

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, August 1, 2018/Shravana 10, 1940 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Commerce and Industry; Home Affairs; Labour and Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Steel; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 160

Challenges facing India's aviation sector

1601. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of fastest growing aviation market, India is facing inadequate infrastructure planning, shortage of skills and weak regulatory oversight;

(b) if so, whether Government is looking to open more than 100 airports including 70 per cent locations which have no airfields therefor;

(c) whether Government has received any report from CAPA-Centre for Aviation on the Air Traffic Control (ATC) personnel, pilots, good engineers and projections analysis of policy and regulatory oversight therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion and Development of airports under RCS

1602. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has

completed the identification of small towns for expansion and development of airports under Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the details thereof;

(b) the details of the States which have joined hands in this scheme, and the details of the towns and airports developed/to be developed under this scheme, particularly in the State of Telangana;

(c) the quantum of funds earmarked and released so far; and

(d) the present status of the scheme?

Government's exit from Air India

1603. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is losing close to ₹ 15 crore per day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to exit from the airline altogether, instead of holding 24 per cent stake;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there

would not have been over 160 queries after the preliminary information memorandum if there were no buyers for the airline;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the potential buyers were not comfortable entering into a partnership with Government and were apprehensive of interference; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Development and upgradation of Dumna airport, Jabalpur

1604. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 72 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22 November, 2016 and state:

(a) whether Government had allocated ₹ 384 crore funds for the development and upgradation of Dumna airport, Jabalpur;

(b) how much work has been done so far in respect of building, tarmac, airstrip and terminal building of the airport thereof;

(c) whether Government has any time line to complete the development and upgradation operations of Dumna airport; and

(d) the funds utilised so far and its details thereof?

Works undertaken at Calicut airport

1605. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights operated from Calicut international airport and their destinations thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to change its category/level;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware of

the improvement works undertaken recently in the airport; and

(e) the details of the works and the amount spent thereon?

Privatisation of Pawan Hans Limited

†1606. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after Air India the Government's move on privatisation of Pawan Hans Limited has also suffered a setback;

(b) whether private companies are not taking interest in the privatisation of Pawan Hans;

(c) whether Government is planning for 100 per cent privatisation of Pawan Hans now; and

(d) whether privatisation of Pawan Hans would also affect the operation of ONGC?

Making airports in Maharashtra solar powered

1607. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make the airports in Maharashtra and other parts of the country solar powered airports on the lines of Kochi airport; and

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

Increasing of flying rights for foreign airlines

1608. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to increase the flying rights for foreign airlines;

(b) if so, proposal details received from different foreign airlines for good slots therefor;

(c) the number of international airports in the country thereof;

(d) whether Government has received proposal from foreign companies to run flights from new places therein; and

(e) if so, the details of plan of Government to start and open air time to foreign players thereto?

Progress of work at domestic airport in Gangtok

†1609. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work of domestic airport being constructed in Gangtok, whether the construction of this airport has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the operation of domestic flights would be started from this airport; and

(c) if not, the problems being faced in this regard along with the time-line fixed by Government for the same?

Operational airports and routes under UDAN Scheme

1610. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports to be operational under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme and the details thereof;

(b) the number of flights approved

under the Scheme and the number of routes operational thereof; and

(c) the initiatives taken by the Government to ensure availability of slots for flights flying under the Scheme at busy airports like Mumbai and Delhi and the details thereof?

Advance intimation of cancellation of flight

1611. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that passengers are not informed by airlines about flight cancellation well in advance and they are put into great hardship at last minutes of travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such cases of cancellation of flights causing hardship to passengers were reported during the last three years;

(d) the details thereof, year-wise and airline-wise;

(e) whether Government is taking any measures to prevent such incidents and make air travel comfortable for all air passengers; and

(f) if so, the details of measures being taken by Government in this regard?

Measures to boost revenue by Air India

1612. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India will look at ways to boost its revenue through a slew of measures such as

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

increasing ancillary and cargo earnings as well as rationalising catering;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Air India has been losing its domestic and international market share over the past few years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that better marketing as well as simpler procedures for cargo services had helped the airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Safety and security of airports

1613. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any serious note on safety and security of airports from any untoward happenings like fire accidents, terror attacks, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this;

(c) whether Government has provided funds for the procurement of fire safety equipments including fire engines and other security and safety programmes to enhance and ensure the safety of airports in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated, airport-wise?

Utilisation of bilateral rights

1614. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bilateral rights to foreign destinations not being used by Indian carriers and the details thereof;

(b) whether foreign carriers have fulfilled their flying rights through bilateral agreements and the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of foreign competition on the profitability of Indian carriers on unsued bilateral rights and the details thereof?

Upgradation of airports

1615. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to upgrade about 25 airports in the country in a phased manner to cater to the tourists travelling on e-visas to the tourist places in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any airport in Karnataka is also being considered for such upgradation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rostering scam in Air India

1616. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'rostering scam' has surfaced in Air India whereby Airbus and Dreamliner pilots' flying hours and rosters are being manipulated resulting in Air India paying these pilots more;

(b) whether pilots operate in small groups and are rostered for 70 hours a month and by juggling records with help of DGMs, clerks and other officials, they earn extra money;

(c) whether Director of Operations, Air India has ordered in investigation into the malpractice and if so, whether irregularities have been found in scheduling of cockpit crew on Airbus fleet in connivance with DGMs; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

Losses of Air India

1617. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total amount of cumulative loss of Air India;
- (b) whether recent disinvestment plan of Government will be used to repay/ redeem the public carrier;
- (c) whether disinvestment decision was taken after conducting study of other viable methods;
- (d) whether the reasons of losses have been identified, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what per cent of share will be disinvested?

