Distribution System (PDS) into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said subsidy would be indexed against inflation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the relative merits and demerits of the said scheme?

**Damage of foodgrains in FCI
warehouses**

674. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foodgrains damaged in the FCI warehouses over the period of 2014-18;

(b) the storage capacity of FCI warehouses as compared to the amount of foodgrains procured over the period of 2014-18;

(c) the amount of foodgrains damaged before and during transportation to the FCI warehouses;

(d) whether there is any provision for monitoring and assessment of the foodgrain storage facilities, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures that have been taken to address the wastage of foodgrains along with the details thereof?

Deaths due to inefficiency of PDS

675. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the deaths of children in Haryana and Punjab because of inefficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures being taken up for the efficiency of PDS and the details of funds allocated to States in this regard, State-wise?

Quantity fraud in PDS

676. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ghost beneficiaries removed from database after linking of Aadhar with ration card, since 2014, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Ministry is aware of the magnitude of 'quantity fraud' where legitimate beneficiaries are given only a fraction of their entitlement by the PDS dealer;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether Ministry is also aware that linking Aadhar with ration card is leading to denial of entitlements to legitimate beneficiaries while having no impact on 'quantity fraud'; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to curb 'quantity fraud'?

Payment of dues to sugarcane-growing farmers of Haryana

677. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the detail of sugarcane-growing farmers in the country who have not been paid their dues during the last four years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has paid Fair Remunerative Price (FRP) to the farmers, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including the State of Haryana;

(c) the payment of dues by Sugar mills in Haryana to the farmers and the details of arrears if any;

(d) whether any measures have been taken by Government to ensure that the sugarcane-growing farmers are paid in time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Payment of committed rent for storage spaces owned by private companies

678. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan, guaranteeing to pay committed rent of

storage spaces that would remain unused in steel silos built to keep wheat;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to encourage private players for constructing steel silos for storing wheat; and

(c) the names of private companies which have shown interest in this regard?

Action against FCI officials for non-maintenance of quality and standards

679. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on procurement of various foodgrains in different States under Minimum Support Price (MSP) in last four financial years;

(b) the total capacity of storage in the warehouses, added by Government in various States during the last four financial years; and

(c) the number of cases which have been registered in the last four years against the officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) who are responsible for not maintaining quality and standard of storage and distribution of foodgrains?

Making PDS public friendly

680. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to inbuilt problems of Public Distribution System (PDS), beneficiaries are still not getting due advantage of the scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to improve and restructure the PDS to make it public friendly, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Starvation deaths

681. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many households are excluded from the Public Distribution System as ration card quotas are based on the 2011 Census, if so, whether Government has prepared any plan to tackle this issue;

(b) the number of Antyodaya ration cards cancelled in the financial year 2018-19, till date and procedure followed by Government for cancelling ration cards;

(c) whether the list of cancelled ration cards is available in the public domain, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of reported starvation deaths since 2014, State-wise; and

(e) the measures Ministry has taken on cases of starvation deaths and to prevent such deaths in the future?

Restructuring of FCI

682. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the High Level Committee on Restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI); and

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised for implementation of the Committee's recommendations?

Grievance redressal mechanism for consumers of Public Distribution System

683. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to redress grievances of the consumers under the Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of ration cards issued and Fair Price Shops operational in the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether several irregularities, including diversion of PDS foodgrains, prevalence of fake ration cards, supply of poor quality foodgrains and charging of high price have been reported during the last four years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard, State/UT-wise?

Law on data protection and privacy

684. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has taken more than a decade for Government to draft a law on data protection and privacy, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the issue of data protection and privacy kept on shifting from Ministries to Ministries in the past decade, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the bill on data protection and privacy?

Aadhaar-enabled payment systems

685. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:
SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aadhaar-enabled payment systems have been discontinued in all the banks or not;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the RBI is in talks to allow the use of QR Code-based 'Offline Aadhaar'?

Digital plan for North Eastern States

686. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a comprehensive digital plan for North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the technology would transform the lives of the people of North Eastern States?

Blocking of websites

687. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the list of

Government requests to block Indian websites in the past four years;

(b) the number of websites which were blocked against the total number of requests made and the details thereof;

(c) the details of news websites blocked in the past four years; and

(d) the reasons for blocking of websites?

