

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, July 20, 2018/Ashadha 29, 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

#### Assistance to farmers of Odisha

321. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry would enhance the input assistance under CRF Grant from the existing ₹ 6800/- and ₹ 13500/- per hectare of un-irrigated and irrigated land, respectively, to the affected farmers of Odisha?

#### Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not succeeded in preventing suicides by debt-ridden farmers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has also not succeeded in providing MSPs to farmers;

(c) the proposal of Government to support the farmers with remunerative price of farm produces and prevent suicides; and

(d) the details of suicides by debt-ridden farmers reported in the country, since 2014, State-wise?

#### Assistance for the Dairy sector

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

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to various States for setting up dairies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the schemes and the amount of assistance provided by Government to various States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the names of States which have adopted the Gujarat model for developing Dairy industry along with the details thereof?

#### Efficacy of e-mandies

324. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted

any study into the efficacy of e-mandies in augmenting income of farmers;

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

(c) whether Government is considering any measures to ensure better prices to farmers for their produces; and

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

#### **Direct income support scheme for farmers**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to implement a direct income support scheme for farmers in the country;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that jurisdictions such as the European Union and China provide direct income support to farmers?

#### **Doubling the income of farmers**

326. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures Government has taken so far towards doubling the income of farmers and animal rearers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey during the last one year and collected data of the present income of farmers and animal rearers residing in various parts of the country;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Promoting paddy sowing machines**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to publicise and popularise the extensive usage of paddy sowing machines with a view to promote the same;

(b) if so, the details of the production of the machine and its availability;

(c) whether Government is taking any initiative to reduce the cost of solar pumps so as to provide them to the farmers at affordable price;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the agricultural appliances for which efforts are being made for updation?

#### **Implementation of PMFBY**

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

(a) whether under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) major changes have been effected in old schemes meant for crop insurance by doing away with the discrepancies therein so that farmers could be benefitted more, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the quantum of premium given by farmers have been drastically reduced and along with this the limit of payment on insurance has been removed under the PMFBY, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of Agriculture sector**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to take measures to encourage the development of Agriculture sector; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the inclination of farmers towards high value agricultural produces and to increase their income?

**Increase in farmers' income in West Bengal**

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

(a) whether the Central Government is aware that the Government of West Bengal has increased the income of farmers by 2.6 times in the last seven years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the farmers' income would be doubled throughout the country; and

(d) the steps taken and the progress achieved, till date, in this regard, State-wise?

**Burden of loan on farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of the country are under distress owing to the increase in loan for agricultural activities;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any steps to reduce the growing agricultural expenditure of farmers; and

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

**Financial and administrative decisions in MSCS**

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

(a) whether elected director(s) of a

Multi-State Cooperative Society (MSCS) can attend board meetings and take financial and administrative decisions particularly after they have been declared disqualified under Section 43 (2)(a) of MSCS Act, 2002 by the Arbitral Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of complaint(s) received in this regard by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) along with action taken by CRCS on those complaint(s); and

(d) whether Multi-State Cooperative Society is duty bound to produce the books of account and other books and papers to the person making inspection under Section 108(1) of the MSCS Act, 2002?

**Reconstitution of National Bamboo Mission**

333. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to reconstitute the National Bamboo Mission for development of Bamboo sector by establishing an effective linkage of producers with industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has also approved the scheme during its recent meeting, if so, the details thereof?

**Purchase of foodgrains by Centre**

334. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not purchasing the foodgrains from

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

farmers which is posing a serious problem to the farmers in selling their produces;

(b) whether Government has any plan to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission in the Agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

#### **Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme**

335. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in release of grants to States under the Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of funds released since 2010, year-wise and State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries to whom assistance has been given under the scheme, since 2010, year-wise and State-wise?

#### **MSP for Kharif crops**

336. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the announcement of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major Kharif crops was delayed which used to be announced during the first two weeks of June, every year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons?

#### **Distribution of fertilizers to farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been distributing fertilizers and other chemicals to the farmers, if so, the name of the scheme;

(b) the details of such distribution carried out along with criteria for selection of area, State/UT/district-wise and year-wise for last three years; and

(c) the details of advertisements released to propagate this scheme along with expenses incurred thereon?

#### **Suicides by farmers**

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

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide since 2014;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop incidents of suicides by farmers;

(d) the details of measures taken to redress the grievances of farmers;

(e) the steps taken to improve the living condition of farmers;

(f) whether the number of farmers is declining significantly in the country; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Setting up of Price Stabilisation Fund**

‡339. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether policy measure of markets intervention has been also implemented by Central Government with a view to enhance the income of farmers in which the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund has been included prominently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Price Stabilisation Fund is proving successful in enhancing income of farmers and keeping it unaffected in the case of decrease in price of agricultural produces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Benefits of CCEs to farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, most States have not made timely payments of their premium subsidy, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of States which have conducted Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and submitted data to insurance companies since 2016, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise and average expenditure on conducting CCEs in each village panchayat for each crop; and

(c) the manner in which CCEs help the farmers and the number of farmers who have been benefitted from it till date?