Measures to curb misuse of slots

1618. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a Flight Operation Committee;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government took many measures to curb misuse of slots; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Extra luggage charges

1619. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the extra luggage charges from passengers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Inclusion of Delhi/NCR in RCS

1620. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to include some nearby centres of Delhi/NCR in Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to promote the aviation industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the plan outlay regarding the inclusion of urban centres, which already have a long air strip, under the aforesaid Scheme?

Infusing more funds into Air India

1621. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has postponed divestment of Air India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to infuse more funds into Air India for its smooth operations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of unused airports

1622. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) how many airports are there in the country where no takeoff or landing of flights take place and how much amount of money Government has to spend annually on their maintenance;
- (b) the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is making any efforts to revamp/improve the functioning of such airports through new aviation policy; and

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

Concessional seats under UDAN Scheme

1623. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seats earmarked for concession under UDAN Scheme, sector-wise;

(b) how much amount was released to flight operators, during the last two years; and

(c) whether any new routes and airports were identified especially in Tamil Nadu under UDAN Scheme?

Allowing import of sand from neighbouring countries

1624. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to allow import of sand from neighbouring countries to overcome the problem of shortage of sand in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Measures to contain trade deficit

1625. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of merchandise

exports from India in March, 2017 and March, 2018;

(b) the total amount of merchandise imports to India in March, 2017 and March, 2018;

(c) the details of India's merchandise trade deficit in March, 2017 and March, 2018; and

(d) what effective measures have been taken by Government to contain trade deficit, the details thereof?

Proposal to fix MSP for rubber

1626. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering any proposal to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is in receipt of any recommendations regarding this from the Rubber Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Export of marine products to EU

†1627. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether major part of Indian marine products are exported to the European Union (EU);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether countries of European Union have put/propose to put some procedural ban on export of marine products from India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether Indian marine products export sector would have to face problems due to the same; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

India lagging as a global innovation hub

1628. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no mechanism has been put in place to incubate innovative ideas at home;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that India is continuously lagging behind as a global innovation hub;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to promote innovation and inventions in the country?

New jobs created in industrial sector

†1629. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of new jobs created in each industrial sector since 2014; and

(b) the details of change in job scenario noted in the wake of implementation of 'Make in India' programme?

Modernisation of fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam

1630. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when modernisation works of fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam was conceptualised;

(b) whether recently Government of Andhra Pradesh has given its approval for its share of funds for works;

(c) whether MPEDA has submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Ministry after clarifying certain points raised by the Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in approving DPR and releasing the share of Ministry to take up works; and

(e) the details of works that are going to be taken up as a part of modernisation and the time-frame within which they are likely to be completed?

Progress under 'Make in India' programme

1631. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Make in India' programme has progressed as per projections made in 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including major areas which have attracted the investors with sophisticated technology to set up manufacturing units in the country; and

(c) the number of manufacturing units so far set up since the launch of the scheme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mechanism to protect interest of exporters

1632. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to protect the interests of exporters against the risk of non-realisation of export proceeds due to commercial, political or other causes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has made any financial allocation for this purpose in the recent budget?

Policy to regulate e-commerce

1633. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has a policy to regulate e-commerce;

(b) if so, by when the policy is expected;

(c) legal regime under which the e-commerce companies are being regulated today; and

(d) what are the measures proposed to protect consumers from this system?

Decline in silk goods export earnings

1634. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that silk goods export earnings have decreased over the years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to improve the silk goods export earnings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ASIDE scheme

†1635. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has scrapped the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) scheme; and

(b) if so, whether, having scrapped the scheme, the amount of the central share would be provided for the ongoing projects from among the projects approved under the scheme?

Import of spices from China

1636. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of spices imported from China during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, spice-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has revealed that the south Indian market is flooded with Chinese cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*) containing high levels of coumarin, a hepatotoxic compound, raising food safety concerns; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Low share in world fruit exports

1637. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share in world fruit exports is very low in apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot and cherry, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating India's share in world fruit exports at present;

(b) the total quantity and value of fruits exported during the last three years and the current year, fruit-wise; and

(c) whether Government is taking any effective steps to increase export of fruits from the country and if so, the details thereof?

NRI investments in the country

1638. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the country during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the impact of the said investment on the targeted areas;

(c) whether Government proposes to encourage such type of investment in other hilly, inaccessible, tribal areas of the country including Himachal Pradesh; and

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

Problems faced by startups

1639. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's much-hyped flagship initiative to encourage entrepreneurship is foundering due to policy irritants and lack of enabling environment;

(b) whether a young Indian leader of global economic forum for the past seven years has stated that business environment in India is not startup friendly; and

(c) whether out of 6096 companies recognised as startups by DIPP, only 74 have got the approval to avail of tax benefits and whether 75 per cent of funded technology startups are re-domiciling outside India citing regulatory hindrances?

Export of Soyabean meal

1640. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was a major exporter of soyabean meal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years;

(c) whether the export of soyabean meal has come down heavily in recent years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action proposed by Government in this regard?

