

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, August 6, 2018/Shravana 15, 1940 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Defence; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Earth Sciences;
Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and
Broadcasting; Mines; Panchayati Raj; Road Transport and
Highways; Rural Development; Science and Technology;
Shipping; Water Resources, River Development and
Ganga Rejuvenation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 15

FAST tag lanes of toll plazas

†*196. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether FAST tag lane has been made operational at toll plazas of all national highways in the country, especially those passing through Rajasthan; and

(b) if not, by when this task would be completed?

Contamination of ground water due to soak pits in toilets

*197. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of soak pits being used in toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in the country along with the cost thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that

ground water is being contaminated due to use of soak pits in toilets which would lead to non-potable drinking water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of corrective measures proposed in this regard?

Blacklisting policy for defence procurement

*198. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new blacklisting policy for defence procurement has been announced recently, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) the details of companies and arms contractors blacklisted by Government for wrong doing/misconduct in defence deals in the recent past;

(c) whether Government proposes to review all the blacklisted firms, in the light of new policy initiatives, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) other steps taken to ensure transparency and accountability in defence procurements?

Uranium contamination in ground water

†*199. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the survey of researchers of Duke University of America on ground water in India have found that 16 States have higher presence of Uranium in ground water than the prescribed norms;

(b) whether all wells of Rajasthan contain Uranium higher than the prescribed norms;

(c) whether Uranium is not included in the list of pollutants as per the Bureau of Indian Standards' drinking water specifications;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to make ground water potable?

Scheme to inter-link rivers in Bihar

†*200. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) under which schemes is the inter-linking of rivers scheme in Bihar brought by the Central Government;

(b) the details of expenditure to be incurred on these schemes and the amount of assistance that would be provided to States by the Central Government;

(c) whether Government is considering to provide any assistance for Dhanrajay and Phulwariya reservoir scheme in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Action against AKFI

*201. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are several cases pending against Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are incidents of rampant corruption, rigging and manipulation in Tamil Nadu Amateur Kabaddi Association by the present office bearers; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take action to conduct free and fair elections in Tamil Nadu Amateur Kabaddi Association?

Increase in the air pollution in the country

*202. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of air pollution has increased now extremely as compared to last three years;

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

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to bring about any change in the existing policy for monitoring air pollution in the light of its increasing level;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise details of funds provided by Government to undertake specific programmes in this regard during the last three years and the current year along with the results thereof?

Water contaminated by arsenic and other heavy metals

*203. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a recent study report, around 47.41 crore people in the country are compelled to consume water contaminated by arsenic and other heavy metals;

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

(c) whether as per the recent data released by the Ministry, only 1.47 crore people are consuming water contaminated by arsenic;

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

(e) the details of the source of data of the Ministry; and

(f) the mechanism adopted to ascertain the affected number of people?

Status of ODF villages

*204. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of villages which have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many villages, once declared as ODF, later slip into non-

ODF category and if so, the data pertaining to such cases; and

(c) measures taken by Government to ensure institutionalisation of ODF status of villages?

Rise in incidents of forest fires

*205. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of forest fires in the country have risen during the last three years;

(b) if so, year-wise total count of forest fires and the economic loss since 2013;

(c) the reason behind rising cases of forest fires, despite satellite alerts;

(d) details of alerts received and action taken to check forest fires; and

(e) affect of forest fires on the environment and the climate?

Framework for monitoring social media

*206. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted several Committees over the last four years to suggest a framework to keep a watch on social media;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with information about the recommendations of the Committees; and

(c) whether Government is hiring any social media expert to monitor the social media and if so, the details thereof?

Funds for Tokyo Olympics-2020

*207. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earmarked funds to States including the State of Andhra Pradesh under its Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, with specific focus/attention on Tokyo Olympics-2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified any discipline/sports as High Priority Category, having medal prospects at Tokyo Olympics-2020; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NITI Aayog report on water crisis

*208. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent report of NITI Aayog forecasts the worst water crisis in history, with 600 million people facing high to extreme water stress, with 70 per cent of water being contaminated;

(b) whether according to NITI Aayog report, India is placed 120th amongst 122 countries in the Water Quality Index;

(c) whether experts contested NITI Aayog's finding, that India has 12 million wells, whereas more credible data points to a figure of 30 million wells; and

(d) whether the data validation for the

index was handled by an independent data validation agency and if so, the details thereof?

Ganga waterways from Kolkata to Varanasi

*209. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to use Ganga river from Kolkata to Varanasi for transporting goods;

(b) if so, whether the river has the required depth all along and other required infrastructure such as road connectivity, etc.; and

(c) by when it is going to commence?

Construction of highways

*210. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of highways, inched up to touch 26 km. per day, during the April-June period of the current year, from 25 km. a year ago;

(b) whether it is a fact that the improved rate is far from the target of the pace of 45 km. per day, for the current fiscal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a total of 2345 km. of roads have been built in the first three months of the current financial year, as compared to 2260 km. in the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 31st July, 2018
Shravana 9, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-wise)

Defence	:	198,
Drinking Water and Sanitation	:	197, 203, 204,
Earth Sciences	:	—
Environment, Forest and Climate Change	:	202, 205,
Information and Broadcasting	:	206,
Mines	:	—
Panchayati Raj	:	—
Road Transport and Highways	:	196, 210,
Rural Development	:	—
Science and Technology	:	—
Shipping	:	209,
Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	:	199, 200, 208,
Youth Affairs and Sports	:	201, 207.