#### **Scheme to promote organic farming**

‡341. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana has been initiated by Central Government to promote organic farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said yojana is proving very effective in increasing agricultural production and raising farmers' income in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Ban on hazardous pesticides**

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

(a) whether Government has received a proposal to ban use of hazardous pesticides in farming;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per World Health Organisation estimates 20 per cent of all suicides could be prevented through restricting access to such poisons; and

(d) if so, the measures Government proposes to combat the situation?

#### **Production of grapes**

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

(a) the details of the leading grapes producing States in the country;

(b) the total production of grapes recorded during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers producing grapes are not getting remunerative prices for their produces;

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to promote the cultivation of grapes in the country?

#### **Implementation of National Policy for Farmers**

344. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any action to implement recommendations of proposed National Policy for Farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has initiated the implementation of M.S. Swaminathan Commission report on fair price support; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/to be taken by Central Government in this regard?

#### **MSP for paddy**

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

(a) whether the Committee appointed by Government to prepare the report on doubling of farmers' income has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred to achieve the target of doubling of farmers' income by 2022;

(d) whether Government has taken serious note on the distress of paddy growing farmers in Tamil Nadu due to low support price and huge difference between MSP and the cost of inputs; and

(e) if so, the extent by which MSP for paddy is likely to be increased?

#### **Purchasing of foodgrains from farmers**

346. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to withdraw the practice of purchasing foodgrains from the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative system being adopted by Government for purchase of foodgrains from farmers along with the details thereof?

#### **Strengthening of processing infrastructure for dairy cooperatives**

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

(a) whether Government has made any plan to start a new scheme namely Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) for the strengthening and growth of processing infrastructure of dairy cooperatives;

(b) if so, the salient features of this scheme and total amount earmarked for DIDF for the year 2018- 19; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the total number of States in which this scheme is planned to be implemented in the first phase?

#### **Unrest among the farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of many States, including Maharashtra, recently observed ten days strike thereby blocking the supply of fruits, vegetables and milk in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to tackle the unrest among the farmers?

#### **Adverse effect of pesticides on farmers**

349. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the adverse effect on farmers' health due to use of excessive chemical and fertilizers on their farm products is on the increase to an alarming state;

(b) whether Government would consider imposing restriction on the sale of chemicals and fertilizers as it is harming not only the farmer, the product and the field but also the end user; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to educate the farmers of the adverse effect of the pesticides?

#### **Doubling the income of farmers**

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

(a) whether Government has announced to double the income of farmers by 2022;

(b) if so, whether any mechanism or perspective plan has been worked out in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any State-specific plan particularly for Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar has also been devised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in sown area of Kharif crops**

351. 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 net sown area has drastically come down this year Kharif season compared to last year, particularly in respect of rice and pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the name of States which have shown decline and the reasons for this decline; and

(c) whether this will impact the prices of rice and pulses during the next season?

#### **Development of micro irrigation**

352. 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 Government has decided to earmark separate and

dedicated funds for the development of micro irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is also allowed to use this fund by the States; and

(d) the names of States which are presently lagging behind in adopting micro irrigation system?

**Profit of insurance companies implementing PMFBY**

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

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the number of farmers in each State who have been benefitted under this Scheme so far;

(b) whether Government has received any complaint about the insurance companies making huge profits at the cost of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken thereon?

**Revamping of curriculum of agricultural and veterinary courses**

354. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has felt any need for revamping the curriculum for Veterinary Science Courses and Agriculture Science Courses across the country in view of the gaining importance of Climate Change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Ban on pesticides in farming**

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

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to reduce the use/complete phase out/ban of pesticides in farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any expert committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Allocation of additional funds to ICAR**

356. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has started any major projects to develop improved variety of pulses to increase production in the country;

(b) whether ICAR has failed to develop improved variety of oilseeds and whether any special research project has been started and other steps have been taken to reduce imports; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to allocate additional funds to ICAR for this purpose?

**Campaign against excessive use of pesticides**

357. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers, due to ignorance, resort to excessive use of pesticides and insecticides which is harming



the agricultural produces and the environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address this issue and initiate widespread campaign against excessive use of pesticides; and

(c) whether Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Panchayats are involved, with special reference to Punjab, to propagate the use of modern technology and best farm practices and less use of pesticides amongst the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Sale of pulses below the MSP**

358. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are selling pulses at the rate half of the MSP after the Rabi crops 2017-18, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and M.P.;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that it has failed miserably to provide remunerative price to suicide committing farmers; and

(d) if so, the fresh measures Government would take in this regard?

#### **Strike by farmers for remunerative price**

359. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) whether farmers across the nation

had organized massive strike against policies of Government and non-remunerative prices of agricultural produces during June, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government to their demands, demand-wise?

#### **Contract Farming law for vegetables and fruits growers**

360. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring Contract Farming law for vegetables and fruits growers as it takes care of price fluctuations and helps to mitigate production risk; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Inclusion of coronary stents in NLEM**

361. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM);

(b) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has fixed the price of coronary stents and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether imported coronary stents are different from the domestically manufactured ones; and

(d) whether there is any price variation between the two and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

#### **Analysis of bills of hospitals by NPPA**

362. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pharmaceutical sector's regulator, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has analysed bills of some hospitals and concluded that doctors and hospitals prefer prescribing branded drugs, which are not under price control;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the NPPA has recommended any proposals to tackle with huge medical bills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Benefits of subsidy on fertilizers to farmers**

†363. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are getting expected benefit of subsidy on fertilizers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some companies manipulate to show lesser production capacity and get hefty amount of subsidy on the basis of percentage production;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the maximum benefits of subsidies go to the poor and marginal farmers?