Fall in prices of pepper

1641. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a sharp fall in prices of pepper has put farmers in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in a fix;

(b) if so, the details of black pepper

prices in the years 2016, 2017 and at present and the production of black pepper during these years;

(c) whether the influx of imported pepper from Vietnam *via* Sri Lanka had been the major reason for the fall in prices and the import of pepper continues despite various measures being taken by Government to curb the imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Higher import of solar panels

1642. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is importing solar panels 35 times of what it exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that between April, 2016 and January, 2017, there were imports of ₹ 15,000 crores whereas exports was just ₹ 400 crores;

(c) if so, the status between January, 2017 to June, 2018;

(d) whether it is also a fact that 87 per cent of imports are coming from China; and

(e) how Chinese solar panels are comparable to India's and whether India can produce solar panels to economies of scale so that the prices come down?

Guidelines framed for single brand retail trade

1643. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines framed for single brand retail business under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy of the country;

(b) whether many international companies/brands have shown interest in opening their single brand outlets in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce subjectivity on discretionary decisions regarding the local sourcing norms and its waiver related to cutting edge technology?

Review of GSP by the US administration

1644. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US administration has been reviewing the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) which is considered to be detrimental in decline of exports from India to the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to express India's concern over it; and

(c) what alternative plan is being contemplated by Government to tackle this issue so that exports from India to the US are not affected?

Manual auction of cardamom

1645. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether manual auction of cardamom is still being carried out in some auction centres across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to introduce e-auction at those centres;

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

Five year trade programme with China

1646. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and China have signed five year trade programme to develop trade in the spirit of mutual benefit;
- (b) if so, what is the progress of this policy, especially to increase bilateral trade in services IT and IT enabled services; and
- (c) whether number of mandatory documents required for exports and imports have been reduced for trade facilitation and ease of doing business, if so, the details thereof?

Anti-national activities in Gujarat

1647. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has found any anti-national activities in Kutch and any other part of Gujarat; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act

1648. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present position of implementation of various provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act;
- (b) what were the provisions that were implemented fully and what were

implemented partially and what have not been implemented so far along with reasons for non-implementation; and

- (c) whether it is a fact that several provisions could not be implemented due to non-cooperation of successor States, if so, the details thereof?

Incidents of vandalizing of statues

1649. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether number of incidents of vandalizing of statues have come to the notice of Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of persons arrested in each incident and action taken against such persons, including registering of FIRs;
- (d) whether any advisory has been issued to the State Government for protecting the statues of National leaders and prominent personalities; and
- (e) whether any code of conduct would be proposed to the political parties and other agencies to show mutual respect and to respect the sentiments of other parties/groups?

Overcrowding in prisons

1650. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many prisons across the country are over 150 per cent overcrowded;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by States and UTs to fill up large number of vacancies of officials in various prisons; and

(d) whether Government will call a meeting of all States and UTs to improve the situation in prisons and to ensure that human rights of undertrials and prisoners are not violated?

Shortage of forensic experts

†1651. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pending cases related to forensic reports are consistently increasing due to shortage of forensic experts and thereby adversely affecting the hearing of various cases;

(b) whether there are some cases of forensic examination where results are expected to be better if examined as early as possible, however if examination in such cases is pending for longer period, it can affect the result of examination; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to cut down delay in examination of forensic samples so that it can yield satisfactory far reaching results?

ISIS terrorists involved in terrorist activities in J&K

†1652. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

of terrorists of ISIS are increasing at a large scale in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the details of actions taken during last three years against the anti-social elements who hoist the ISIS and Pakistan flag frequently in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) the details thereof?

Measures to prevent child trafficking

1653. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism has been devised by Government to ensure regular monitoring and checking in various modes of transport like bus, trains, etc. to prevent child trafficking incidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilisation of trade gate for smooth passage of passengers

1654. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to flag retreat ceremony at Wagah-Attari border, the timing for passenger traffic is kept at 3:30 p.m., after which passengers are not allowed to cross the border, hence they have to wait till next day;

(b) whether Government is planning to utilise the trade gate for smooth passage of passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Linking of NPR data with Aadhaar

1655. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to share Aadhaar data with State Governments for 100 per cent National Population Register (NPR) data linking with Aadhaar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Central rule in J&K

1656. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has extended its rule in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what are the factors contributing to the decision to impose Central rule in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) the number of terrorist attacks and loss of lives after the imposition of Central rule; and

(d) how many arrests took place for pelting of stones after the Central rule?

Persons arrested after operation Blue Star

1657. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were arrested and kept in a Jodhpur prison following operation Blue Star in 1984;

(b) whether Central Government proposes to award compensation in consultation with Punjab Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pendency in results of DNA testing

1658. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DNA samples pertaining to sexual assault cases pending with the central forensic laboratories across the country, State-wise and laboratory-wise during last three years;

(b) the time-frame within which, they will be expedited; and

(c) the plans of Government to expand the scale of infrastructure needed to ensure speedy redressal in cases of sexual assault?

Financial assistance to Karnataka for cyclone relief

1659. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to Karnataka in the aftermath of tropical cyclone Mekunu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Terrorists killed in J&K

†1660. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir in last three years;

(b) how many of them were of Pakistani origin and how many were from Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) the separate details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assistance for construction of capital city of Andhra Pradesh

1661. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has promised a world class capital city for the residual State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for assistance of ₹ 43,000/- crore for construction of capital city and necessary infrastructure, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government will help Andhra Pradesh to build its capital city and create necessary infrastructure therein?

Smuggling along Indo-Nepal border

1662. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human trafficking, smuggling of drugs, gold, petrol and diesel is rampant along open Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what effective measures Government proposes to take to tackle these menace at Indo-Nepal border?

