

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, August 3, 2018/Shravana 12, 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; Parliamentary Affairs; Railways)**

Total number of questions — 15

Subsidy for Sugar sector

*181. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a subsidy of ₹ 5.5 per quintal of sugarcane crushed during the 2017-18 season to help sugar mills clear more than ₹ 19,000 crore dues to cane growing farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the assistance would be paid directly to farmers on behalf of mills; and

(d) whether the subsidy would be adjusted against the Fair and Remunerative Price of ₹ 255 per quintal fixed by Government as the rate that mills must pay to cane growing farmers as well as the arrears of payments pending from various years?

Handling of Aadhaar database by public and private agencies

*182. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of

the fact that Aadhaar database of tens of thousands of citizens is handled in an irresponsible manner by various public and private agencies;

(b) whether Government has noticed that news-items are often appearing in media regarding leakages of Aadhaar data; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by mishandling of Aadhaar database, both to the security of the nation and privacy of the individuals?

Low returns on farm produces

*183. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lower returns on farm produces is the main reason behind farmers' distress;

(b) whether it is a fact that bargaining power of farmers has declined in the past few years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that real MSPs have been stagnant under the present Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Spreading fake news in social media

*184. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has observed that fake news in social media, particularly on WhatsApp, are spreading like anything;

(b) whether the Ministry has any guidelines to curb such things or has given any direction to WhatsApp to curb fake news on its platform;

(c) if so, when such instructions have been issued and whether it has yielded positive results; and

(d) whether social platform like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, etc., are working with Ministries of Communications, Home Affairs, IT and the local police to address these and other issues, if so, the details thereof?

Illegal diversion of urea by fertilizer companies

*185. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information about the fertilizer companies involved in illegal diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, the detailed list thereof;

(c) if there is no such information, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any action has been taken/notices been issued so far by the Government in this regard along with the outcome thereof?

Revival of FACT, Kochi

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

(a) the steps Government has taken to revive the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kochi, a major fertilizer manufacturing company in the public sector;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from the Government of Kerala, requesting to save the ailing FACT; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary action to keep the FACT running in public sector?

Contract Farming

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to experiment with Contract Farming to help develop the marketing links that are necessary for raising the efficiency of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal would be considered in the near future to deal with various problems relating to farming?

Recruitment for Group 'D' posts

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

(a) whether despite the automation projects aimed to improve safety, the Railways propose to hire about one lakh

staff through an online process, mainly in Group 'D' comprising of gangmen, trackmen, switchmen, cabinmen, welders and helpers;

(b) whether there being no recruitment for Group 'D' during the last two years, the operational efficiency of Railways has taken a hit with most of the trains running late in all the Zones; and

(c) whether Railways have the professional manpower and systems capacity to process more than 2.5 crore pending applications?

Setting up of mini labs in KVKs for soil testing

*189. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative for setting up of mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for soil testing across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of mini labs established by Government in KVKs, including in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited under this scheme and the steps taken by Government to develop more mini labs for soil testing?

Non-availability of telecommunication facilities in certain villages of Gujarat

†*190. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecommunication facilities are not

available in 1275 villages of Gujarat despite 70 years of independence of our country;

(b) the reasons for non-availability of telecommunication facilities in the above-mentioned villages; and

(c) the reactions therefor?

Engagement of labourers on contractual basis

†*191. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry proposes to engage labourers on contractual basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of permanent posts lying vacant in the Railways at present;

(d) the number of vacant permanent posts that have been filled up during the last three years; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that according to experts, security of employees for a long time is likely to adversely affect the functioning of Railways?

State-of-the-art facilities at railway stations

†*192. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to modernise selected railway stations in the country with state-of-the-art facilities, is yet to be fulfilled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the names of the railway stations that have been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Calculating requirement of additional Judges

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

(a) whether the Law Commission, in its 245th report, had suggested that to measure the needs of judicial services, population is not the appropriate criteria and the rate of disposal method is more pragmatic and useful for calculating the requirement of number of additional Judges to clear the backlog of cases as well to ensure that new backlog is not created; and

(b) if so, in the light of suggestion of the Law Commission, whether any policy-related measures are being taken/have been taken by Government in this regard?

Rejection of formula for calculating input costs

*194. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NITI Aayog has recently rejected the formula

provided by the MS Swaminathan Commission for calculating input costs; and

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

Sale of shares of Mother Dairy

*195. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to sell whole or part of the shares of Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables to private company during the UPA regime;

(b) if so, Government's view at that time;

(c) whether it is a fact that the benefits of research in mustard have been passed on to the same group by NDDB; and

(d) whether Government would enquire into a possible conflict of interest through a Central investigation agency?

NEW DELHI;
The 28th July, 2018
Shravana 6, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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