

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

Farmers' stir

1921. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the farmers' stir demanding a waiver of farm loans and an increase in MSP of farm produces along with milk subsidy, per litre;

(b) if so, present State-wise average MSP being paid on farm produces;

(c) the loss to economy due to stir of farmers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government on the issue?

Non-privatization of Mother Dairy

1922. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy was set up under the NDDB Act to help the farmers;

(b) if so, the quantum of milk purchased respectively from farmers, farmers' cooperatives, farmers' producer

companies and private companies during the years 2004—2014, year-wise;

(c) the average purchase price paid to these sources, category-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take to ensure retaining Mother Dairy as a farmers' organisation and not a private company with monopoly shareholding?

Development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Odisha

1923. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide ₹ 300 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) — Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to clear up the pending subsidy of eligible beneficiaries of Odisha;

(b) whether Government would dispose the stringent applicability of the two CSP, *i.e.* Saving-cum-Relief and Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD Oil; and

(c) if so, whether Government would amend the guideline immediately?

Setting up of a special Agriculture University

1924. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce any special Agriculture University in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Settlement of claims under PMFBY

1925. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total premium collected in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total value of claims made by the farmers in the said States, the total value of claims settled and the total value of claims remaining pending; and

(c) the average time taken to settle such claims?

Providing large fishing vessels to fishermen of Tamil Nadu

1926. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide specially built large vessels for

fishermen of Tamil Nadu for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been earmarked to meet the project and by when these deep sea fishing vessels would be handed over to fishermen of Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any funds/permission to build such vessels has been sanctioned to other States under similar project during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expected increase in fish catch and revenue generation by using such vessels?

Steps to provide cows and cattles to poor people free of cost

1927. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to strengthen the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agricultural education and research and expansion system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete measures for providing cows, cattle and goats to poor people, free of cost; and

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

Suicides by farmers

1928. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers'

suicides in the country has risen by 50 per cent in 2018 in comparison to last two years;

(b) if so, whether more than 640 farmers have committed suicides in three months, from March to May 2018, in Maharashtra alone; and

(c) if so, the number of farmer suicides reported in the country upto June, 2018 along with the number of families having received compensation therefor, State-wise?

Scarcity of fodder

†1929. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme/programme for the development and production of fodder in the context of wide spread drought in different States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the stretches of meadows in villages are getting shrunk due to weathering and/or encroachment resulting in scarcity of fodder, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken to remove the encroachment from such lands at the earliest along with the details of the rural meadows, State-wise?

Adoption of scientific and modern system in agriculture

†1930. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken

to improve the technical competence of farmers and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken, if any, to encourage the farmers to adopt the scientific cultivation and modern system of agriculture?

Increase in demand of bio-agro products

†1931. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in demand of bio-agro products all over the world and such products fetch comparatively better price;

(b) if so, the schemes on which Government is working to promote bio-farming, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of increase in bio-agro products with the efforts of the Government during the last four years?

Implementation of schemes for enhancing agricultural production

†1932. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes implemented by Government to enhance the agricultural production and to increase the income of the farmers; and

(b) the number of farmers benefited by these schemes and the quantum of growth registered in the production?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Remunerative price to farmers

1933. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the number of farmers committed suicide since 1st April, 2018 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to provide remunerative prices to farmers of the country while the cost of production has gone up rapidly and prices of crops have gone down drastically since 2015;

(c) whether it is also a fact that non-remunerative price of crops to farmers is forcing them to hand over their lands to industries for corporate farming; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for providing non-remunerative prices to farmers?

MSP for Kharif crops

1934. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government has increased the MSP for Kharif crops recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers' organisations have announced for a long strike against the Government's misleading claims for recent increase in MSP and unremunerative agricultural policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

Decline in number of beneficiaries under PMFBY

1935. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total funds allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the total number of beneficiaries under the scheme, year-wise and State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of new beneficiaries under the scheme in 2017-18 from 2016-17, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure bringing all farmers under the ambit of this scheme?

Role of co-operative societies in disbursing fertilizers and seeds to farmers

1936. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of transparency, tenant farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds provided by co-operative societies and it goes to the black-market;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to make the role of co-operative societies more transparent; and

(c) whether any scheme is being considered upon by Government for using accounts of farmers opened under Jan Dhan Yojana for providing fertilizer subsidy to farmers?

Inclusion of more crops under Market Intervention Scheme

1937. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received requests from various State Governments regarding inclusion of more crops under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and refunding the loss suffered by the farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Governments, particularly Jharkhand and Gujarat, have also requested the Government to enhance the Central aid under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the other measures taken by Government to give benefits to the middle and small farmers of the country, especially those of Jharkhand and Gujarat?

Implementation of PMFBY

1938. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are issues in implementing Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) the reasons for not appointing insurance experts at the Central level to track and evaluate the progress of scheme, negotiate lower premium rates with re-insurers and also guide States for effective implementation thereof;

(c) whether States and Centre are not paying premium subsidy in time to companies resulting in difficulties;

(d) if so, how Ministry would ensure doing this in time and issue/finalize tenders for 3-4 years in one go which reduces premium; and

(e) how technology is being used under PMFBY?

Implementation of e-Pashudhan Haat Scheme

1939. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched an e-market portal namely, e-Pashudhan Haat, for bovine germplasm for connecting breeds and farmers of indigenous bovine breeds;

(b) if so, the benefits of the said scheme to the farmers; and

(c) the details of the progress on e-Pashudhan Haat at present?