Centre for Electromagnetic Environmental Effects

688. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the proposed Centre for Electromagnetic Environmental Effects, set up in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that first phase of the project is still languishing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the cost and time overrun of the project; and

(d) by when the Ministry is going to start the second phase and the details of timeline therefor?

Cyber attacks in the country

689. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country witnessed over 4.36 lakh cyber attacks between January to June 2018;

(b) the details of cyber attacks over the period of 2014-18, year-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to address the issue of cyber attacks in the country?

Strengthening of internet security

690. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of cases of people being forged in regard to fraudulent usage of the debit/credit cards by pilferage of their passwords, etc., in last five years;

(b) whether any steps are being taken by Government to create awareness as well as further strengthen the security system to ensure maximum internet security to the people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vulnerabilities in App used in smartphones

691. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent research which has exposed the vulnerabilities of "ES File Explorer", being widely used in smartphones; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ban it and create awareness among users, given that it has more than 100 million downloads and can be misused to remotely hack the user's data?

Domestic production of consumer electronics

692. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic production of

consumer electronics is insufficient to meet the increasing demand within the country and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the impact of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) on domestic manufacturing of cellular mobile handsets, their sub-assemblies, parts and components?

Breach of Aadhaar data

693. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aadhaar data contains both core biometric information and other demographic information of citizens and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total instances of data breach in the last five years of the Aadhaar database, of core biometric information and other demographic information; and

(c) whether the breach of demographic information is harmful for the citizens and if so, the reasons therefor?

National Supercomputing Mission

694. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the broad aims and objectives of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM);

(b) by when supercomputers being built by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) would be ready;

(c) the basic features of these supercomputers and where would they be deployed; and

(d) the total cost of developing these supercomputers and the percentage of indigenous technology being used therein?

Status of IBPS

695. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPOs which have been set up under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS);

(b) the employment created under the scheme;

(c) the status of set up BPOs and whether they are the self-running or on Government aid; and

(d) the number of new entrepreneurs who have set up this BPO, if any, the details thereof?

Setting up of food parks

696. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up food parks in the country to create modern infrastructure for food processing, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of parks identified/ established/approved over the last five years, along with financial assistance or funds provided to such parks;

(c) the procedure to select such projects; and

(d) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government to set up food parks, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up food processing units for jackfruit and banana

697. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals for setting up food processing units for jackfruit and banana from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(b) whether Government plans to use the potential of these fruits for food processing industries?

Unsold food products discarded by supermarkets

698. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data is available on the unsold food products discarded by supermarket chains of big corporates, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any mechanism for the donation of unsold food products of supermarkets which are still suitable for consumption to charities, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the mechanism for the donation of unsold food products of supermarkets?

Decline in earning of foreign exchange in food processing sector

699. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal for setting up of resource centre by CFTRI at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of farmers of Rayalaseema area;

(b) the reasons for low food processing in the country and how the country compares to other countries like US, UK, China, France, etc., in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange earned through food processing sector is gradually coming down from US \$ 36 billion in 2012-13 to US \$ 29 billion in 2015-16; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind this downtrend and in what manner Ministry is planning to turn this around?

Research and Development in FPIs

700. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2663 given in Rajya Sabha on 4th January, 2019 and state:

(a) the reasons why funds allocated for Research and Development in food processing sector has come down from ₹ 10.5 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 5.8 crore in 2016-17:

(b) the status of implementation of Research and Development since April, 2017 by the Ministry; and

(c) the details of targets set and achieved since 2017?