Crimes against women

1663. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of crimes against women during last three years, till date;

(b) the State/UT-wise details and status of heinous crimes against minors during last three years, till date; and

(c) the State/UT-wise number of cases which have been registered with the video evidences of crime against women during the said period and status of these cases?

Human trafficking cases

1664. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and year-wise details of human trafficking cases in the country during the last three years including the number of registered/pending cases; and

(b) the corrective measures taken to curb such incidents?

Shifting of border pillars by Myanmar authorities

1665. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Rifles is in charge of protecting the Myanmar border in Manipur;

(b) whether there have been frequent complaints from the inhabitants and district administrations about intrusion and shifting of border pillars by the Myanmar authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of steps to douse the flaming sentiments of local inhabitants with regard to occupation of Indian land bordering Myanmar?

Persons arrested for carrying illegal weapons

1666. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise list of number of persons arrested for carrying illegal weapons during the last one year;

(b) the number of incidents and cases of death recorded through the usage of illegal weapons, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government to ensure curbing the menace of carrying illegal weapons by civilians, the details thereof?

Scrapping of Bharat Ratna conferred on Mother Teresa

1667. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some organisations have demanded to scrap the Bharat Ratna conferred on Mother Teresa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Safety and security of journalists

1668. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any preventive and deterrent action as deemed required for providing security to ensure safety and security of journalists in exercising freedom of speech and expression, in the wake of incidents of attacks on media persons; and

(b) whether Government is considering bringing a legislation to protect journalists/ media personnel to exercise freedom of

speech and expression in their professional pursuit?

Refugees taking shelter on Indian soil

1669. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refugees from Bangladesh, Myanmar and other neighbouring countries taking shelter on Indian soil;

(b) whether basic human needs/ facilities have been provided to these refugees; and

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

Protection of journalists

1670. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is collecting statistics about cases of attack on journalists across the country;

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

(c) the year-wise details of such attacks in each State and Union Territory, year 2015 onwards;

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such attacks; and

(e) whether Government is issuing an advisory to offer/provide better protection to journalists, if not, the reasons therefor?

Inclusion of more languages in Eighth Schedule

1671. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to

include more languages, including Kamtapuri/Rajbangshi and Kurukh to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Maoist and naxal activities in the country

1672. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how grave are the maoist-naxal activities in the country;

(b) which are the places where these have gravely infested in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted by Government to tackle spread of extremists and their violent activities, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact of Government measures in tackling the maoist and naxal extremist threat?

Financial assistance for landslide calamities in Kerala

1673. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of landslide calamities in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details, including the financial assistance Government proposes to give to the State; and

(c) whether Government would send a technical team for the study of the calamity as this is a regular feature in Kerala during monsoon?

Policy for women victimised due to dowry related harassment

†1674. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable increase in the crimes against women in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that women are compelled to feel insecure;

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken/being taken by Government for the security of women;

(d) whether Government is also considering to formulate some concrete policy for women victimised due to dowry related harassment;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pending cases with cyber crime cell of Delhi Police

1675. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Police has only 50 staffers in its cyber crime cell with the result that 80 per cent of the cases registered with it starting from year, 2017, till date are yet to be solved;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases with the said cell at present; and

(c) by when these are likely to be solved with the existing strength of the staff?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Capital punishment for rape with minor girls

†1676. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States of the country have made provision of capital punishment in cases of rape or gang rape with minor girls;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incidents of rape and gang rape are occurring in the whole country and it has become a National problem;

(c) if so, whether Central Government would make a law in this direction; and

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

Land dispute between Mizoram and Assam

1677. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is frequent tension in Hailakandi, Assam;

(b) whether Government is aware of the land dispute between Mizoram and Assam;

(c) whether Government had taken any action to control the dispute in this region; and

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

Implementation of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

1678. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Citizenship

(Amendment) Bill, 2016 is to be implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details with regard to Assam, where Assam Accord 1985 is already in place, thereby causing overlapping of the two rules;

(c) whether Government has taken necessary steps so that the rules are not overlapping; and

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

Task force to tackle kidnapping of children

1679. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various steps Government has taken so far to curb the increasing number of kidnapping cases of children in the country;

(b) the reasons for the steep increase of such kidnapping cases in various parts of the country;

(c) whether any task force has been constituted to tackle the cases of kidnapping of children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Kidnapping of children

1680. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of kidnapping of children in different parts of the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, how many children have been kidnapped and how many of them have been rescued during that period;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the rescued children have been rehabilitated or handed over to their parents/guardians/family; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Contractual workers in NDMC

1681. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi Municipal Council is hiring workers on contractual basis, if so, details thereof including status of number of workers engaged in different departments of NDMC in last five years;

(b) whether Government is aware that under Rule 25 (2) (v) (a) of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 which ensures equal pay for equal work applies to contractual employees;

(c) if so, reasons for not giving same remuneration or facilities as being given to regular employees, which is violative of principles of natural justice; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to bring pay parity between them?

Incidents of human trafficking

1682. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of human trafficking are constantly being reported in various parts of the country including at ports, airports and international borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such cases reported and persons arrested during each of the last three years and the current year, State/port/airport and border-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to

prevent human trafficking in the country and also at international borders including creation of One Stop Centres in areas having higher incidents of human trafficking?