#### **Suggestions for key administrative reforms**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has

implemented any key administrative reform pertaining to the functioning of departments under it during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any suggestions from public or Members of Parliament (MPs) pertaining to key reforms during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such suggestions, if any, that were accepted and implemented?

#### **Controlling the pharmaceutical market**

365. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has put a ceiling on prices of over 850 essential medicines that come under the National List of Essential Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has a proposal to extend the ceiling on more medicines to increase the percentage of pharma market under its control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Inclusion of orthopaedic implants in the National List of Essential Medicines**

366. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Controller General of India had urged the Government to consider including orthopaedic implants in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) in order to bring the products under purview of price-cap;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has acted in a positive manner in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several cases of overcharging by private hospitals, nursing homes and clinics have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against erring institutions?

#### **DBT for purchasing of fertilizers**

367. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced DBT system for purchase of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consumption/purchase of fertilizers has drastically reduced due to the DBT; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Setting up of NIPER at Visakhapatnam**

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

(a) whether a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is to be set up at Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether land has been acquired for setting up the same;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government towards creating infrastructure for this NIPER; and

(d) the expected timeline for completion of setting up of NIPER at Visakhapatnam?

#### **Complaints regarding overcharging for urea**

369. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint/report regarding charging of higher price by dealers from farmers for newly introduced 45 kg. bag of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that urea is sold at the rate of ₹ 269 for a 45 kg. bag;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Exploration of fresh coal reserves**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has slowed down the exploration of fresh coal reserves in the country after 2014 using latest techniques in the field of coal mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons Government is not taking initiative to avail technical know-how from the specialised agencies of other countries having proven record?

#### **Revision of coal royalty**

371. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) when the coal royalty was last revised and the reasons for no further revision although revision is affected once in every three years;

(b) whether Government is considering

revision of royalty this year, saving the coal bearing States from incurring heavy losses on this account; and

(c) whether the Central Government is charging clean environment cess per tonne production of coal and whether the coal bearing States have a share on this, if so, the percentage thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Opening of underground and opencast mines**

372. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground (UG) mines and opencast mines which have been opened over the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of existing UG mines and opencast mines which have been abandoned during the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the number of accidents which have occurred due to roof failures and water seepage in UG and opencast mines during the last ten years along with the details thereof and the reasons of accidents, year-wise?

#### **Supply of coal to power plants by Coal India Limited**

373. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal supplies to power plants by Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased by 14.4 per cent to 40.0 Million Tonnes (MT) in April, compared to the same month during last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the CIL has gradually improved coal stock at power plants to around 16 MT, as of April 30,

from that of a little over 7 MT six months ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Improving quality of telecommunication services of mobile companies**

†374. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the effective measures taken to improve the quality of telecommunication services of all the mobile companies associated with the Ministry of Communications and the reasons due to which, continuous uninterrupted services are not being provided to the consumers, along with the status of redressal of such issues?

#### **Improving services of Speed Post**

375. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efficiency of most of the private courier agencies in the country is considered better than the Speed Post service of India Posts;

(b) if so, the major factors due to which private courier agencies have gained better creditability;

(c) whether Government has any plans to improve Speed Post services at par with private courier agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Common Civil Code in Goa**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Goa has had Common Civil Code since 1965, which is applicable to all citizens irrespective of caste; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to implement it in the remaining States and if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Speed of 4G internet**

377. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the data regarding total number of mobile users in the country the State/UT/ Operator-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has fixed any base speed for the 4G internet, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the global average download speed of internet services under 2G, 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Voice calls over Wi-Fi service**

378. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has allowed telcos to use each other's data networks when consumers make voice calls over Wi-Fi, even allowing third party companies to offer the service if they can procure a licence;

(b) whether DoT has issued amendments to the unified access service licence, allowing telecom service providers to offer full-fledged internet telephony or Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, even from apps developed by these operators; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Violation of call drop norms**

379. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether call drop norms have been violated by various mobile operators in recent times; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government in this regard along with the present status of providing compensation to subscribers on call drops?

#### **TRAI report on Net Neutrality**

380. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Government on the TRAI report upholding the Net Neutrality principles;

(b) the timeline for implementation of recommendations given by TRAI;

(c) by when would the process of amendment of licences of telecoms be initiated as recommended by TRAI; and

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunications will put in place a mechanism of public consultations implement the recommendations of TRAI?

#### **Objections to public Wi-Fi model**

381. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India has some objections to public Wi-Fi model;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

**Improving postal services in the country**

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

- (a) the number of steps taken to improve the postal system in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to rejig the postal Pin Code in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Access to internet for cashless payments and Digital India**

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of population that has access to the internet and assured power supply in rural areas;

(b) how Digital India is possible in rural areas without large scale access to internet; and

(c) the details of measures Government has taken to encourage cashless payments and Digital India?

