

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, July 27, 2018/Shravana 5, 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

#### **Scheme to promote animal husbandry**

1121. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any special scheme to promote animal husbandry amongst farmers to earn additional income which is likely to utilise crop residue and also produce organic manure for use in agricultural activities to increase productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of technical and financial assistance extended to farmers for domestication of cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats in Maharashtra, district-wise?

#### **Increase in MSP for Kharif crops**

†1122. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI PRABHAT JAHA:

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

(a) whether Central Government has

recently decided to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops, including paddy, by one and a half times more than the cost of these crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision is a necessary step towards achieving the target of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Drought in Andhra Pradesh**

1123. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Team recently visited drought-affected Prakasam, Nellore, Kadapa, Anantapur and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh and assessed the damage caused due to drought conditions;

(b) whether the Central Team has recognized serious drought conditions, particularly in Prakasam district;

(c) the details of mandals and other districts declared as drought-hit;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details of report submitted by the Central Team and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the amount of financial assistance sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the amount released by the Central Government so far?

#### **Production of pulses**

1124. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soaring prices of pulses during 2016 resulted in the increase of acreage on the back of incentivized by a higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) with technical intervention to ensure higher domestic production;

(b) whether there was any understanding between the Government and the farmers who were switching over to the production of pulses to boost the yield to meet the domestic needs, to take care of the excess production, if any; and

(c) if so, whether any effort has been made by the farmers' consortium to restrict the import of pulses from abroad?

#### **Effects of use of excessive chemicals and fertilisers on farmers' health**

1125. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that effects on farmers' health, due to use of excessive chemical and fertilisers on their farm is on the rise to an alarming state;

(b) whether Government would consider imposing restriction on the sale of chemicals and fertilisers, as it is harming

not only the farmer, the produces and the field but also the end user; and

(c) the measure Government would suggest to educate the farmers of the adverse effects of the pesticides?

#### **Storage of Agricultural produces**

1126. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post-harvest storage of agricultural produces is a big problem for the farmers with the increase in production of foodgrains in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government to prevent damage to foodgrains due to natural calamities such as floods, drought and frost?

#### **Budgetary provision for women farmers**

†1127. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make budgetary provisions to fulfil special needs of women farmers and for attaining socio-economic and technical empowerment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure 30 per cent flow of funds for women farmers under all the sponsored schemes of the Central Government for development of Agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any study regarding participation and contribution of women in agriculture, in the country, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Study to assess impact of climate change on agriculture**

1128. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the impact of climate change on agriculture in the country;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative to conduct research to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change; and

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

**Damage of crops due to rain**

1129. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether damage to various crops due to rain has recently been reported in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Implementation of PMFBY**

1130. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private insurance companies have made windfall gains under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the data on amount of farmers premium collected along with the number of farmers who paid premium, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the amount of gross premium collected and the number of claims settled?

**Increase in MSP of crops**

†1131. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of certain crops taking into account the target of doubling the income of the farmers;

(b) if so, the basis on which the MSP has been increased; and

(c) whether apart from the cost of labour, seed, fertilizer and other inputs, Government has worked on providing further increase in the production costs to make the agriculture profitable?

**Implementation of Soil Health Card scheme**

1132. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soil health cards distributed to farmers as of July, 2018, year-wise from 2010; and

(b) the number of soil samples tested across the country, as of July 2018, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Agri-Umbrella Scheme**

1133. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved continuation of the Agri-Umbrella Scheme - Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana with a Central outlay of over ₹ 33,269 crore till March 31, 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the Umbrella Scheme, the MIDH will get the highest amount as Central share; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **MSP for Kharif crops**

1134. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and other Kharif crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which Government will have to incur additional expenditure as a result of hike in the MSP; and

(d) whether the cost is covered under the Budgetary provisions for food subsidy?

### **Marketing of organic produces**

1135. SHRI D. KUPENDERA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of organic produces in the country are on the higher side in comparison to the non-organic produces;

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

(c) whether Government plans to intervene and support the production and marketing of organic produces in the country to reduce their costs/prices; and

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

### **Availability of farm machinery and credit to farmers**

1136. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farm machinery and agriculture credit sector have still not evolved to reach all across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken note that there is a need to facilitate the farmers with farm machinery at low cost to increase production;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any measure to evolve a mechanism to help farmers by providing adequate farm machinery and credit to Agriculture sector; and

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

### **Unprofitable farming in the country**

1137. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, farming in the country has been unprofitable for nearly two decades;

(b) if so, whether the report has been examined; and

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

**Methodology to calculate input cost of crops**

1138. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced a substantial increase in the MSP for the Kharif crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of methodology adopted by Government for calculating the input cost for each crop while effecting hike in the MSP?