EPFO to inform members about contributions

1683. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) would inform its subscribers if contributions are not deposited by their employers with the EPFO for a given month in due time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that currently the EPFO only informs about the credit of contributions to subscribers account by SMS/e-mail to registered universal EPFO account number holders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Meeting of ILC

1684. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend existing labour related laws in the country;

(b) if so, the purpose for the same;

(c) whether Government is aware that many such proposals would result in the curtailment of workers' right to organise, collective bargaining and decent life;

(d) whether such reforms were discussed in the Indian Labour Conference (ILC);

(e) when was the ILC's last meeting held; and

(f) whether there was any delay and if so, the reasons therefor?

Unclaimed amount under EPFO

†1685. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount belonging to the poor labourers of the country was lying unclaimed in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as on year 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken necessary and appropriate steps to make available aforesaid unclaimed funds to the rightful beneficiaries during the last four years; and

(d) if so, the amount of funds received so far by the rightful beneficiaries and by when the remaining amount is scheduled to be received?

Labour Code on Safety and Working Conditions

1686. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to introduce the Labour Code on Wages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether intra-ministerial discussions were held for the proposed Labour Code on Safety and Working Conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Charging hefty fees for filling vacancies

†1687. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether hefty fees is being charged from the unemployed persons while inviting the applications for filling up Government vacancies in the country;

(b) whether such attitude is being adopted by private sector also thereby leading to various scams with the unemployed persons;

(c) whether Government would take any steps to ensure that hefty fees is not charged by the departments concerned while inviting applications for fresh recruitments from the unemployed and instead it is charged at the time of appointments; and

(d) the number of persons whose EPF/GPF subscriptions has commenced following the fresh appointments during the last five years?

Implementation of reservation policy for labourers

†1688. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the fact that reservation policy is not being implemented for the labourers being appointed on contract basis by various departments;

(b) if so, whether it is being ensured that reservation policy is implemented and employees belonging to OBC, SC and ST categories working on contract basis also get the benefit of reservation;

(c) if not, the reasons for the injustice with the unemployed youths of OBC, SC and ST community; and

(d) the details of social schemes through which contract employees are getting benefits?

Increasing unemployment rate

1689. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment rate in the country has doubled between July, 2017 to April, 2018 as per a recent study report by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE);

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

(c) the reasons for historical failure of Government to provide employment; and

(d) the details of increase/decrease in employment during April to July 2018, sector-wise?

Declining participation of women employees

†1690. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women

employees accounted for 36 per cent of the entire workforce a decade earlier but their number has declined to a mere 24 per cent now;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any steps to stem the declining number of women employees; and

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

Female labour force participation rate

1691. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) India's female labour force participation rate in the past four years, the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the global share of women in the labour force; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to improve women's participation in the labour force, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Deaths of workers due to accidents

†1692. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of workers die due to accidents in factories and mines in the country owing to improper implementation of safety standards;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has highlighted in its report that the bulk of funds set up for welfare of workers is used in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

administrative expenses while maximum limit for the same is fixed at five per cent of the total amount; and

(d) if so, whether Government has initiated any probe and taken remedial steps in this matter subsequent to the CAG report?

Creation of employment under PMRPY

1693. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) Government has been able to create employment since its commencement, if so, the details of the beneficiaries, State/UT/sector/month-wise; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is advertising that 5.5 lakh of beneficiaries would be added through PMRPY on a monthly basis, if so, the details of persons that have been provided jobs under this scheme?

Children working in shops, hotels and dhabas

1694. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the under-aged children working in unrecognized grocery shops, hotels and dhabas everywhere for more than twelve hours everyday; and

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

Non-implementation of creche facility

†1695. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the amended Maternity Benefit Act, the rule on facility of creche is not being implemented effectively;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the States where this lacuna has been found; and

(d) the manner in which Government would get it thoroughly implemented?

Revision of wages of tea garden workers

1696. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware about the demands of the tea garden workers regarding revision of wages;

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

(c) the details of State Governments which have increased the wages of the tea garden workers in the last three years;

(d) whether the Union Government will help State Governments with some financial packages to improve the situation in tea gardens; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Creation of jobs

†1697. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jobs created by Government during the last four years of its rule;

(b) the State-wise and sector-wise details of the number of persons who have been provided employment; and

(c) whether Government admits that it has failed to check the increasing unemployment?

(c) whether Government has taken adequate initiatives for job creation in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether vocational training plays vital role in creating jobs;

(f) if so, the details of steps taken to bring vocational training into mainstream in the country;

(g) whether Government has taken any steps to chalk out a strong policy road map for job creation and vocational training; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Insurance schemes for labourers

†1698. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the fresh schemes launched by the Government during the years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 for the labourers of the organised and unorganised sectors; and

(b) whether labourers working in the organised and unorganised sectors have been covered under any insurance scheme, if so, the name of the scheme and the details of the premium deposited along with the amount of sum insured paid from the years 2014-15 to 2018-19?

Initiatives taken for creation of jobs

1699. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that job creation is not being done at expected level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Creation of jobs after demonetisation and GST

1700. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total number of jobs that were created in the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether Government's decision of demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST) has played on the generation of jobs in the country;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to generate jobs in the country?

Hike in minimum pension

1701. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after meeting recently to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

consider higher pensions and equity investments, the EPFO the Government is considering a hike in minimum pension from ₹ 1000 to ₹ 2000 a month, costing the Governments ₹ 3000 crore annually;

(b) whether this hike is likely to benefit some 40 lakh subscribers who are getting less than ₹ 1500 per month, out of a total of 60 lakh pensioners under the EPF-95 Scheme; and

(c) whether to fetch higher returns for five crore subscribers, EPFO has so far invested ₹ 42,000 crores in equities fetching over 17 per cent return?