**Cheating by e-commerce companies**

384. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the problems being faced by consumers purchasing products through e-commerce;

(b) whether complaints by e-commerce consumers are going up rapidly since the last 1-2 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise and the steps taken by the Ministry or Consumer Fora to directly deal with e-commerce companies to resolve disputes in a time-bound manner; and

(d) the constraints that Government would have to fix a period within which complaints have to be resolved by companies?

**Portability of PDS entitlements**

385. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning for portability of Public Distribution System (PDS) entitlements in all the States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of implementation of the said mechanism under PDS?

**Review of PDS**

386. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the rationale and structure of the Public Distribution System (PDS) was done keeping in view the current scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether such a review would be undertaken in the near future;

(c) whether specific interventions have been made to ensure the adequate supply of foodgrains to the needy and in pockets where there is food insecurity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Functioning of PDS

387. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to improve the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) in terms of quality of items supplied, prices, etc; and

(b) the details of the items distributed through the PDS, State-wise, including West Bengal?

### Disposal of old stock of pulses

388. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States are not taking pulses from the buffer stock maintained by the Central Government;

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

(c) the total quantity of pulses in the Centre's buffer stock at present, pulse-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the Central Government proposes to dispose of the old stock of pulses so that in its place new stock could be maintained to meet future requirements?

### Encouraging higher administrative grade officers to have broader perspective

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Railways has decided that the moment officers reach at higher

administrative grade, posts should be such that people are encouraged to think comprehensively in terms of Railways rather than from the point of view of departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this move has invited criticism from within the bureaucracy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Damage of foodgrains due to rain

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

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

(a) the quantities of cereals stored by the Food Corporation of India or other storage agencies which got damaged or whose quality deteriorated due to getting wet during monsoon across the country;

(b) the quantities of cereals that got damaged due to getting wet during rains in the last five years and the cost thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against any officer/employee for damaging of cereals due to getting wet during the last five years?

### Denial of ration to MGNREGA workers

391. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many MGNREGA workers

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

were reportedly denied ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS) shops for failing to have Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps taken by Government to provide ration to the elderly persons through the PDS?

#### **Aadhaar-based PoS terminals**

392. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of introducing 20 lakh Aadhaar-based PoS (Point of Sale) terminals by September, 2017, as announced in the Union Budget 2017-18, has been met;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of Aadhaar-based PoS terminals introduced from April, 2017 to September, 2017 and till June, 2018?

#### **DigiGaon Programme**

393. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will digitize 700 villages in the country under its DigiGaon Programme by the year end;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Common Services Centers are working in 1.83 lakh Gram Panchayats, as of now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Biometric authentication failures**

394. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aadhaar-linked ration cards that have failed biometric authentication at Aadhaar-enabled PoS (Point of Sale) terminals since 2017, month-wise;

(b) whether Government is taking any steps to address biometric failures at Aadhaar-enabled PoS terminals in genuine cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Boosting of BHIM App use**

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

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

(a) whether the use of State-run digital transactions BHIM application is falling to negligible 6.3 per cent and the Government is setting targets for Government departments to boost the use of this application; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Data sharing by Facebook without consent of users**

396. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently, there were media reports claiming that Facebook has agreements which are allowing phone and



other device manufacturers' access to its users' personal information, including that of their friends, without taking their explicit consent;

(b) whether Facebook has responded to earlier notices about breaches of personal data relating to the Cambridge Analytica episode and efforts to protect the privacy of users' data on the platform; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

#### **GPS-like satellite navigation system**

397. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to have its own GPS-like satellite navigation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a joint working group was formed to identify the funding mechanism and institutions for developing NavIC chips and their use in various devices; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government will promote start-ups and MSMEs to enter this area which will help enhancing competence of the domestic market?

#### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

398. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), including flagship programmes, being implemented by the Ministry at present; and

(b) the details of targets and allocations made, funds allocated, disbursed and utilised in these schemes, scheme-wise, State-wise and UT-wise during the last three years, including the present year?

#### **National Cyber Coordination Centre**

399. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Phase-I of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) along with the details of funds spent and the work completed;

(b) the timeline for completion of different phases of NCCC and the details of funds allocated for phase-II in the Budget 2018-19; and

(c) in what manner NCCC co-relates with existing bodies like NCIPC and CERT-In?

#### **Failure rate of biometric authentication**

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

(a) the details of failure rate of biometric authentication since 2013, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether pilot studies were conducted to determine failure rate of biometric authentication before nation-wide launch of Aadhaar;

(c) if so, the details of pilot studies conducted and result of failure rates for biometric authentication during these studies;

(d) if not, the basis on which decision was made to mandate biometric authentication even for the elderly; and

(e) the special measures implemented to ensure that differently-abled people, who may be visually impaired or prevented from registering their biometric, are not being excluded from welfare schemes for want of Aadhaar?