Benefit to farmer by increasing ethanol mixture in petrol

†1940. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is making effort to extend the benefit to sugarcane farmers by increasing the level of ethanol mixture in petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that once upon a time farming of sugarcane was being done on large scale in Bihar; and

(d) whether Government would make efforts to restart the closed sugar mills by promoting farming of sugarcane in Bihar?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Registration of Agricultural Produce
Market Committees under e-NAM**

1941. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agricultural Produce Market Committees which are registered with electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is about to reach its target of enrolment of 7500 such committees and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether e-NAM has enabled the farmers to sell their produces at the best prices and if so, the details thereof?

Ban on import of red gram

1942. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that import of red gram is showing adverse impact on the domestic market thereby farmers are not able to sell their produces as the imported red gram is causing the decrease in the price;

(b) whether Government has received any requests from any State Government seeking temporary ban on the imports of the red gram to enable the domestic producers to sell their produce in the markets;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision on such request; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Allocation of funds for organic
farming**

1943. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers practicing organic farming in the country, at present;

(b) the growth of organic food market in the country during the last two years;

(c) whether Government is aware that there is need for growing more organic foods in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken for promoting organic farming in the country;

(d) whether Government has allocated any separate funds for the promotion of organic farming in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the funds allocated and spent during the said period for the purpose?

MSP for agricultural commodities

1944. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether working out MSP for agricultural commodities calls for a fundamental revision as the present three decades old methodology is based on minuscule sample size employed for major crops;

(b) whether tur or arhar is cultivated by about one million farmers in Karnataka but the department surveys only 89 farmers cultivating tur or arhar in the southern State to determine the average cost of tur cultivation; and

(c) whether the sample size of 8100 farmers across 19 States has not changed

in the last three decades and needs to be recalibrated in tune with present realities?

Legislation on MSP

1945. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with MSPs continue having only notional value, except, perhaps for rice, the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices has suggested the Government for bringing in legislation conferring the "right to sell at MSP" to ensure that crops are not traded below the fixed price;

(b) whether Government is aware that there are moves by farmer welfare organisations to mobilise support towards tabling a Private Members Bill in Parliament to secure a legal cushion by guaranteeing an MSP with a 50 per cent profit margin over the cost of production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

benefits to farmers under PMFBY

†1946. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all farmers of the country are not getting the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the way insurance companies are providing its benefits to the farmers along with the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance being provided by the insurance companies in comparison to the cost and labour of farmers?

Promoting Zero-Budget Natural Farming

1947. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to promote Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to double the income of farmers by 2022, if so, the details thereof along with details of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and whether these are related to ZBNF;

(b) whether Government has been claiming to double income of farmers by 2022 through various schemes, if so, details of all such schemes announced post 2014 till date;

(c) whether ZBNF is being practiced by the farmers anywhere in the country, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether ZBNF is being used globally, if so, details thereof?

Adverse effects of Parthenium weed

1948. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that invasion of Parthenium weed on fertile agricultural land has become a curse for small and marginal farmers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any scientific study on the fallouts/adverse effects of this weed on fertility of land, crop production, human and livestock, bio-diversity, etc;

(c) if so, the details of findings thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to fight the menace of this aggressive and invasive weed?

Benefit of MSP to farmers

1949. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that personnel of Government procurement agencies, in connivance with private traders, do not purchase crops from the farmers on MSP on one plea or the other thereby forcing the farmers to sell their produce to traders at throwaway prices; and

(d) if so, the effective measures Government proposes to take to rein in such personnel and give benefits of MSP to farmers?

Salinity of land in Gujarat

†1950. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 lakh hectare of land in Gujarat has been affected with salinity;

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

(c) the works executed by the Central Government in Gujarat during the last three years to make the said saline land fertile?

Implementation of PMFBY in Jammu and Kashmir

1951. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to streamline the identification of farmers who really deserve to be under this scheme; and

(c) the total amount released to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir under PMFBY during the last four years?

Indiscriminate use of pesticides

†1952. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate use of hormones like 'Oxytocin' and pesticide like 'Monophotos' in fruits and vegetables has adversely affected the human health and increased the threat of deadly diseases like cancer;

(b) if so, the report with the Government in this context; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government together with farmers to deal with this serious situation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bye-laws of Multi-State Cooperative Societies

1953. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Body of Directors of a Multi-State Cooperative Society can take decisions in contravention of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and Rules, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the bye-laws of a Multi-State Cooperative society can supplant or substitute the provisions of MSCS Act, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Krishi Karman Awards in the field of agricultural production

†1954. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the features of the Krishi Karman Awards given in the field of agricultural production in the country and the ground on which this award is given; and

(b) the names of the States awarded Krishi Karman award during last ten years, year-wise and the grounds on which the awards were given?

Kirshi Karman Awards to Madhya Pradesh

†1955. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the occasions when the State of

Madhya Pradesh was given Krishi Karman award during the past years and the basis on which these awards were given; and

(b) the details of foodgrain production, State-wise, including Madhya Pradesh during each of the last five years and the current year?

Elections in Multi-State Cooperative Societies

1956. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 which prohibits a Member of the Multi-State Cooperative Society from contesting election for the post of Delegate/Director; and

(b) the rights of a Member of a Multi-State Cooperative Society?

Promoting beekeeping

1957. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any scheme for promotion of beekeeping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which ordinary farmers get benefited from the scheme; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to popularize the scheme for the benefit of farmers and ordinary citizens?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Compensation to farmers for losses due to natural calamities

†1958. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes by the Central Government for the farmers who suffered losses due to the natural calamities in last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of affected farmers benefited under these welfare schemes, district-wise; and

(c) whether Government would contemplate to benefit the affected farmers by conducting a survey in this regard?