Skill Development Training for beedi rollers

1702. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had launched a programme for Skill Development Training of beedi rollers to engage them in alternate jobs for their livelihood across all beedi rolling States and districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of beedi workers engaged in beedi rolling industry in the country, State-wise;

(d) how many workers were given training under the Skill development training programme for beedi rollers and how many were shifted to alternate livelihoods; and

(e) whether any analysis has been undertaken to show that their total earnings increased, if so, the details thereof?

Interest rate for EPF

1703. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), in its recent notification has reduced the rate of interest to 8.55 per cent for Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) subscribers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fall out of the decision on the EPF subscribers and the corpus of the fund?

Survey regarding Employment and Unemployment

1704. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted Employment and Unemployment survey during the last one year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that unemployment level has risen during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to generate more employment in the country?

Employees under social security fund

1705. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India added 472075 employees to the State run social security fund in February, 2018 after adding 604557 in January, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the data shows that there was a good increase in jobs every month in the last six months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Favourable conditions for promotion of MSMEs

1706. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being taken by Government for creating/providing favourable conditions for the development and promotion of MSMEs under the Ease of Doing Business programme and the extent of success achieved therefrom during the last two years;

(b) whether Government has enacted a model legislation for regulating the functioning of MSMEs in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the same legislation is being replicated/followed by all the States in the country including Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

Solar Charkha Mission

1707. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Solar Charkha Mission in 50 clusters across the country;

(b) whether Government plans to set up 15 new state-of-the-art technology

centres across the country;

(c) whether Government has increased budgetary allocation under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for FY 2018-19 by 75 per cent to ₹ 1,800 crore, in order to incentivise entrepreneurs, mainly women and SC/ST; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Performance and target achievement of MSMEs

1708. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified and graded the States according to the performance and target achievement of MSMEs;

(b) if so, position of the States according to the performance and achievements; and

(c) which State has given maximum employment in MSME sector?

Schemes for promotion of MSME sector

1709. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government promotes MSME sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes presently being implemented by Government;

(c) whether Government has set up or is planning to set up training centres for MSME sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

GST on crude oil

1710. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to replace Excise Duty and Value Added Tax, levied on crude oil with Goods and Services Tax (GST);

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard has been sent to the Ministry of Finance;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard about the views of the Ministry of Finance;

(d) whether Government has set any schedule for replacing Excise Duty and VAT with GST;

(e) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(f) what steps have been taken to convince the States to agree to this proposal?

Retail price of petrol and diesel

1711. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail price of petrol and diesel in India is higher than Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of retail price of petrol and diesel in Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar and India since 15 May, 2018 to 31 July, 2018, date-wise and country-wise, separately; and

(d) the details of the cases of smuggling of petrol and diesel from Nepal to India reported during June and July, 2018?

Long waiting time to get refill under PMUY

1712. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has failed in its objective of persuading households to stop using firewood and traditional biomass fuels that have the potential to cause respiratory diseases;

(b) whether beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana are not shifting from biomass to LPG because price of installing a connection is too high and long waiting time to get a refill for an empty LPG cylinder;

(c) whether beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana are not buying refilled cylinders after their first one runs out; and

(d) the measures taken to achieve the objectives of Ujjwala Yojana?

Gas reserves in Assam and other North-Eastern States

1713. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are gas reserves in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has finalised any action plan for exploitation of gas reserves in Assam and other North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Norm for utilisation of CSR funds

1714. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the norm for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of various companies/corporations working under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) the total amount sanctioned to different States under CSR, State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned to different organizations, institutions, associations, individuals and other bodies in Odisha during 2014 till date, district-wise and project-wise details thereof?

Difficulties faced by beneficiaries of PMUY

1715. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG agencies providing gas connections under the Ujjwa Yojana are charging an amount of ₹ 1600/- per head for providing the gas connection;

(b) the details of families that have been identified to get this benefit and how many of them have been provided the gas connection under this scheme;

(c) whether any ground level survey has been conducted to get a feedback from the users of the Ujjwala Yojana about the difficulty faced by them in getting the connection or refill thereafter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

US sanctions on oil imports from Iran

1716. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of oil imports by India from Iran, the details thereof, during the last three years;

(b) whether Government is planning for import of oil products from alternative countries, in view of the likely sanction that will be imposed by the US from November this year, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take up the issue with the US as they have indicated that some countries may get a waiver, the details thereof?

Impact of US sanctions on import of oil from Iran

1717. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new US sanctions will cause reduction of production of crude oil in Iran with a consequent rise in purchase prices, if so, how will this affect the prices of fuel in India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government reaped the benefits of softening crude oil prices in between September, 2014 and May, 2016 amounting to more than Rupees two lakh crore, if so, the details thereof?

Imposition of VAT on petrol and diesel

†1718. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to bring diesel and petrol under the ambit of GST;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is in the process of imposing VAT along with GST on diesel and petrol, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the new rates of diesel and petrol after the imposition of GST only and how the people of country would benefit from this?

Subsidy to PNG consumers

1719. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give subsidy to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) consumers for domestic purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will be extending subsidised gas to LPG users and not extending subsidy to PNG?

Utilising CSR fund of ONGC and IOCL for street children

1720. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to use the CSR funds of ONGC, and IOCL for the educational purpose of the street children in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

New LPG connections

1721. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the total number of LPG connections issued to the new domestic consumers in the country, State/UT/district-wise?