**Direct connect between farmers and FPIs**

401. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a direct connect between farmers and Food Processing Industries (FPIs) proposed to be set up as a result of several initiatives taken by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the farmers would be benefitted from the FPIs and whether the industries would come up close to the farm gates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Capital infusion to exploit favourable scenario in Food Processing sector**

402. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the world's second largest producer of rice, wheat, fish, fruits and vegetables and the largest producer of milk;

(b) if so, how Government has taken advantage of this favourable scenario in the Food Processing sector; and

(c) whether Government has been infusing the necessary capital to exploit the favourable situation or depending on private partnerships?

**Contribution of PMKSY in doubling of farmers' income**

403. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) has helped in providing better prices to farmers and contributed to doubling of their income and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether it has led to generation of employment opportunities, especially in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it has led to reduction in wastage of agricultural produces and if so, the details thereof?

**Measures to promote investment in FPIs**

404. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures undertaken by Government to promote investment in Food Processing Industry (FPI) since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the details of the steps undertaken by Government to improve and augment

the cold storage facilities in the country since 2014, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of additions to the capacity of cold storage between 2014 and 2018, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the major challenges faced by the FPI and steps taken to ease these constraints since 2014, State-wise and year-wise?

#### **Agro processing clusters in Tamil Nadu under PMKSY**

405. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities that are being provided/proposed to be provided under infrastructure for agro processing clusters under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY); and

(b) the details of such clusters that have been established/proposed to be established across the country, including in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu?

#### **Mega Food Parks in Punjab**

406. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure and food testing laboratories sanctioned and established for food processing in the country, particularly Punjab, in the last three years; and

(b) how far allowing 100 per cent FDI in trading, including e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured in India, gave impetus to increase farmers' income and also to generate more employment, along with the details thereof?

#### **Targeted programmes to improve FPIs**

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

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's Food Processing sector is mostly in small scale and unorganised sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country's Food Processing sector lacks access to credit, marketing network, efficient tool/technology and managerial knowledge and if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether this sector needs targeted programmes to improve the industry; and

(d) the funds allocated during each of the last three years in the country, with particular reference to the States of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

#### **e-filing of cases in courts**

408. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for e-filing of cases in courts;

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

(c) whether any court in Rajasthan has been selected to promote e-filing of cases; and

(d) the details regarding other steps being taken to promote the use of technology in the working of courts?

**Fast Track Courts for criminal cases  
against public representatives**

409. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Fast Track Courts to try public representatives for criminal cases against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such cases have been transferred to any Fast Track Courts; and

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

**Increase in expenditure of Government  
in contesting cases in Supreme Court**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred by Government in contesting cases in the Supreme Court has gone up from nearly ₹ 11 crore in 2011-12 to ₹ 42.40 crore in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to expedite all the cases in all the courts at the earliest to cut down the expenditure in contesting court cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Creation of Indian Judicial Service**

†411. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to create Indian Judicial Service; and

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard?

**Fake voters**

412. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has found a number of fake voters in various States since 2014 till date, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Commission to curb this problem; and

(c) whether action has been taken by the Commission in the constituencies where the fake voters have been found, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Steps to reduce Government cases in  
courts**

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

(a) whether the majority of cases pending before courts in the country comprise of Government cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has recently taken many effective steps to reduce the number of Government cases with a view to lighten the burden of courts; and

(d) if so, whether the positive and expected results of those effective steps are coming out?

**Integrated Legal Cells in Ministries  
and Departments of Central  
Government**

414. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

proposal to set up Integrated Legal Cell for Ministries/Departments of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of such legal cells; and

(c) the number of cases pending with the Supreme Court/ High Courts in which Central Government is applicant and respondent?

#### **Appointment of New Senior Counsels and Special Advocates for Ministries**

415. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has appointed new Senior Counsels and Special Advocates for various Ministries and their allied offices, autonomous bodies like CBI, ED and Green Tribunal, PSUs and PSBs in the country;

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

(c) whether Government is following any transparent system in the appointment of Associate Solicitor Generals, Assistant Solicitor Generals, Senior Counsels and Panel Advocates to the various High Courts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allowing proxy voting for NRIs**

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

(a) the total number of registered NRI voters in the country alongwith the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether any deadline has been set for the registration process;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to allow proxy voting for NRIs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry has defined the process for proxy voting and by when the NRIs would be allowed to vote using proxy voting?

#### **Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

417. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), including flagship programmes, being implemented at present by the Ministry; and

(b) the details of targets and allocations made, fund allocated, disbursed and utilized in these schemes during the last three years, including the present year, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise?

#### **Increase in strength of Judges of High Courts**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the strength of Judges of High Courts of the States from 906 to 984, out of the target strength of 1112 Judges;

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

(c) the details of steps Government has undertaken for the infrastructural development of Judiciary in the last four years?

**Simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**

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

(a) whether there is a move on the part of Government to have simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections in the year 2019;

(b) whether Government has held discussions with the Election Commission, different political parties, various stakeholders and leading legal luminaries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings in India**

420. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held any consultation with the Bar Council of India (BCI) to arrive at any concrete conclusion, *inter alia*, regarding regulating the participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Proxy voting for NRI and internal migrant voters**

421. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to allow proxy voting for NRI and internal migrant voters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total number of registered overseas electors as of April, 2018; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

**Recommendations in the Economic Survey**

422. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the recommendations made in the Economic Survey with respect to "Ease of Doing Business Next Frontier: Timely Justice"; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan of implementing these recommendations?