**Contract farming**

1139. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce contract farming in Agriculture sector to optimise use of scarce resources and mitigate the uncertainty in price and marketing, as prevalent in foreign countries like Canada, Australia and America; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

**Farmer suicides due to rising debts**

1140. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to reduce the benchmark for initiating relief for farmers from 33 per cent to 25 per cent crop loss in view of rising farmer suicides;

(b) the details of suicides by farmers due to rising farming debts/stress in the country over the last four years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has provided for waiver of loans for farmers affected by natural calamities over the past years, if so, the details of the amount spent on this for the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last four years?

**Fake appointment letters**

1141. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake appointment letters have been detected by the Agriculture Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has lodged a complaint with the police in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Inflationary pressure of MSP hike on other crops**

1142. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the costs of Price Deficiency Plan (PDP) due to increase in MSPs on Kharif crops and the burden on the total budget of the country;

(b) whether Government has calculated the inflationary pressure of the MSPs hike on the other crops, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether increasing the MSP by ₹ 200/- per quintal (50 per cent on input costs) on paddy will benefit farmers when the remaining inputs like fertilizers,

minimum wages, and fuel/oil prices have been hiked by Government in addition to the existing irrigation problem in the country, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Soil Health Cards to farmers**

†1143. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide Soil Health Cards to all the farmers of the country with the aim to increase agricultural production and decrease production cost, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Soil Health Cards provided to the farmers so far, State-wise; and

(c) whether usage of fertilizers in farming has reduced significantly on the basis of soil health and production has increased immensely, and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Under-reporting of catch by deep-sea fishing vessels**

1144. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps regarding under-reporting of the catch by deep-sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has intensified surveillance to prevent mid-sea transshipment by foreign vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increase in agriculture input grant**

†1145. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the agriculture input grant at least at the rate of ₹ 50,000 per hectare due to the very high initial cost of horticulture crops such as orange, kinnow and cash crops such as cumin, isabgol, etc; and

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

#### **New scheme for bamboo farming**

1146. MAHANT SHAMBHU PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced a new scheme for bamboo farming; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Promoting inter-mandi transaction**

1147. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to the online trading platform electronic National Agriculture Market e-NAM during this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government will also encourage inter-mandi transactions;

(d) whether it is also a fact that at present 585 regulated mandis in 14 States are linked with the e-NAM launched in April 2016; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Payout of claims to farmers under PMFBY**

1148. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total payouts of claims to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is just ₹ 402 crore, as against the total premium and subsidy collection of over ₹ 24, 450 crore in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the reasons for low payout of claims to the registered farmers and the steps taken by Government to ensure settlement of all pending claims; and

(c) the total number of claims made by the farmers and the total payouts released against them since 2016, State-wise and year-wise?

**Soil testing laboratories in the country**

1149. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soil testing laboratories in the country provisioned under the Soil Health Card scheme, State-wise;

(b) the budgetary allocations and expenditure on the soil testing laboratories since 2015, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the number of laboratories and the analysing capacity of the existing static, mobile and mini labs provisioned under the Soil Health Card scheme, State-wise?

**Drought in Maharashtra**

1150. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts of Maharashtra which have been facing drought almost every year;

(b) whether Government has prepared any action plan to deal with the drought situation in these districts of the State;

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

(d) the other measures being taken by the Central Government to mitigate the problems of drought in Maharashtra and other parts of the country?

**Inclusion of milk under Price Stabilisation Fund**

1151. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to include milk under the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme to stem the sharp decline in milk prices and enable State Governments and milk unions to purchase bulk quantity of fresh milk from farmers and convert it into skimmed milk powder (SMP) and ghee for use in future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Distress sale of tomato, onion and potato by farmers**

1152. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

SHRID. KUPENDRA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has launched

or planning to launch any programme that aims to end distress sales of tomato, onion and potato by farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the other alternative measures Government has taken/proposes to take to end farmers' distress?

#### **Unremunerative agriculture**

1153. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had resolved to double the income of farmers in the country by 2022;

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

(c) whether Government has been unable to curb the suicides by farmers mainly due to agriculture becoming unremunerative;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Delay in payment of MSP on maize crop**

1154. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MSP on maize crop has been announced and Government is delaying the payment of MSP to the States;

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

(c) whether Government has received any requests from any State Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for early release of MSP announced for the various crops, including maize?