Natural gas reserves in coal mines

†1722. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal mines of the country contain a large quantity of natural gas reserves worth using as fuel, the State-wise details thereof; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to implement any project for proper consumption of available natural gas reserves, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Provision of 5 kg gas cylinders

†1723. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide 5 kg gas cylinders to the consumers; and

(b) if so, whether Government would also consider to provide 5 kg gas cylinders to beneficiary housewives under the Ujjwala Yojana, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

CSR activities of IOCL in Odisha

1724. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been spent

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by IOCL on CSR activities in Odisha; and

(b) the break-up of CSR funds spent by IOCL in Odisha, with the list of projects and the districts in which it has been spent?

Families covered under PMUY in Odisha

1725. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many families have been covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in various districts of Odisha, district-wise details thereof; and

(b) how many beneficiaries have availed/taken second refill in the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18, till date, district-wise details in Odisha thereof?

Legal position on ONGC's Income Tax jurisdiction

1726. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the correct legal position on ONGC's Income Tax jurisdiction i.e. whether it is at Delhi or Dehradun;

(b) whether CMD ONGC has requested to CCIT Dehradun for withdrawal of ONGC's Pan Transfer Application, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the follow-up action taken by ONGC to ensure PAN transfer to correct jurisdiction and the expected time-lines for the same; and

(d) since lakhs of rupees are incurred every-year by ONGC on account of travel of CTD officers to Delhi, whether these

CTD officers who frequently travel to Delhi can be posted/transferred to Delhi to save public money?

Use of LNG as transportation fuel in Jammu and Kashmir

1727. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to use Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as transportation fuel in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what will be its cost?

Kerosene quota allocated to Jammu and Kashmir

1728. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene provided to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, during the last three years; and

(b) the criteria under which the quota of kerosene is fixed for the State of Jammu and Kashmir?

Savings made on giving up subsidy on LPG

†1729. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of consumers who have given up their subsidy available on gas cylinders on the appeal by the Prime Minister, the total savings made on account of revenue collection by the Ministry, the year-wise details thereof for the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Import of crude oil from Iran

1730. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil imported from Iran during the last two years and the current year and expenditure incurred on import of crude oil from Iran as compared to other middle east countries, volume/value/country-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has asked refiners to prepare for a drastic reduction or zero imports of Iranian oil from November this year; and

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

Job guarantee to youth trained under PMKVY

†1731. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether the youths who received training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) are being given guarantee of jobs under the scheme;

(b) if so, details of the skills and their duration under the said programme and details of employment provided to the youths trained for those skills during the last three years;

(c) whether unemployed youths are being misguided under the said scheme and the mechanism which is monitoring its functioning; and

(d) the number of employees who got employment after receiving training under the above scheme and who are being subjected to EPF subscription?

Qualification relaxation for left wing extremists for admission into ITIs

1732. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:
SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the left wing extremists have found that they do not have the requisite qualification to get admission to ITIs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has reduced the qualification criteria for admission to ITI for the left wing extremists who wish to get admitted in ITIs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is considering to introduce many courses in ITIs over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Stipend to left wing extremists

1733. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has commenced its partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs whereby surrendered left wing extremists can take admission to an institute;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a stipend of ₹ 6,000 per month would be provided for a maximum period of three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of fake skill institutes

1734. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report regarding functioning of fake skill institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to streamline the setting up of Training Institutes (TIs) under PMKVY to avoid mushrooming of fake institutions across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sharda Prasad Committee recommendations on SSCs

†1735. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of Sharda Prasad Committee constituted for Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) implemented so far;

(b) the strategy of Government in having to deal with the problems of streaming/diploma; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government for fast changing scenario for skill development?

Low placement of trainees

1736. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of spending huge amounts of money by the Ministry, only a very few could get placement till February, 2018;

(b) the amount allocated to the Ministry, year-wise, during last three years for this purpose;

(c) number of people who have been trained and given placement during last three years;

(d) the reasons for low placement of those who have been given training under various schemes run by the Ministry; and

(e) whether there is any mechanism to assess that the training given is suitable to the modern day market requirements and the persons so trained are employed gainfully?

Training under Skill Development Centres

1737. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) how many Skill Development Centres are working in the country at present, the State-wise details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) how many students have completed their skill development training in these Skill Development Centres;

(c) how many students have been placed after completing their course;

(d) the percentage of placed students and what measures Government is taking to increase the percentage of placement; and

(e) what measures have been taken to motivate females to join Skill Development Centres?

Opening of PMKKs

†1738. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such Kendras established till date; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to open Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras at the earliest with modern infrastructure in every district of the country to provide skill training to the willing people?

Targets of National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship policy

†1739. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets of the

National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship policy;

(b) the extent to which the targets have been achieved;

(c) whether there is any time-bound commitment for achieving these targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the State-level policies are as per the national policy and if so, the details thereof?

Non-functioning of PMKVY due to poor internet penetration

1740. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to poor internet penetration in rural areas across the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is non-functional in many parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to ascertain proper net connectivity for Training Institutes (TIs) to impart skill training to beneficiaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Programmes for skilling women in rural and urban areas

1741. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes/schemes

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

started for skilling women for different job roles in rural and urban areas to achieve gender equality in economic participation;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up training centres for women under these schemes at district level, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to provide equal opportunity to the minority communities in skill development, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Skill Development Centres in Andhra Pradesh

1742. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to establish Skill Development Centres (SDCs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government on such request?