Realising of funds under NDDB for Alwar, Udaipur, Pali, Ajmer and Sikar districts

†1959. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to release the amount of approved cost in time to Alwar, Udaipur, Pali, Ajmer and Sikar district for the year 2018-19 under schemes of National Dairy Development Board; and

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

Agriculture Input Subsidy

1960. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to

release the sum of ₹ 1424 crore as mentioned in the memorandum under Agriculture Input Subsidy immediately as per the actual numbers/figures of the Girdawari Report for the Government of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if no, action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

Settlement of claims under PMFBY

1961. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private insurance companies are not settling claims put forth by several farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) even after collecting huge premiums;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers covered under PMFBY, claims made and claims settled, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has any strategy for early and time-bound settlement of claims under PMFBY?

FPOs operating in the country

1962. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States have adopted the Model Act on Contract Farming;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of Farmer Producer

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Organisations (FPOs) operating in the country, at present;

(d) the total number of farmers covered or represented by FPOs at present; and

(e) the total number of FPOs registered in the last four years?

Transparency in recruitment of agricultural scientists

†1963. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to bring about a change in the selection process, towards making the recruitment process for agriculture scientists, more transparent;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard, so far; and

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

Pharma companies selling medicines at higher price

1964. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has any information about the pharma companies which are selling medicines at higher than the price capped by NPPA;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for no such information thereof; and

(d) whether any action has been taken/notices been issued, so far, by NPPA to such companies and the outcome thereof?

Selling of medicines at exorbitant prices by pharmacies in private hospitals

†1965. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmacy shops in private hospitals sell drugs at higher rates than in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines to stop this practice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Benefits derived after increase in the limit of FDI

1966. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government could not derive benefit of increase in FDI limit up to 100 per cent for Greenfield pharmaceutical projects and up to 74 per cent for Brownfield pharmaceutical projects through automatic route;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, including the total FDI received since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government has drafted any specific plan for future to attract greater FDI in pharmaceutical sector?

Cluster Development Programme for Pharma sector

1967. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad objectives and the details

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the Cluster Development Programme for Pharma sector;

(b) the funds allocated to various Clusters/ Parks in the country, including those at Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether Government has proposals to help further growth of the Pharmaceutical industry in Visakhapatnam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fixing profit margins for inexpensive medicines

1968. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to fix profit margin for inexpensive medicines as reported in the media and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether heavy profit is being earned by the wholesalers and retailers of drugs in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of new rake points

†1969. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government is considering to open new rake points for fertilizers at Obedullaganj, District Raisen, Singrauli Bargwana, District Singrauli and Budani, District Sehore and if so, by when these rake points would be set-up?

Surging prices of DAP and complex fertilizers

1970. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of

surging prices of fertilizers like DAP and complex fertilizers, which is posing a serious impact on Farming sector;

(b) whether Government has increased prices of fertilizers by up to ₹ 300/- per bag, which has become an extra burden on farmers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any representation seeking reduction in prices of fertilizers to enable the farmers to purchase fertilizers at normal rates; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision on such requests and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of GST on domestic production of fertilizers

1971. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high GST rates on chemical inputs for fertilizers have impacted their domestic production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has made any recommendation to the GST Council to lower GST rates on such chemicals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the volume of imports of chemicals used to manufacture fertilizers since 2014, month-wise?

Institutional audit of CIPET

1972. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget for the Central

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) for the year 2018-19;

(b) the details pertaining to the total number of staff, number of offices and activities or projects undertaken along with other relevant aspects of the CIPET;

(c) whether Government has, at any point of time, undertaken institutional audit or review of CIPET and if so, the details thereof along with the major observations and recommendations that emerged out of such review; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations on coal linkage rationalization

1973. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the six State-owned power plants had rationalized less than 13 MT in 2017, resulting in estimated annual savings of ₹ 774 crore in transportation costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved the recommendations of inter-Ministerial task force on coal linkage rationalization for private power plants, which apart from yielding savings to power plants from lower coal transportation costs, might also ease railway infrastructure by reducing coal ferrying distance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in production of coal

†1974. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in the mining and production of coal during the tenure of present Government since 2014 till date; and

(b) the amount of royalty received by Government on account of such increase along with the amount likely to be received as royalty by the end of the current financial year?

Setting up of new coal washeries

1975. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to set up new coal washeries in the country, especially in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified therefor along with their capacity;

(c) whether these washeries would help in improving the quality of coal in terms of ash percentage and heat value; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Inadequate coal transportation facilities

1976. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal in the country is being affected due to inadequate transportation facilities;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the total quantum of coal which could not be transported to the destination due to lack of transportation facilities during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the details of the projects affected, so far; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government for providing adequate infrastructural facilities for the transportation of coal in the country?

Allocation of coal blocks to private companies

1977. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal blocks allocated to private companies under the command areas of BCCL, ECL and CCL;

(b) the details of the coal produced and transported by these companies, so far, company-wise;

(c) whether any complaints regarding sale of such coal to coal washeries and in open market has been received;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government against such companies along with remedial measures taken in this regard; and

(e) the revenue earned by the Central Government and the State Governments, including Jharkhand, through the auction?

Health issues of labourers employed in coal mining sector

1978. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any comprehensive study

regarding health issues of labourers employed in coal mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government, while undertaking such study, adopted/followed the international practices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Unauthorized coal mining activities

1979. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that unauthorized coal mining activities are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has put any mechanism in place for reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorized coal mining activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the incidents of unauthorized coal mining activities which were reported in the country during last three years till date, along with the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether Government has taken stringent action against the persons involved in such activities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Imported coal for power generation

1980. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any estimated costs of using imported coal to generate power over the next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is engaged in any discussion with the Ministry of Shipping to address the increase in the volume of imported coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

BSNL mobile towers in Sundargarh, Odisha

1981. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new mobile towers planned in the Sundargarh district of Odisha during the financial year 2018-19 by BSNL; and

(b) whether all the BSNL mobile towers in Sundargarh district of Odisha would have high speed data service (3G/4G)?