Sharing of infrastructure between food retail and e-commerce

701. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to relax riders in food retail with regard to sharing of infrastructure between food retail and e-commerce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has done any assessment of likely effect of this move on the small food growers and sellers in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Suggestion of EC on NOTA votes

†702. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has given any suggestion to Government under which there should be such a provision that if there are more votes for NOTA as compared to the winning candidate, then that poll would be nullified and fresh polls would be conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken/is taking initiatives in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

State funding of elections

703. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Election Commission proposes to crack down against black money;

(b) whether there is any plan for State funding of elections; and

(c) if so, by when it would happen, if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Framing of rules and regulations
after passing of Acts**

704. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have not framed rules/regulations pursuant to passing of those Acts by Parliament, if so, the details thereof, date and year-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes to issue guidelines in this regard, making it mandatory for all the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government by giving them three months time-limit to frame the rules/regulations, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Salary and perquisites of Judges

705. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts, State-wise, including Gujarat and Jharkhand, as well as the Supreme Court of country;

(b) the number of pending cases, both criminal and civil, in High Courts, State-wise and the Supreme Court of the country;

(c) the steps taken by Government in last four years to ease stress and burden of higher judiciary in the country; and

(d) whether Government increased salaries and perquisites of Judges in the country to raise their living standard to bring it at par with judiciary in the developed countries, the details thereof?

**Appointment of women Judges in the
courts/tribunals**

706. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women Judges appointed in the Supreme Court and High Courts, court-wise;

(b) the number of women Judges appointed in the tribunals constituted by the Central Government, tribunal-wise;

(c) the number of women Judges appointed in the subordinate judiciary, district-wise; and

(d) whether Government is proposing any scheme to increase the proportion of women Judges in the courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**High expense of Government
litigations**

707. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of litigations ongoing in courts that has Government as a party;

(b) the percentage of the above-mentioned litigations that has been initiated by Government;

(c) the expense on Government litigations in the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to create a separate department in the Ministry to handle Government litigation; and

(e) whether the new version of the National Litigation Policy has been formulated and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the progress till date including stakeholder consultations and proposed changes from the 'National Litigation Policy, 2010'?

Cooling off period for Judges after retirement

708. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to prescribe a cooling off period of 5 years after the retirement of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court with a view to secure the independence of institutions recognised in the Constitution through special protection of SC/HC Judges and Election Commissioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(c) if not, the other reforms Government proposes to bring forward in this direction as Government is a major litigant in courts but holds the power to offer post-retirement position to Judges?

e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II

709. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II;

(b) whether Government recently launched mobile application based e-services for courts;

(c) if so, the details of the services shared through this application; and

(d) the number of applicants using this applications, State-wise and court-wise?

Pendency in various High Courts

710. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than ten lakh cases have been lying pending in various High Courts for more than ten years, as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the said cases lying pending for more than ten years;

(d) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether there is any proposal of Government to establish benches of High Courts, particularly, Allahabad High Court, in Western UP so that large number of cases pending in that Court may be solved in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof?

Bench of the Orissa High Court in western part of Odisha

711. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Odisha has written to the Central Government several times proposing for establishment of a Bench of the Orissa High Court in western part of Odisha, pledging to provide all infrastructural requirements as would be necessary for a High Court Bench; and

(b) whether concurrence of the Orissa High Court is mandatory for establishment of High Court Bench, if so, whether the Central Government has sought approval of the Orissa High Court and the response thereof?

Provision of court proceedings and judgments in regional languages

†712. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proceedings and judgments of High Courts and lower courts are provided in regional languages (Indian languages) to the concerned parties;

(b) if so, the details of courts providing this facility, State-wise, if not, the steps being taken in this regard by Government in the public interest; and

(c) whether any fee is charged for providing judgments and other proceedings in regional Indian languages like Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odiya, etc.?

IT-enabled plan for expeditious disposal of pending cases

†713. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has contemplated to implement any IT-enabled plan for expeditious disposal of pending cases in lower and higher courts of the country;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the merit of this plan after implementing it on pilot basis in any part of country; and

(c) the number of pending cases disposed of during last three years along with the number of cases pending at present and by when it is planned to dispose them of?

Collegium for the appointment of Judges

714. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of Delhi underlined the need for a transparent, accountable and objective collegium system for the appointment of Judges to maintain credibility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is taking in this direction?

Reinforcement of credibility of EVMs

†715. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to examine the new facts that have come up regarding the tampering of the chip manufactured by Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), which is used in electronic voting machines (EVMs) in Indian elections, so that EVM's credibility could be retained; and

(b) the details of number of technological aspects that have been examined in the last five years to clear the constant doubts raised over EVMs, which have reinforced the credibility of the EVMs?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Requirement of voting machines for Lok Sabha elections of 2019

716. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines estimated to be required for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections;

(b) whether essential design improvements were incorporated in EVMs to make them foolproof and tamper-proof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when all the machines would be in place for the forthcoming Lok Sabha general elections along with the details thereof?