**Deployment of UAV/drone cameras for monitoring the maintenance of tracks and infrastructure**

423. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to deploy UAV/drone cameras for monitoring the maintenance of tracks and other railway infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating by when and in what manner such drone cameras would be deployed for the railway's further security and development;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines for using UAV/drone cameras in various parts of the country for monitoring the railway tracks and its infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

#### **Complaints regarding HOR quota**

424. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIP references for release of HOR quota to Minister of Railways/ Railway Board are not being given priority recently;

(b) if so, whether complaints from MPs, etc. have been received by the Minister of Railways and Chairman, Railway Board against officers and E&RCs posted in MR, MOS(R) and Reservation Cell;

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

(d) whether E&RC posted in MR, MOS(R) and Reservation Cell, Railway Board are covered under periodical rotational transfer as per CVC guideline; and

(e) if so, list of transfers of E&RCs since 2014 to till date?

#### **New trains and stoppages on Delhi-Kota-Ratlam-Mumbai route**

†425. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new passenger trains that were operationalized on Delhi-Kota-Ratlam-Mumbai rail section since January, 2014 and stoppages sanctioned for these passenger trains, railway division-wise; and

(b) the details of the special facilities provided to passengers and expansion made on the stations of the above said railway section during the above said period?

#### **New trains and railway projects in Madhya Pradesh**

†426. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the trains, passenger facilities and the implementation of new construction plans of the Railways in Madhya Pradesh from the time of Railway Budget 2014 till now in the year 2018?

#### **Commissioning of new rail lines**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been an increase of 59 per cent in the average pace of commissioning of new lines from 4.1 kilometre per day between 2009 and 2014 to 6.53 Kilometre per day during 2014-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of the railway line projects are running far behind the schedule, escalating their cost; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite execution of such long pending railway line projects?

#### **Foreign investment for technological upgradation and modernisation**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are seeking foreign investment in areas such as technological upgradation and modernisation;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are also considering to privatise some of the areas of their operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in the number of train accidents**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents had come down from 118 in 2013-14 to 73 in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average annual capital expenditure in the past four years has been more than double to ₹ 5.29 lakh crore as against ₹ 2.30 lakh crore in 2009-14; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Delayed railway projects**

430. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than three-fifth of the total 349 delayed Central projects belong to the Railway sector causing a cost overrun of ₹ 1.73 lakh crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that as many as 36 projects of Railways, out of the monitored 350 projects, reported time overrun or delay of 12 months to 261 months;

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

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the timely completion of railway projects?

#### **Train from Samastipur to New Delhi**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to run several new trains for providing travel facility to public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not providing any train from Samastipur to New Delhi despite Samastipur junction being the largest railway station of North Bihar from where all the trains pass;

(d) whether Government has made any plan to run any train from Samastipur to New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bullet train project**

432. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work of Bullet train which was declared by Government from Ahmedabad to Mumbai;

(b) whether the work to run a Bullet train has started and whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay of work of this project?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



#### **Installation of European Train Control System**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has turned down an ambitious plan of Railways to introduce a new signalling system based on the European Train Control System Level 2; and

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

#### **Bidding of stations for redevelopment**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are very soon going to bid 25 stations for redevelopment;

(b) whether Bangalore City and Bangalore Cantonment stations have been selected for this purpose;

(c) whether redevelopment is being done under the PPP mode; and

(d) by when the entire process of redevelopment would be over and the estimated cost thereof?

#### **Rail freight corridors**

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

(a) the details of rail freight corridors that have been approved/sanctioned/under implementation in the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated and present status of these freight corridor projects, corridor-wise; and

(c) by when these projects would be completed and the reasons for delay in their implementation, corridor-wise?

#### **Latest technology for railway safety**

436. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come out with any latest technology as a part of its 'Make in India' initiative, which would help in reducing the increasing number of railway accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the new techniques/technologies railways have adopted during the last two years for the safety of their passengers?

#### **Use of toilet water to prepare tea and coffee**

437. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that in many trains water from toilet is being used to make tea, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently a video has surfaced in social media suggesting that water from train toilet was being used to prepare tea and coffee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways are considering to enforce strict rules for the licensed vendors to prevent such recurrences; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Monitoring of Bullet train project**

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

(a) whether Government has initiated the implementation of Bullet train project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project;

(c) whether Government has made arrangements for monitoring the progress of the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the targets set for completion of the project?

#### **Electrification of railway network**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not going forward with 100 per cent electrification of the country's railway network; and

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

#### **Policy for container traffic**

440. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more players other than CONCOR are being allowed for smooth movement of container traffic;

(b) whether the Ministry has evolved any policy framework in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

#### **Investigation of scams**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is seriously considering to get the scams investigated which took place in Delhi Railway Division and Northern Railway Central Hospital;

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

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

#### **Project for making bricks from soil**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to start a project of making bricks from soil;

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

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

#### **Corruption cases against senior railway officials**

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

(a) the total number of cases, for the offence of indulgence in corrupt practices, filed against senior railway officials during 2004-14 and 2014-17 and the status of these litigations as of January, 2018; and

(b) the recent measures taken by the Ministry during 2014-17 to reduce corruption and bring greater transparency and accountability along with the details of the impact of these measures?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Effect of Seventh Pay Commission on  
Railway Budget**

†444. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Budget is heavily affected by Seventh Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the effects thereof; and

(c) the details of operating ratio of Railways at present?