Introduction of internet telephony

1982. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce internet telephony system in the country;

(b) if so, the details of benefits to consumers therein;

(c) whether the facility would allow in-flight connectivity; and

(d) if so, whether the telecom operators would charge more than the usual rates for such services and if so, the details thereof?

Broadband penetration in urban and rural areas

1983. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that broadband penetration is 64.84 per cent in urban areas and a measly 20.26 per cent in rural areas in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to provide universal broadband coverage with 50 Mbps speed to every citizen and 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022; and

(c) if so, given the existing low level of penetration, in what manner Government plan to achieve such an optimistic target within such a short span of time?

Penalty for pesky calls

1984. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has proposed stringent penalty on telecom operators, who together besiege the subscriber with more than 30 billion unsolicited telemarketing messages every month, as provided in the draft Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, now put in public domain to elicit stakeholders' comments;

(b) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has raised concerns over the TRAI draft rules to curb pesky calls to subscribers by telemarketing agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Curbing of pesky calls

1985. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India has raised concerns over TRAI's draft rules to curb pesky calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the draft rules do not effectively deal with pain-points faced by users;

(d) whether it is also a fact that they have urged for a cost-benefit analysis before financially stressed telecoms are asked to overhaul the existing system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Clarifications sought by CVC in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone

1986. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 229 and Unstarred Question 4557 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16 March, 2018 and 6 April, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) whether clarifications sought by the CVC into the ₹ 300/- crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contracts along with purchase of hardware, have been sent to CVC;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of advice by CVC, till date;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the details of action taken against the erring companies and officials, till date?

Opposition to public Wi-Fi model

1987. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom operators have opposed public Wi-Fi model recommended by the TRAI, saying it will adversely impact debt ridden industry and compromise with the national security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposal to sell internet services without a licence would be a complete bypass of present licensing framework and detrimental to massive investments already made in spectrum and telecom infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

India Post Payments Bank in Tamil Nadu

1988. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up India Post Payments Bank by Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of India Post Payments Bank branches to be set up in Tamil Nadu?

Suspension of internet services

1989. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of instances where internet services were suspended, 2014 onwards along with details of reasons for ordering suspension, places where it was suspended, duration of suspension and the law invoked to suspend services, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether, in future, such suspensions would be ordered by invoking the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017;

(c) if so, the consultations that were held with stakeholders, civil society, etc., before finalising these Rules; and

(d) how these Rules are an improvement over the earlier rules/laws using which, internet services could be suspended?

Cool EMS Service between India and Japan

1990. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's 'Cool EMS Service' between India and Japan has been implemented and is running;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits that would accrue therefrom along with its working mechanism;

(c) the efforts made by Government, so far, to get the benefits of this facility to the common citizens; and

(d) the details thereof?

Revenue earned through spectrum auctions

1991. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether the auctions ended well below the targets and there were no buyers for premium 700 MHz and 900 MHz band of spectrum; and

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

TRAI's suggestions on Net Neutrality

1992. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inter-ministerial Telecom Commission cleared the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's suggestions on Net Neutrality that bars service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, which aims to attract US \$ 100 billion investment and ensure a broadband speed of 50 Mbps for all citizens, was also cleared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Collection from licence fee and spectrum charges

1993. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's collection from licence fee and spectrum charges has fallen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this reflects financial difficulties being faced by the Telecom sector;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the overall collection of licence fee and spectrum charges during the year 2017-18 was less than that collected in 2016-17; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Survey for broadband/ internet facility in Gram Panchayats

1994. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted/proposed to be conducted across the country for linking the Gram Panchayats with broadband/internet facility;

(b) if so, the details of such Gram Panchayats which are likely to be linked with this facility and the action taken by Government in this regard, so far, State-wise, including Karnataka; and

(c) by when the work related to linking such Gram Panchayats with broadband/ internet facility is likely to be completed?

Disaster relief network upgradation

1995. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom

regulator, TRAI, has mooted a new disaster relief network upgradation;

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

(c) whether the existing means of communication in regard to disaster relief are inadequate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New Telecom Policy

1996. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a new Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this policy would help to sustain success story of the Telecom sector?

Expansion of BSNL infrastructure

1997. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has decided to expand its infrastructure coverage in the country;

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

(c) the details of total number of existing functional towers of BSNL in Assam and the total number of villages covered by the existing towers; and

(d) the details of number of towers proposed to be added as a result of expansion programme and the additional number of villages proposed to be covered in Assam?

Procurement of surplus farm produces

1998. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has developed proper mechanism to ensure that the farmers essentially get enhanced MSP on their surplus farm produce;

(b) the action Government proposes to take against wholesale merchants who purchase Kharif produce at cost lower than enhanced MSP; and

(c) whether Government would procure the surplus farm produce directly from the farmers, against MSP fixed, in case the wholesale merchants do not pay MSP to the farmers?

Regulating e-commerce market

1999. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is in the process of framing rules or legislation for regulating e-commerce market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is consulting all the necessary and important players of the industry to be the part of the consultation process in framing the rules/legislation; and

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

Procurement of paddy in Maharashtra

2000. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the paddy procured on Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the State Government of Maharashtra during the last four years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of the procurement centres opened in Maharashtra during the said period;

(c) whether the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at a price lesser than the production cost due to inadequate number of procurement centres; and

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

Farmers not getting MSP in official mandis

2001. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have complained at some places that they did not get MSP even in official mandis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner the enhanced MSP is going to benefit the farmers without addressing the underlying causes?