#### **Agrarian crisis in the country**

1155. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to restrain farmers from committing suicides;

(b) whether any special long term package is being worked out to incentivize farming and farmers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the demand raised by various States on resolving agrarian crisis in the country?

#### **Allocation for linking mandis on e-NAM platform**

1156. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved the target of linking 585 mandis on the e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform, including in Tamil Nadu, to help farmers to get better price and for marketing of their produces, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the list of mandis connected to the e-NAM platform in Tamil Nadu and the budgetary allocation made so far for this purpose?



**Raising the procurement cap on red gram at MSP**

1157. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to raise the procurement cap on red gram at MSP in Telangana;

(b) whether Government also has plans to issue/issued necessary orders for the procurement of red gram from Telangana under the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Subsidising MSP on farmers' produces**

1158. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to subsidize 150 per cent of MSP to farmers on the farm production of the country;

(b) if so, on which items Government will compensate farmers with fair and remunerative prices;

(c) whether Government has made any survey that 150 per cent MSP on production costs would solve the distress of the farmers of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and average production costs of crops therein, State-wise; and

(e) by when the incentives will be deposited to the accounts of beneficiaries?

**Doubling the income of farmers**

1159. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surveys conducted by Government so far during the last three years to know the income of farmers to make it double by the year 2022, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers identified in the Survey who are living in deep financial hardships due to their crop loss and related problems;

(c) whether the target of achieving the goal of doubling the farmers' income is within its reach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Selling off the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

1160. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a letter to the Central Government asking not to sell off the profit making Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government is planning to sell off the BCPL; and

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

**Financial help to Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

1161. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has almost doubled its profits in the fiscal year 2017-18 than the 2016-17 fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would

financially help the company, so that, it can make more profits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Complaints regarding irregularities in IFFCO**

1162. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received various complaints pertaining to corruption, irregularities and misconduct of officials of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), including its Managing Director and his family members;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof and the names of each official with alleged charges of corruption, misconduct and irregularities, separately; and

(c) the names of investigating agencies which are probing the charges against officials of IFFCO and the present status of each case, as on 31 May, 2018?

**Subsidised medicines for psychiatric patients**

1163. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether measures are being taken to provide medicines for psychiatric and neurological illnesses at subsidised prices, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether generic drugs for psychiatric and neurological illnesses are available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Increase in price of APIs due to environmental disruption in China**

1164. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that environmental disruption in China has led to a massive increase, as high as 120 per cent, in prices of Key Starting Materials (KSM) like Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs);

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been instances of units being impacted by pollution concerns, leading to supply uncertainties emerging out of China and thus impacting on product pricing;

(c) whether crude oil price trends have also impacted the solvents market, increasing the cost composition for manufacture of APIs; and

(d) the steps taken by Government?

**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras in Jharkhand**

1165. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), generic drugs stores are functional in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government has conducted any review of performance/functioning of PMBJKs and if so, the outcome of the said review along with the action/steps taken thereon;

(c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to ensure availability of the medicines at each of the said stores;

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

(e) the details of the number of Janaushadhi Kendras set up/functioning in Jharkhand, district-wise?

**Changing the existing system of assessing demands and supply of fertilizers**

†1166. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government to assess the demands of the State Governments for fertilizers and to change the present system of supply of requirements of all the States, including Rajasthan, in the end of the month;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to assess the requirement of each State and supply the fertilizers one month in advance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details regarding the quantity of fertilizers demanded by the Government of Rajasthan for 2018-19 and the quantity of supply that is being contemplated by the Central Government?

**Assessment of human resources**

1167. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any assessment of manpower in its departments and also in public sector organizations, needed for their functioning and administration and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organizations, options of re-skilling and re-deploying existing

human resources that have been under-utilized, are explored as a matter of practice?

**Complaints regarding shortage of medicines**

1168. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the rising number of complaints regarding shortage of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of complaints registered in 2016-17 and 2017-18 regarding overpricing, shortage of medicines, supply refusal of medicines and sale of new medicines without prior price approval; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to address the drugs shortage and overpricing of medicines?