**Late running of trains**

†445. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important trains run late by many hours on many routes even on normal days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of efforts being made by Government in this direction; and

(d) by when Railways would start running on time?

**Introduction of new trains**

†446. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new trains introduced by Railways during the last four years; and

(b) the details of routes on which these trains are being run?

**Establishment of Special Railway  
Zone in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to the matter of establishment of Special Railway Zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the present status of the matter and the reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for early announcement of a Railway Zone for Andhra Pradesh?

**Revised time table for trains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing delay in train services across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are considering to rework their time table; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in case a train gets delayed during meal time, passengers with reserved tickets would be provided with free food and water?

**Introduction of GPS loggers on all  
trains**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways would introduce GPS loggers on all trains that would help log the progress of each train on a real-time basis which would then be uploaded on the railway website;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railways have planned to increase the production of coaches to standardize the rakes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that additional coaches and rakes would be kept in each zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Rail connectivity in border areas of North East India**

450. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are executing 43 projects at a cost of ₹ 9,000 crore to extend rail connectivity in the border areas of North East India with other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of new line projects to be added in the mountainous region and the timeline projected for their completion?

#### **Bypassing Commission of Railway Safety to increase speed of trains**

451. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to bypass the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) to increase the speed of trains as part of Mission Raftaar 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the principal routes identified under Mission Raftaar and how Railways propose to increase the freight and passenger traffic per cent without compromising on safety?

#### **Station redevelopment programme**

452. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to execute their ambitious station redevelopment programme and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the new contracts would offer developers a lease term of 99 years compared to 45 years as envisaged earlier and residential premises would be a part of the assets created and the developers would be allowed to give multiple sub-leases rather than just one; and

(c) the number of stations Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) is planning to redevelop on the Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) model along with the timeline therefor?

#### **Construction of flyover on railway crossing in Sambhal**

†453. SHRI JAVED ALL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from the public representatives and social organisations regarding construction of flyover on railway crossing 36B situated at Chandausi, district Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the sanction has been accorded regarding construction of flyover on railway crossing 36B;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard, so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Measures to prevent fleecing of passengers in name of flexi fare**

†454. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway passengers do not get confirmed tickets of trains and passengers are being looted in the name of railway flexi fare and they have to buy tickets at threefold to fourfold rates of the actual rate;

(b) whether Railways propose to increase the number of coaches in trains and run additional trains so as to prevent looting of passengers in the name of flexi fare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Status of railway project connecting Srinagar**

†455. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of years old project for connecting Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir with railway; and

(b) whether there is any plan to connect tourist places like Mussoorie, Dharamshala, Dalhousie with railway?

**New ticket confirmation process through website**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have started new ticket confirmation process through website;

(b) if so, the details of trends of confirmation and cancellation probability of last two years;

(c) the proposal of Government to issue confirm tickets to passengers whenever and wherever the person needs;

(d) whether Government proposes to issue confirm tickets to the patients travelling for treatment purposes for all trains; and

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

**Rake points for supply and distribution of fertilizers in Odisha**

457. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of required infrastructure at existing rake points and non-provision of new rake points and two point rakes, supply of fertilizers and their distribution is affected a lot in Odisha; and

(b) whether the Ministry would take steps for Odisha's long standing demand for modernisation of existing rake points, notification of new rake points at Junagarh, Rengali, Dunguripalli, Narayanpur, Nirgundi and provision of two point rakes at proposed places *i.e.* Kesinga-Khariar Road, Rayagada-Kesinga, Cuttack-

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dhenkanal, Rupsa-Dhanmandal, Baragarh Road-Bolangir and Cuttack-Dhanmandal?

**Jeypore-Malkangiri and Jeypore-Nabarangpur railway projects**

458. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons Railways have not decided yet on the executing agencies for Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 Km.) and Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 Km.) railway projects, though Railways have signed MoU with the State Government of Odisha on 10th October, 2016 and only Jeypore-Nabarangpur railway project has been sanctioned; and

(b) the reasons for no communication from Railways about Jeypore-Malkangiri project and the present status of the above stated two projects?

**Late running of trains**

459. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several trains including premium trains such as Shatabdi, Rajdhani and superfast trains are running late across the country and punctuality of trains is touching 50 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, category-wise and train-wise; and

(c) the reasons for late running of trains and the steps taken by Railways to improve their punctuality?

**Tool for prediction of confirmation probability of waitlisted tickets**

460. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have developed a tool which would be able to tell passengers at the time of booking whether there is a high probability of a waitlisted ticket getting confirmed;

(b) if so, the details of such tool/system devised and its salient features;

(c) whether it is a fact that this tool would be available only for bookings made through IRCTC website;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the said tool has been put into operation and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Tour of probationers to Germany**

461. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to send the probationers to Germany, in groups of around 35 each, to get to know about the largest railway network in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such tours would be permanently integrated with the process of preparing young officers for their career; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Electrification of North East Frontier Railway**

462. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to go in for complete electrification of North East Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with

the financial allocations made for the purpose; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of the work?