Action on complaints against TPDS

‡2002. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the accused on the basis of complaints received, if so, the details of the action taken during the last three years, State-wise?

Rise in prices of essential food items

2003. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wholesale and retail prices of essential food items have drastically surged during the last six months;

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

(c) whether retail inflation of essential items has increased;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

Inflation in foodgrains

2004. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail inflation based on

Consumer Price Index (CPI) in June, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018; and

(b) the effective measures that have so far been taken by Government to arrest the retail inflation based on CPI in the food basket?

Agitation by farmers

‡2005. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of several States are agitating even after declaring the so called Minimum Support Price (MSP) 1.5 times of agricultural cost price;

(b) the reasons due to which farming is called business of loss in spite of declaration of MSP for farmers; and

(c) the names of the produces of the farmers for which the so called 1.5 times MSP has been declared?

Availability of storage capacity

2006. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ration shops using PoS machines have stable, 24x7 internet connectivity, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to increase the overall storage capacities of foodgrains in the country keeping in view the need to procure and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

store more foodgrains in coming years and if so, the details thereof and the total volume of foodgrains in Government's storage, till date, along with the details of the capacity increase made in the last five years; and

(c) the details of quantity of foodgrains that rotted or were lost from Government's storage mechanism over the last five years, year-wise?

BPO in rural areas

2007. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment generated through Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations in rural areas during the last two years;

(b) whether Government is considering to implement it in all the rural areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the State of Haryana has also been benefited by this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Tapping of citizen's WhatsApp messages by Government

2008. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to tap citizen's WhatsApp messages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tapping of personal and private data is allowed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and

(d) if so, the details of Government plan and if not, then how Government

would monitor online data or take it under surveillance?

Erroneous publishing of Aadhaar details by Government websites

2009. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aadhaar agencies blacklisted by Government along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of Government websites which have erroneously published the Aadhaar details of persons and the number of persons so affected along with the details thereof;

(c) the details of initiatives taken by Government to protect the Aadhaar details of citizens; and

(d) the action initiated by Government against public websites for leaking the details of citizens by publishing their Aadhaar details?

Report of Committee on Data Protection and Privacy

2010. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Srikrishna Committee has submitted its report on Data Protection and Privacy;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the expected date of submission of report;

(c) whether the Ministry would make the complete report, as and when submitted and any draft Bill recommended, public, for comments;

(d) if so, the expected date of same;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Ministry had itself recommended a Bill to Srikrishna Committee at the time or after the Committee was formulated; and
- (g) if so, the reasons for not making it public?

Leakage of Aadhaar data and bank details of Andhra Pradesh Housing Corporation beneficiaries

2011. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar data and bank details of over 1,34,000 beneficiaries of Andhra Pradesh Housing Corporation have been leaked online, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has denied any occurrence of a leak in answer to Unstarred Question 421 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6 April, 2018, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the substantial action taken, so far, in this case by the Ministry or UIDAI?

Instances of breach of Aadhaar database

2012. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the meta-data collected by UIDAI of country's citizens;
- (b) whether there is a possibility of linking of other data, like caste and religion, etc., with the Aadhaar data by Governments or authorised bodies/

agencies/institutions and the steps by UIDAI to curb this scenario;

- (c) the number of cases of misuse/ leaks/ hackings of Aadhaar database to which the Ministry is aware of; and
- (d) the details of all breaches in the last four years and the action taken reports on all cases, year-wise?

Identification of fictitious beneficiaries of welfare schemes on account of Aadhaar

2013. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has been able to identify any fictitious beneficiaries of welfare schemes due to Aadhaar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to remove such fictitious beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details regarding amount saved by identifying and eliminating fictitious beneficiaries?

Revisions in various food processing schemes under SAMPADA

2014. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the major revisions carried out in the various food processing schemes under the Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA);
- (b) the details of the investment to be made by Government under the SAMPADA;

(c) whether the SAMPADA would benefit lakhs of farmers and generate more direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the SAMPADA would be beneficial to farmers and would prevent food wastage?

Low exports due to lack of food processing industries

2015. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer of food in the world but its share in world's exports is very low despite its inherent strength in apple, apricots, peaches, cherries, pears and rice, due to lack of world class food processing industries and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to overcome this issue other than granting food parks to the corporates?

Ongoing food processing projects in Jammu and Kashmir

2016. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects, in private and public sector, and the details of action taken for their timely completion, State-wise;

(b) the status of food processing sector in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) the details of steps taken to promote food processing in Jammu and Kashmir?

Processing of farm produces produced in remote and tribal areas

2017. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government to promote food processing of farm produces produced in remote and tribal areas of the country, many of which have high nutritive and medicinal value, to enable them to be used by other people in the country as well as benefiting the producers thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Opposition to idea of holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies

2018. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the political parties have opposed the idea of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are many pressing electoral reforms pending to be made, including curbing the use of black money to fund elections, etc., recommended by a Committee on Electoral Reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction to initiate some urgent electoral reforms to make the elections transparent?

Suggestions of Law Commission for Uniform Civil Code

2019. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with barely a few months to go for the term of 21st Law Commission to expire, the Government expects that the Commission would finalise and submit its report on codification of personal laws soon;

(b) whether codification being a precursor to the Uniform Civil Code, would identify defects in personal laws of different communities to rationalise them;

(c) whether the Commission has examined in depth more than 67,000 comments it received so far to a questionnaire on the issue it posted on its website; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of rural courts at Panchayat level

†2020. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of litigations pending in the High Courts and Lower Courts of the country alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a possibility of manifold reduction in the number of the above mentioned pending litigations if rural courts are established at Panchayat level and empowered with the jurisdiction of hearing cases of limited nature; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to establish rural courts at Panchayat level and empower them to hear

the cases of limited nature, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Websites managed by the Ministry

2021. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of websites or portals being currently managed and monitored by the Ministry along with their URLs;

(b) the record of visitors' traffic to these websites in general and response mechanism for complaints received through these portals since 2014;

(c) the number of Twitter handles and Facebook pages, if any, being maintained by the Ministry and organisations under it; and

(d) the performance of these Twitter and Facebook accounts in general since they were opened, as also the performance of monitoring mechanism, if any, of these accounts?