**Appointment of experts in NPPA**

1169. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering appointing a medical technology expert, a costing professional and a pharmacologist at senior positions in the pricing regulator;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is to allay industry concerns that the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) does not have adequate expertise to decide price caps; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Financial assistance under Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme**

1170. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-governmental entities seek financial assistance under the Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the scheme along with the NGOs from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh which have applied for the financial assistance; and

(c) the suitable steps Government is taking to create awareness about the scheme?

**Loss making Janaushadhi Kendras**

1171. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 3000 Janaushadhi Kendras are suffering losses;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure better functioning of the Janaushadhi Kendras?

**Production of fertilizers**

†1172. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the production of fertilizers from 2014 till date, and if so, the extent of increase thereof; and

(b) whether new fertilizers plants are

being set up as per the growing needs of the future and if so, the number of plants that would be set up?

**Sale of assets and lands of sick and closed PSUs**

1173. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sell assets and lands of the sick and closed PSUs;

(b) if so, the details of assets and lands of closed Central PSUs;

(c) the authority for taking decision for lease and/or sale of properties and assets of closed units of HFCL and other PSUs under PPP model;

(d) the proposal details of the Government initiatives on the land and assets of HFCL and other closed units of the Ministry; and

(e) the proposal of Government to pay the dues of the State Governments which are bearing towards maintenance and other expenses till 30 June, 2018?

**Measures for timely supply of fertilizers**

†1174. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether appropriate steps have been taken by Government to ensure timely supply of urea and other fertilizers to the farmers;

(b) the details of arrangements being made for the supply of other fertilizers to farmers in the State of Chhattisgarh;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government aims to establish a new plant for manufacturing urea and other fertilizers in Chhattisgarh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Acquisition of land for new coal mine projects**

1175. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are facing difficulties in acquiring land for new coal mine projects and other extended projects in Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details of difficulties being faced by them; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

**Lifting of coal by power plants**

1176. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal-based power plants are not lifting coal from pithead stock on regular basis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the implications thereof;
- (c) whether there is any policy/guidelines for lifting of the coal; and
- (d) if so, the companies penalized for this during the last two years?

**Acute shortage of coal**

1177. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of coal in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made to increase coal production in the country by opening new mines;

(c) by when the demand-supply mismatch of coal would be over;

(d) whether the Ministry is giving priority to supplying of coal to thermal power stations in view of their critical requirements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Rise in number of critical and super critical thermal power plants**

1178. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of thermal power plants running with critical (less than 7 days stock) and super critical (less than 3-4 days stock) stocks have significantly increased during the January-May period of 2018 against the year-ago period;

(b) whether the coal shortage in the thermal power plants would persist atleast for three years to come and whether the States and NTPC and also the private power producers would be allowed to import coal; and

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in obtaining environmental and forest clearances for opening new mines, if so, the details thereof?

**Coal shortages leading to critical situation of power plants**

1179. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether all power plants in the country, across States, are in a critical situation due to coal shortages;

(b) whether Ministry has received any

specific requests from the Ministry of Power in diverting coal supplies to independent power producers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of coal supply to private and public power plants in the country during this shortage period of coal supplies;

(d) whether any State Government has started importing coal from neighbouring countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative methods adopted by them to tackle with the situation?

#### **Net profit of Coal India Limited**

1180. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has witnessed a 52 per cent drop in net profit in the last quarter of financial year 2017-18;

(b) if so, the statement of last 5 year's profit therein;

(c) the reasons behind dip in net profit and PSU-wise financial statements therefor; and

(d) the proposal for expansion and modernisation of mines along with safety measures therein?

#### **Higher ash content in coal**

1181. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian coal has comparatively higher ash content than imported coal;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether certain coal companies are supplying coal to their customers with ash content of more than 40 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by Government against such coal companies;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to produce coal in the country at par with the international standards; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure the maximum use of Indian coal in the country?

#### **Allocation of coal blocks for electricity generation**

1182. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from State Governments, including Himachal Pradesh, during the last three years and the current year for allocation of coal blocks to generate electricity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise and the action taken by Government thereon?

#### **Funds to Tamil Nadu from USOF for implementing BharatNet**

1183. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned the funds to the tune of ₹ 4628 crore as demanded by the State of Tamil Nadu from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for implementing a State-led model for BharatNet to provide high-quality low cost broadband and other internet services to village Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Dismal mobile services of MTNL**

†1184. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have ported out of GSM mobile service of MTNL and taken services of other companies during the last three years;

(b) whether MTNL has received several complaints with regard to poor coverage of its mobile service network, the condition of which has deteriorated further during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any action to improve 2G, 3G and 4G services as soon as possible for the benefit of its subscribers?