#### **Punctuality of trains**

463. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether every class of train, from premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi to super-fast and express trains is running much behind the scheduled time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, zone-wise and train-wise, along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has noted that the punctuality of trains terminating at Chennai and other stations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has deteriorated over the past three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to ensure operation of all these trains as per their schedule?

#### **Delay in disposal of compensation cases**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation cases are inordinately delayed in Railways;

(b) if so, the average time taken and the extent of pendency;

(c) whether Railways have a policy for their expeditious disposal; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

#### **Target to collect non-fare revenue**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways' target to collect ₹ 10,000 crore out of non-fare revenue;

(b) if so, the targeted time and activities under this plan; and

(c) the details of physical and financial targets set and achieved, till date?

#### **Projects to reduce logistics cost**

466. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail projects worth ₹ 18,800 crore are being implemented to reduce logistics cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the projects are being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. and IPRCL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Plant-based food on trains**

467. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to promote plant-based food on trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways have received many proposals from many organisations urging to promote plant-based food on trains; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by the Railways in this regard?

**Stainless steel benches at railway stations**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide stainless steel benches at railway stations of Maharashtra and other parts of the country by replacing the existing rusting benches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed, particularly in Maharashtra?

**Induction of kitchen equipments for handsfree preparation of food**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to set up CCTV cameras in sixteen IRCTC kitchens to ensure cleanliness;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the IRCTC is also considering to induct more kitchen equipments for handsfree preparation of food; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Under-utilisation of budget allocation for Kerala**

470. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds utilised, out of budget allocation in Kerala for the

development of railway, during the last four years;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the complaints from northern districts of Kerala that the budget allocation for railway development in northern Kerala was under- utilised; and

(c) if so, the response of the Central Government to the complaints and the steps taken to address them?

**Late running of trains**

471. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chronic train delays are the common problem of the Railways now-a-days;

(b) if so, the reasons behind late running of trains;

(c) the delay reports of trains during the last two years with quarterly average, zone-wise; and

(d) the action proposed by Government to maintain punctuality of railway timetable?

**Shelving of Kothavalasa-Tuni railway line**

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

(a) when Kothavalasa-Tuni single line project was announced;

(b) whether it is a fact that, as per media reports, Railways have shelved this project;

(c) if so, the reasons for shelving this long pending and long-needed project at Visakhapatnam;



(d) whether any report has been given by any entity or the Railway Board on which such a decision has been taken; and

(e) if so, the details of the report?

**Creation or restructuring of railway zones**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to create or restructure railway zones in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Kotipalli-Navasapuram railway line**

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

(a) the present status of the Kotipalli-Navasapuram railway line works;

(b) whether the work would be completed within the stipulated period of three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**New railway zone in Andhra Pradesh**

475. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government undertook any survey to assess the feasibility of establishing a new railway zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh as provided in section 93 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014;

(b) if so, the salient features of the survey undertaken by Government in this direction; and

(c) if no such survey was undertaken, the reasons therefor?

**Availability of upgraded tools to coolies**

476. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to recruit coolies from stations across the country with upgraded tools to carry heavy baggages of the passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for non-availability of tools to coolies for carrying baggage?

**Installation of emergency button in trains and washrooms**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Women and Child Development asked the Ministry of Railways to ensure installation of emergency button in trains and in washrooms to provide better safety for women passengers during travel;

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry of Railways and measures taken in this regard; and

(c) the other measures taken in the running trains to ensure safety of women passengers, including display of women helpline number, special police squad, etc.?

**Ongoing and pending railway projects**

478. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA  
KUMAR:

SHRI HARSHVARDHAN  
SINGH DUNGARPUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be  
pleased to state:

(a) the present status of ongoing and  
pending railway projects in the country,  
State and Zone-wise;

(b) whether execution of several ongoing  
railway projects is getting delayed resulting  
in huge cost over-run;

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

(d) the details of funds spent on such  
projects, so far and the total funds required  
for their completion, Project and State/  
Zone-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to  
execute these projects expeditiously to  
check any further cost escalation?

**Collection of application fee from  
selected applicants**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be  
pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies for which

applications were invited in different zones  
of Railways in the last five years and the  
application fee demanded and collected with  
applications of candidates;

(b) the details of utilisation of amount  
thus collected;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to over  
unemployment the number of applications  
received are more than expected ones and  
huge amount is collected thereby; and

(d) whether the Ministry would  
consider to take application fee only from  
those candidates who are selected for service  
so that the unemployed persons do not get  
burdened?

**Acquisition of land for Bullet train  
project**

480. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the  
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the  
land acquisition issues are plaguing the  
ambitious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train  
project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, so far,  
the NHSCRC has acquired only  
0.9 hectares of land for the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said  
project is anticipated to be completed by  
2022/2023; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the  
collaborators in the Bullet train project had  
asked Government to expedite acquisition  
of land?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 14th July, 2018*  
*Ashadha 23, 1940 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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