Fast Track Courts

2022. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a total of 727 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of FTCs have increased from 281 during 2015 to 727 in 2018;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the FTCs are meant to expedite trials of cases, including cases against women, SC/STs, children and senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sanctioned and vacant posts of Judges of High Courts

2023. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Judges in High Courts of various States of the country, along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts which have been filled up during the last two years and by when the remaining posts would be filled up; and

(c) whether Government has set a timeline for filling up of the vacant posts so as to reduce pendency of cases in various High Courts along with the details thereof?

Measures to reduce huge pendency of cases

2024. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to reduce the huge pendency of cases at all levels of the judiciary;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to appoint the Justice of a High Court from the same State to curtail unnecessary delay in filling up the vacancies in the High Courts; and

(c) if so, the view of Government in this regard?

Slow pace of justice system

2025. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's

justice system is very slow and understaffed, resulting in cases taking so long to be heard and justice has long been denied to many people due to this, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether currently the time taken to register a case and going to Lower Courts and High Courts or the Supreme Court takes several years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending before Lower Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(d) the details of the proposals before the Government to tackle this crisis?

Amendments to Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

†2026. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Central/State Governments or the Supreme Court of India/High Courts are capable of merging National Legal Services Authority with the State Legal Services Authority by further amending the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 enacted for the purpose of providing free legal aid/advice and benefits of Lok Adalats/mediation to the weaker sections of the society and to further strengthen the said schemes?

Creation of Integrated Legal Divisions

2027. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any proposal to create Integrated Legal Divisions (ILDs) in all the Government Ministries and Departments that would give day to day legal advice;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed by Government for selection of officials for ILDs;

(d) the number of cases related to litigation that are with legal information management and briefing systems; and

(e) by when these ILDs would be created and made operational?

Functioning of EVMs and VVPATs

2028. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has received several complaints by political parties regarding tampering of EVMs and failure of EVMs and VVPATs as well as interruption of polls during the recently held parliamentary/assembly elections, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the smooth and accurate functioning of EVMs and VVPATs?

Missing case files in the Supreme Court and High Courts

2029. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of very important/important case files or important documents which were found to be missing from the Supreme Court and High Courts during the last 10 years along with the details thereof;

(b) the safety measures Government is proposing to take to avoid such losses; and

(c) whether Government would consider digitizing all the case files, starting with the most important and sensitive case files, for their proper and safe preservation?

Bench of Orissa High Court

2030. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of Central Government to set up a bench of Orissa High Court at any place in western Odisha, as recommended by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details with current status thereof; and

(c) by when the bench is likely to be set up along with the hindrances therein, if any, and the steps Government is taking to accelerate the decision?

Mechanism for resolution of disputes among various Departments of Central Government

2031. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Government has directed all Ministries, Departments and Government Undertakings to furnish details of cases involving each other, aiming at reducing litigations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of cases pending in various courts where Central Government is a party and the number of cases pending in courts across the country; and

(d) the efforts made to introduce mechanism for resolution of disputes

among various Departments and to reduce the burden on the judiciary along with the details thereof?

Reduction in burden on jails through speedy trials

†2032. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the under trial prisoners in the jails of the country are imprisoned in criminal cases;

(b) if so, whether fast and speedy hearings of the criminal cases would not only assure the basic rights provided by the Constitution but will also lessen the burden on the jails; and

(c) if so, the policy-related measures taken/being taken by Government towards the fast and speedy hearings of criminal cases?

Fast Track Courts to try rape cases

2033. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has come up with a proposal to set up special Fast Track Courts (FTCs) across the country to try rape cases as part of a larger scheme to strengthen infrastructure for better investigation and swift prosecution in such cases;

(b) whether the Ministry has prepared a draft scheme for setting up of such special FTCs to try rape cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pending cases in various courts

2034. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases are pending in various courts across the country;

(b) if so, details thereof, including number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts during each of last four years, court-wise and reasons therefor;

(c) sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in such courts and action taken by Government to fill these vacancies at the earliest;

(d) whether Government has taken note of delay in delivery of justice to litigants for various reasons; and

(e) if so, details thereof along with corrective measures taken by Government for expeditious disposal of cases pending in various courts in the country?

Socio-economic activities undertaken by Railways

2035. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to undertake a number of socio-economic activities to benefit both rural and urban communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the skill development may also be added in the proposed socio-economic activities that the Railways intend to undertake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Introduction of global benchmarks in Indian Railways

2036. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to learn from the experiences of German railway in many respects;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Railways in this regard;

(c) whether Railways also propose to introduce a global benchmark in customer satisfaction, punctuality, cleanliness, business strategies to help young recruits visualize Indian Railways' own success story; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

European Train Control System

2037. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going for modern signalling, like European Train Control System (ETCS), with a view to enhance safety and punctuality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the routes where the new signalling system is under evaluation along with the outcome thereof; and

(d) the total cost that would be involved in the introduction of this new signalling system?

Wait-list prediction tool

2038. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have developed

a wait-list prediction tool for all bookings made through IRCTC website;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the facility would be available for all the passengers who use IRCTC website without logging in and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) since when the services have been made available along with the percentage of accuracy of the predictions made?