Stopping payment to training partners

1743. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had temporarily stopped the payment to training partners and temporarily blocked SMART portal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise list of training partners who are withheld or suspended for their impropriety and incomplete works;

(c) whether Government through NSDC/NSDA had provided term loans for many training partners in various States/UTs;

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

(e) the current position of their outstanding loans as on date?

Opening of new areas for skill development

†1744. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up the new areas for skill development across the country along with traditional vocational training available in ITIs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government provides assistance to ITIs of States regarding technical experts (trainers), machinery and funds and if so, the details thereof?

MoU between DGT and NASSCOM for training youth

1745. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Training (DGT) and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

NASSCOM have entered into an MoU for training youth in high tech fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame work and the number of persons to be trained under the said MoU has been mentioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Unemployed youth trained in Bihar

†1746. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) number of unemployed youths trained under skill development in Bihar, district-wise and number of youths provided employment therein;

(b) number of centres established under skill development scheme, district-wise in Bihar along with names of places where these centres have been established and are being run;

(c) whether all these centres in Bihar have been established as sub-centres and main operators of centres are working in some other States;

(d) whether amount is being spent after 40 per cent deduction being made in amount to be paid to sub-centres; and

(e) if so, details thereof and under which rule the deducted amount is being spent?

SDCs operational in Jharkhand

1747. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Skill Development

Centres (SDCs) operational in Jharkhand, the district-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities in these centres from any quarter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

Plans to harness skills of youth

1748. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 60 per cent of the population of the country is in the working age group and majority of this group is facing various problems to survive in the tough competitive atmosphere and looking for jobs;

(b) how Government plans to harness the skills of the youth in order to increase employability leaving aside its already launched programmes which are not yielding the desired result; and

(c) what concrete steps Government has taken to rationalize its present policy of enhancing 'Skill India'?

Legal backing to skill training

1749. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that skill training in Germany, South Korea, etc. has a legal backing;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would think of giving legal backing to skill training and make skill education as 'Right to Skill Training' which will help in regulating, streamlining, incentivising, etc. of skill education in India;

(c) whether there are any plans to bring a Bill on the lines of Right to Education; and

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

Skill development programmes for unskilled labourers

†1750. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state the schemes being run for skill development of unskilled labourers, the number of persons who have been imparted training under these schemes so far and number of persons who have got employment after training till date?

Modernisation of Bhilai Steel Plant

†1751. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of operational public sector steel plants in Chhattisgarh at present;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan for modernisation and expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited at Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent so far for this and the time-limit fixed for the same?

Financial assistance to steel plants under Steel Development Fund

1752. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is helping the steel plants in the country through Steel Development Fund (SDF), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has granted any SDF assistance to the steel plants in the State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of assistance extended and the status thereof?

Import of cheap steel from foreign countries

1753. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indiscriminate import of cheap steel from foreign countries has affected the indigenous steel industry as their inventory has been piling up;

(b) if so, the details of the indigenous production of various categories of steel and imports during the last two years;

(c) whether there is surge in imports, if so, how it has affected the indigenous steel industry;

(d) whether the steel industry has taken up the matter with Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Census of weavers and handlooms

1754. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has selected any agency for census and issue of Photo Identity Card (ID) for weavers and handlooms;

(b) if so, the detailed timeline thereof;

(c) when are the results of census going to be released; and

(d) the reasons for delay in coming out with a census of weavers and handlooms?

Dip in textile exports

1755. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile exports dipped by four per cent in financial year 2017-18 to 2.28 lakh crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the financial year prior to the above, the textile exports stood at ₹ 2,38,168 crore;

(c) what is the reason for the slowdown in textile exports reported in financial year 2017-18; and

(d) what are the steps proposed to be taken up by Government to increase textile exports in the coming years?

Review of RoSL rate of apparel and made ups

1756. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to

review Rebate on State Levies (RoSL) rates for made-ups and look at alternative export promotion schemes in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase India's share in world trade in cotton textiles from the present 10 per cent to 15 per cent in the next five years?

Release of payments of small bullion parties

1757. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 235H given in the Rajya Sabha on 15 March, 2018 and state:

(a) what are the broad reasons for advising/directing the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation India Limited (HHECIL) for withholding the legitimate payment of small bullion parties named in part (a) and (b) of reply of the question; and

(b) what are the details of view sought by the HHECIL on release of payments of small bullion parties and the reply of CBI thereto?

Target fixed for export of cotton

1758. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed for the export of cotton have been achieved during the current year;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to frame any new policy on the export of cotton; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Selling of cloth and apparel as Khadi product by handloom dealers

1759. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently issued any order to the effect that the persons who sell cloth and apparel as khadi products should actually be dealing in products woven on hand operated looms using yarn that has been spun by hand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the specific reasons for action against the poor dealers of handloom clothes instead of big companies which indulge in mass production?

Woes of powerloom owners in Bhiwandi, Sular, etc.

1760. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether woes of powerloom owners in Bhiwandi and other powerloom hubs like Sular near Coimbatore are symptomatic of larger malaise in Indian textile sector employing some 65 million workers directly or indirectly with outdated technologies;

(b) whether Government's Amended Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (ATUFS) due to cumbersome process involved in securing funds with GST is complicating the working of units further; and

(c) whether India as the third largest producer of cotton with average wages some 50 per cent to 60 per cent lower than in developed countries still loses out in global markets to China and Bangladesh dominating synthetics trade?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th July, 2018
Shravana 4, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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