Cases pending before Tribunals

717. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each of the different kinds of Tribunals functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of cases pending before each of the above-mentioned Tribunal and details of cases that are pending for more than one year, two years, three years and five years and reasons for such pendency;

(c) whether it is a fact that delay is due to huge vacancies in Tribunals;

(d) whether inordinate delay has defeated the very purpose of establishing Tribunals; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to dispose the pendency in a time-bound manner?

Vacancies in courts

718. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 10,000 posts LDA, Copyist, Typist, Law Clerks, Private Secretary, Stenographer, Judicial Assistant, Research Assistant are vacant in different High Courts of the country;

(b) whether nearly 450 posts of Judges are still vacated cumulatively in the Supreme Court and all 24 High Courts of the country thereto;

(c) whether in four High Courts, there are acting Chief Justice;

(d) if so, the details of category-wise vacancies and proposal to fill up all vacancies in time-bound mechanism; and

(e) the details of referral of supreme Court Collegium and State's recommendations therein and action taken thereon?

Applications for Public Notary licences

719. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of legal aspirants have applied for Public Notary licences; and

(b) if so, the number of applications received and by when these applications would be cleared?

**Electrification of railway lines in the
State of Andhra Pradesh**

720. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to take up electrification of railway lines in the country with funds worth ₹ 35,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any railway lines have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh to be taken up under this programme, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of electrification of railway lines particularly passing through Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the quantum of funds estimated to be spent on this electrification of railway lines and the details thereof?

**Proposal for a special train from
Gwalior to Bhopal**

†721. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal to run a daily special train from Gwalior to Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken/ would be taken soon on the above-mentioned proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Annual Capital Expenditure by
Railways**

722. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Average Annual Capital Expenditure incurred by Railways for the period 2014-19 is more than twice the average for the period 2009-2014; and

(b) if so, the impact of such drastic increase in the spending?

Train operation by private companies

†723. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to hand over responsibilities of train operations to private companies;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to hand over the operations of goods trains to private companies along with passenger train; and

(c) the details of work of Railways which have been delegated to private companies at present, the number of complaints received regarding poor quality of work and the details of mechanism adopted for their redressal?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Water vending machines at Railway Stations

724. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water vending machines installed by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) whether IRCTC plans to install a water vending machine at every station;

(c) whether it is a fact that the installation of water vending machines has considerably reduced the use of plastic bottles, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the plastic cups at the functioning vending machines have been fully replaced by paper cups?

Pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh

†725. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the shortage of funds and other technical reasons, Chirmiri-Barwadih rail line in Chhattisgarh along with other projects are pending since long time;

(b) if so, the details of the last three years, project-wise;

(c) whether Government has not allocated sufficient funds for the pending rail projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

Expansion of passenger rail services to Madhya Pradesh

†726. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the updated status regarding announcement and implementation of passenger service expansion during the last four years for every train starting from and reaching Madhya Pradesh and information regarding proposals of forthcoming new rail passenger services?

Locomotive-less trains

727. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to run locomotive-less trains;

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

(c) whether Government has assessed the financial requirement of running such trains and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of security aspects in running such trains, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Laying of new railway lines

†728. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of railway projects announced during last four years for laying of new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether work has been initiated on these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Empowering Railway Protection Force

†729. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously contemplating to further empower Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this direction; and

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

Vacancies in Maintenance and Inspection Wings of Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 60 per cent vacancies in the Maintenance and Inspection Wings of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sanctioned posts, Zone/State-wise and the number of existing vacancies; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to fill up these vacancies at the earliest?

Redressal of cases and online filing of FIRs

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allow railway passengers to file online, FIRs on railway crimes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that redressal rate of crimes registered with Railway Police is very low, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases filed in Railway Police Stations, Zone/State-wise and number of cases resolved as well as number of cases pending, during last five years?