VIKALP scheme for train passengers

2039. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VIKALP scheme introduced by Government has been received well by the train passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the procedure/follow up adopted by Government under VIKALP scheme to provide alternate train with confirmed ticket in next 12 hours and 24 hours of intended travel by passengers; and

(d) the number of passengers to whom confirmed tickets have been provided in alternate trains since the inception of this scheme?

Revised programmes for Station Redevelopment Scheme

2040. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was not so encouraging response to Government's Station Redevelopment Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any

proposal to formulate any revised programme for station redevelopment;

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

Incidents of theft in the Jammu Mail

2041. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of incidents of theft have been reported in the running trains, especially in reserved bogies of trains from Delhi to Jammu like the Jammu Mail;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of theft reported during the month of July, 2018, date-wise;

(c) the number of women who have reported thefts during the period, date-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government in each case and whether involvement of the staff of Railways and Railway Protection Force has come to Government's notice?

Delayed train services in Kerala

2042. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the inordinate delay of train services in Kerala since last few months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Railways to normalise the train services; and

(c) whether Railways have fixed any time-limit to complete the works on rail-tracks in Kerala?

Construction of Nanjakode- Nilamboor railway line

2043. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take up the construction of Nanjakode-
Nilamboor railway line;

(b) if so, the steps taken therefor, so far; and

(c) whether Government has received the consent of Forest department to use their land?

Deaths and injuries due to rail accidents

2044. SHRI AMHED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have lost their lives and injured in railway accidents since 2010, year-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that there has been a sharp increase in deaths and injuries as a result of railway accidents;

(c) the reasons of this increase in casualties, including deaths and injuries, in railway accidents over the last four years; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that there are fewer railway accidents and fewer casualties?

Effect on punctuality of trains due to tussle between Railway Traffic Service and Engineering Service

2045. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a

tussle between Railway Traffic Service and Engineering Service which has affected punctuality of trains resulting in delays and also causing revenue loss to Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for such tussle and how the Ministry is going to address them; and

(c) whether the Ministry would hold concerned officials accountable for delaying trains and take departmental action, including stopping promotions, against them?

Incidents of theft in trains

2046. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts that took place in trains in the last three years and the current year, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of cases wherein the investigation has been concluded;

(c) the number of cases wherein the guilty party was a member of the railway staff or staff of contractors hired by the Railways; and

(d) whether an investigation or analysis has been conducted by the Railways regarding the thefts committed by railway staff or staff of contractors hired by the Railways and if so, the details thereof?

Late running of Seemanchal Express due to lack of rakes

†2047. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Seemanchal Express, that runs from Jogbani to Anand Vihar and back to

Jogbani, generally runs late by 12 to 24 hours due to non-availability of rakes as per requirement;

(b) whether Government has any plan of providing the facility of additional rakes for this train; and

(c) if so, by when along with the details thereof?

Trains originating and terminating from Katihar

†2048. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of trains originating and arriving at Katihar are negligible even though it is an old Railway Division, connecting about 8 districts falling under Purnia and Koshi Divisions;

(b) whether Railways propose to run additional trains from Railway Headquarters of Katihar Division; and

(c) if not, the details of reasons therefor?

Irregularities in Tatkal bookings

2049. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities are taking place on a large scale in Tatkal bookings by way of illegal software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any investigation into the use of such illegal software and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on unscrupulous elements along with the protection methods adopted to ward off such incidents in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

2050. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of accidents at the unmanned level crossings across the country and if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes steps to avert these accidents in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Increasing the speed of all Express trains

2051. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the speed of all Express trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to check railway tracks to run trains at enhanced speed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in passenger fares

†2052. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is going to increase the railway passenger fare, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, how Government proposes to control the increasing expenditure of trains; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to avoid this situation?

Increase in fare for lower berths

2053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to increase the fare of the lower berth during festival season and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would define the festival season, *i.e.*, time/sector/class-wise basis;

(c) whether Government has rationale for such fare increase, when the facilities in the trains are not up to the mark; and

(d) whether Government has conducted any research regarding this fare hike and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss to Railways due to non-adhering to commodity-wise quota accepted by Bangladesh Railway

2054. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EDTT(F) has not been adhering to the commodity-wise acceptance given by the Bangladesh Railway for release of quota for the month of April, May and July, 2018;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-compliance and non-acceptance of the requirement of Bangladesh Railway;

(c) the number of rakes that could not be utilised through Darsana and Benapole during April, May, June and July, 2018; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the amount of loss of railway traffic, loss of railway's revenue, national loss and loss of foreign exchange due to decrease in export traffic?

Beautification and Modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations

2055. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has any plan for beautification and modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations under SER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be done?

Construction of road overbridge at Tori railway station

2056. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal for construction of road overbridge on railway crossing at Tori railway station in Latehar, Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the current status of the said project?

Making railway stations in Maharashtra disabled-friendly

2057. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make all the railway stations of Maharashtra disabled-friendly within a time-frame; and

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

Construction of Kauwa Bagh level crossing underpass

†2058. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame set for the completion of under construction Kauwa Bagh level crossing underpass under the Gorakhpur headquarters of North-Eastern Railway;

(b) the date on which this work had been started along with the cost thereof; and

(c) up to what extent the work of this underpass has been completed at present?

Payment of royalty for minerals etc. used in Sambalpur to Bagbahara rail line

†2059. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid as royalty, so far, from year 2013-14 till date, for the use of minerals such as mud, sand, stones, etc., for the railway line under construction from Sambalpur to Bagbahara in Odisha State to the capital city of Chhattisgarh, Raipur and Abhanpura; and

(b) the details of amount paid as royalty from year 2013-14 till date for the materials used for the said works, year-wise and State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unsafe and unclean condition of railway coaches

2060. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unsafe, unclean and pathetic conditions of railway coaches of trains passing through Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether the Minister would take personal care in order to resolve this sorry state of affairs?