Deterioration of food quality and quantity in Rajdhani Express

732. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that reduction of food items served in Rajdhani Express plying to Eastern India and the sharp increase in railway fare since 2014 have resulted in dissatisfaction amongst the passengers;

(b) whether Government plans to take pocket-friendly measures for passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies in Railways

733. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of vacancies in Railways;

(b) if so, the total number of employees in Railways at present as compared to 2014-15; and

(c) the steps that have been taken to fill up these vacant posts so that efficiency of Railways does not suffer?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

734. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taken any steps to avert accidents at unmanned level crossings; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to install any equipment/device to avoid such incidents in the near future?

e-catering service of IRCTC

735. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred by IRCTC on the e-catering service *vis-a-vis* the revenue in the last three years;

(b) the details of the passengers who ordered food from the IRCTC e-catering service *vis-a-vis* the target in the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the IRCTC e-catering service?

Instances of fire in Kolkata Metro

736. DR. SANTANU SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been several instances of fires in Kolkata Metro in the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of causes revealed in inquiries conducted; and

(c) whether there is any plan for modernisation of Kolkata Metro?

Railway line from Hajipur to Mahua

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently approved Samastipur railway line from Hajipur to Mahua;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of Mahua railway line has been started; and

(d) the progress made so far in Mahua railway block and by when this railway line would be started along with the details thereof?

Unmanned level crossings

738. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to stop accidents in the unmanned level crossings;

(b) if so, the total number of unmanned level crossings in the country and number of accidents that have occurred at unmanned level crossings since 2014, year-wise;

(c) the action that has been taken to remove unmanned level crossings during the last five years, State-wise;

(d) the reasons why there is vacancy of staff in the unmanned level crossings till date; and

(e) the details of action taken along with flyovers constructed and budget sanctioned for flyovers since 2014 till date?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Escalation of project cost due to delay

†739. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to delay in timely completion of Railway projects, cost of projects is increasing;

(b) if so, as per present status, in how many projects cost has escalated due to delay in timely completion of project and amount of cost which has been escalated, project-wise; and

(c) whether any Railway officer has been found responsible for above-mentioned delay and the response of Government in this regard?

Delay in operationalisation of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express

740. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-operationalisation of the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express promised by Government in the Railway budget of 2016-17 till date;

(b) the anticipated date by which the train would begin operations; and

(c) the details of the fare of the Tejas Express, as decided by the Railways?

Vacancies in Railways

†741. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of new recruitments have decreased as compared to retirements in Railways, following which posts in the Railways have been continuously falling vacant;

(b) the details of group D, C and other employees who have retired from the Railways during the last five years, group-wise;

(c) the details of employees appointed on various posts during the period, group-wise; and

(d) the number of sanctioned posts which are vacant at present and the reasons therefor?

Concerns about bullet train project

742. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan wants more bullet train routes across India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that SAIL has been discarded for supplying the rail for the bullet train project, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Japanese are concerned about the different work culture between the two countries, if so, the details thereof and the planning of Government to solve it?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Running allowance to loco staffs and guards

743. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the running allowance given to loco staffs and guards before and after 7th Pay Commission;

(b) the reasons why Railways is not increasing the running allowance of loco running staffs and guards even after repeated protests and representations by the employees;

(c) whether Government is aware that the running staff retirees of Railways are denied parity in pension; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would take action to implement pension parity?

Reduction in dynamic fares in Suvidha trains

744. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the dynamic fares introduced in the Suvidha trains are very high and so passengers are unable to bear such exorbitant rates;

(b) whether Government has received any representation and proposals to reduce the dynamic fares, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Railways to reduce the fares?

Work on Rewa-Sidhi-Churhat railway project

†745. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Rewa-Sidhi-Churhat project in Madhya Pradesh is in progress;

(b) if so, the detailed information of the administrative and financial expenditure incurred on the project; and

(c) the current status of the work completed on this project and by when it is targeted to be completed?

Unmanned level crossings

746. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as on date, Government has completed the work of eliminating all the unmanned level crossings;

(b) if so, the details of unmanned level crossings eliminated during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the number of unmanned level crossings still existing in the country, State-wise?

Building wall to guard railway tracks

747. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has planned to build 3000 km. wall to guard tracks and keep away people from railway lines in residential areas; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the project would start and by when it would be completed?