Shortage of trains in northern Kerala

2061. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of difficulties faced by the passengers of northern Kerala due to the shortage of trains;

(b) whether the Railways have made any survey regarding passengers commuting daily up and down between Kannur and Kozhikode; and

(c) whether Railways would operate a MEMU/passenger train between Kannur and Kozhikode during the peak hours?

Introduction of new trains and construction of railway track

2062. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new trains introduced in the country in the last four years; and

(b) the total length of the railway tracks constructed across the States, including

the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in the last four years?

New MEMU trains in Telangana

2063. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce new MEMU trains in Telangana in view of heavy demand for these trains; and

(b) if so, whether any sectors have been identified in Telangana for these trains and if so, the details thereof?

Delayed rail projects for Amritsar

2064. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present status of Amritsar-Ferozepur railway link, Rego over bridge and Jaura Phatak railway over bridge at Amritsar along with the reasons for delay in the implementation of these projects?

Projects for upliftment of Amritsar and Chheharta railway stations

2065. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the proposed, sanctioned and ongoing projects for the upliftment of Amritsar and Chheharta railway stations?

Substandards steel structures used in electrification of rail lines

†2066. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel structures used in electrification of Jammu

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to Udhampur, Udhampur to Katra, Ghaziabad to Moradabad and Kozhikode to Kannur rail lines were found to be of less than the standard weight;

(b) if so, whether the supply of substandard material has been investigated by Vigilance Department and CBI;

(c) if so, the details of the investigation report;

(d) the details of the defaulter company and the action taken against it; and

(e) whether the said defaulter company has again been awarded the supply contract and if so, the reasons therefor?

Dilapidated rail bridges

2067. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges in the Indian Railway network and the date of their construction, State-wise;

(b) whether many bridges of the Railways are in bad condition and it is necessary to refurbish them immediately or construct new bridges in their place;

(c) if so, the details thereof, division-wise and the action taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government has given heritage status to some of these bridges and if so, the details thereof?

Renovation of dilapidated rail bridges

2068. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of railway bridges in the country have outlived their life span and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that renovation work of these bridges and safety of passengers is being compromised and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to undertake renovation work of these bridges; and

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

High Speed Rail connectivity between Delhi and Alwar

2069. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for High Speed Rail connectivity between Delhi and Alwar or any other city in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of costs involved therein;

(c) the details regarding sharing of project cost between the Centre and the State; and

(d) the details regarding time-frame within which the project is likely to be completed and made operational?

Expansion of railway network

2070. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total network expansion of the Indian Railways in the last two years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) whether Railways have faced any hurdles in their network expansion in Karnataka in the last five years and if so, the details thereof?

Delayed railway projects in Kerala

2071. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway projects concerning Kerala which are running behind schedule;

(b) the main reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when each of the project is likely to be completed to avoid further cost escalation?

Unauthorised boarding in trains on the New Delhi-Chennai Central route

2072. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified any vulnerable point(s) which pose serious threat to passengers and their belongings on New Delhi-Chennai Central railway route through which many important trains viz., T.N. Express, G.T. Express, Rajdhani Express, Duronto Express, Garib Rath Express etc., are being operated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also identified points/stations which are notorious for unauthorised boarding of reserved coaches, including sleeper class, of trains being operated between New Delhi-Chennai Central route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Placing orders for generators with BHEL-EML, Kerala

2073. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering

to place orders for generators with BHEL-EML, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any specific reasons for Railways to stop placing orders with BHEL-EML?

Enhancing digital transactions in Railways

2074. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to enhance the use of digital transactions across their networks, especially by using the BHIM app;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that presently, only some percentage of tickets are being booked digitally;

(d) if so, whether the Railways are considering to initiate digital transactions in other areas of railway operations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Electronic mechanism to monitor running of trains

2075. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have introduced electronic mechanism on railway systems to monitor the actual running of the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are studying the reasons for trains running late in recent time across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increasing the speed of long distance passenger trains

2076. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the speed of long distance passenger trains to reduce their present travel time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of trains which would be covered under this proposal; and

(d) by when the process of increasing the speed of all long distance trains in the country would be completed?

Railway Committees

2077. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the various issues dealt by various Committees like ZRUCC, DRUCC, NRUCC constituted under the Ministry;

(b) whether such Committees are performing as desired at the time of their constitution;

(c) the need to continue with such Committees;

(d) the list of all the members of such Committees and the manner of their appointment;

(e) what objectives have been achieved till date from such Committees; and

(f) the powers and functions of such Committee members?

Poor quality of food in Durgam Cheruvu Express

2078. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a number of passengers fell ill after consuming poor quality of food in the Durgam Cheruvu Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what measures are adopted to put a check on such incidents; and

(d) whether any action has been initiated against the guilty?

Survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur rail line

†2079. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has conducted a survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur new railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would make budgetary provision for the construction of this rail stretch as it is a very important project which is related to the development of transportation in this very backward and unfathomable area; and

(d) by when this project would materialise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Gauge conversion and electrification
of railway lines in Assam and North
Eastern States**

2080. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed any new broad gauge line and electrification of railway tracks in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the funds released by Government for the purpose during the last four years;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey for the new broad gauge lines and electrification of railway tracks in Assam; and

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

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

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972,
Coal	:	1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980,
Communications	:	1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013,
Food Processing Industries	:	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017,
Law and Justice	:	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Railways	:	2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080.