New rail lines in Haryana and Punjab

748. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway projects announced for Haryana and Punjab for laying new rail lines during the last three years and the current year and the details thereof;

(b) whether the work has been initiated on these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Technology to prevent rail accidents

749. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place various technologies to avert rail accidents caused due to derailment, collision, SADP etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding the effectiveness of a particular technology for using it in Indian Railways (IR) on pan-India basis to prevent accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Enhancing average speed of trains

750. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to increase the average speed of trains;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any step to upgrade railway tracks to enable running of trains at high speed;

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

(e) the details regarding cost implications involved in increasing average speed of trains?

Establishment of Primary Health Centres at railway stations

751. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had proposed to set up Primary Health Centres at about 7000 railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these Primary Health Centres would be established at the railway stations; and

(c) the names of railway stations wherein the said centres have been proposed to be set up?

Introduction of new categories of trains

752. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIYAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has announced four new categories of trains to facilitate rail passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the said categories of trains have started as per the schedule prepared by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to expedite the introduction of the said trains to facilitate passengers?

Robbery in Jammu-Delhi Durgam Express

753. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a shocking incident, robbers struck at dawn, looting train passengers of Delhi-bound Jammu Durgam Express at knife-point near Samaypur Badli in the National Capital Region;

(b) whether the loot occurred along the tracks running through JJ Colonies known for acts of vandalism and theft in the running trains; and

(c) whether the gangs place coins on the track between two signal systems, to disrupt insulation that causes short circuit, making signal systems go into default mode (red) thereby forcing the train to stop?

Closure of printing presses under Railways

754. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has closed any printing press under Railways in the past;

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

(c) the total number of printing presses presently functioning under Railways; and

(d) the details of wages and number of casual and permanent workers who are presently employed in the printing presses under Railways?

Special train from Ayodhya to Sitamarhi

†755. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal to run a special train from Ayodhya to Sitamarhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decision on the said proposal has been taken/would be taken soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Problems faced by passengers stranded in Delhi due to non-availability of seats in trains

†756. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to ease the condition of Indian citizens who are compelled to stay in Delhi for several days due to non-availability of seats in air-conditioned coaches of trains, thereby spending more money than their paying capacity; and

(b) if so, the detailed information thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Steps to maintain punctuality of trains in Southern Railway

757. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the situation regarding maintaining punctuality by the trains especially in Southern Railway;

(b) whether Government has received complaints of late running of trains in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the reasons for that and the steps that have been initiated to find a solution to this issue?

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

†758. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state details of expansion of new passenger train services and rail tracks, electrification work and details of significant passenger services introduced in Madhya Pradesh during last four years as well as details of forthcoming special railway projects?

Establishment of High Courts or their Benches in State Capitals

759. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which do not have a High Court in the State capital; and

(b) whether there is a proposal before Government to establish High Courts or their Benches in State capitals where there is none?

Unified Model Recruitment Rules for Statistical Cadre

760. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of 7th Central Pay Commission recommendation with regard to streamlining the "Statistical Cadre" existing in various departments of the Central Government under Unified Model Recruitment Rules, laying down the educational qualification, job responsibilities and pay structure of the Statistical Cadre Posts, as per para 75 of Chapter 7.7 of CPC Report;

(b) whether such type of recommendation has been made, if so, the details of the current status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in GDP of the country

†761. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks seventh among countries having highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any modalities have been drawn to further strengthen country's position;

(c) whether Government plans to work towards further increasing the GDP of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cost overrun of infrastructure projects

762. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infrastructure projects, each worth ₹ 150 crore or above, where cost overruns took place, as on January, 2019;

(b) the reasons for the cost overruns;

(c) the anticipated completion cost, as against the original cost, both in terms of figure and percentage;

(d) the number of projects where time escalation is noticed and their period of targeted completion; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to remove the bottlenecks and putting these infrastructure projects on the fast track?

NEW DELHI;
The 2nd February, 2019
Magha 13, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648,
Coal	: 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658,
Communications	: 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683,
Electronics and Information Technology	: 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695,
Food Processing Industries	: 659, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701,
Law and Justice	: 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 759,
Railways	: 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758,
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: 760, 761, 762.