**Benchmark for call drops**

1185. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all telecom service providers, except a few, met the call drop benchmark in some areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that TRAI conducted tests on call drops across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Loss in market share of MTNL in mobile segment**

1186. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the

introduction of Jio in the mobile segment, MTNL has lost its market share tremendously;

(b) if so, the percentage of loss incurred by MTNL in the last two years, consumer-wise and figure-wise;

(c) the amount of loss incurred by MTNL *vis-a-vis* Jio in the last two years;

(d) the reasons for MTNL not to introduce 4G services till now, whereas its competitors are in the process of augmenting their services to 5G; and

(e) whether any action is being taken by MTNL to improve its market share?

**Zero tariff voice and data plan by a telecom operator**

1187. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new telecom player has introduced zero tariff voice and data plan to the customers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the matter to check any violation of guidelines of the TRAI and spectrum allocation;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether such a move by the company has a negative impact on the business of telecom companies, including both the telecom PSUs, BSNL and MTNL; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Laying of high-speed internet in villages**

1188. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the BharatNet programme (earlier called National Optical Fibre Network), ₹ 34,000 crore was disbursed to lay high-speed internet in 1,50,000 villages by 2019;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 67,271 villages have been covered till now and the Government needs to double its efforts in one year to reach the target; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the failure of the above scheme to adhere to its stipulated timeline and the steps proposed to be taken to correct the same?

**Loss to exchequer by MTNL**

1189. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL is a loss making undertaking of the Government where salary and allowances of its officers/employees are more than the revenue earned by it, if so, the details of expenditure and revenue earned during the last five years by MTNL;

(b) the reasons for such continuous loss to the exchequer; and

(c) whether in view of the huge loss in revenue, Government is considering closure of MTNL, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Setting up of Parcel Directorate by Department of Posts**

1190. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts

had set up a Parcel Directorate to tap the potential of e-commerce and increase the department's revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a drastic reduction of revenue from letter mail in the last few years;

(d) whether once reliable Speed Post has become unreliable and its customers are no more interested in availing the services of Speed Post due to poor quality of service; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring back the past glory of Speed Post?

**Shortage of storage facilities for wheat**

†1191. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of storage facilities, the wheat purchased by Government is being apprehended to get wet in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step to save wheat from getting wet; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by Government and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Instant payment to farmers by procurement agencies**

1192. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



farmers have still not come out from the clutches of money-lenders, traders and middlemen as they continue to sell their produces at a price cheaper than MSP because Government agencies make payment to the farmers against the produce sold after considerable time;

(b) if so, whether Government agencies have formulated any plan to make payment to the farmers instantly against the produce procured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **PDS in Haryana**

1193. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefits of Public Distribution System (PDS) are reaching to the people sufficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in Haryana, during the last two years;

(c) the number of people who have been benefited in Haryana under PDS under BPL category, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the efficiency of PDS in various parts of the country?

#### **Payment of dues by sugar mills of Andhra Pradesh**

1194. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is of the view that giving financial assistance of ₹ 5.50/- per quintal of cane crushed by sugar mills help when cane payment dues touched more than ₹ 20,000 crore;

(b) payment of dues by sugar mills in Andhra Pradesh (AP) to sugarcane farmers;

(c) whether Sugar (Control) Order mandates mills to pay FRP within 14 days of cane purchase from farmers failing which 15 per cent annual interest is charged; and

(d) if so, reasons for delay in AP and the interest component that sugar mills have to pay to farmers and how Ministry would ensure such payment?

#### **Releasing of Central share for Odisha**

1195. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of the Government of Odisha for release of Central Government's share of ₹ 50.00 crore for State-level Price Stabilisation Fund (50:50 basis) is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) whether the Central Government would allocate its share of ₹ 50.00 crore to the Government of Odisha to fulfil the mottoes of Price Stabilisation Fund during this financial year?

#### **Disposal of large stock of pulses**

1196. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government agencies are saddled with large public stocks of pulses due to record production last year;

(b) if so, the quantity of stock of pulses and the steps taken by Government to deal with large stocks thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to

introduce pulses under the subsidized Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(d) if so, the details of scheme and the time-frame for implementation of the Scheme?

#### **Action on misleading advertisements**

1197. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints made on the Grievances Against Misleading Advertisements (GAMA) portal along with their status in the last four years;

(b) whether the details are available in the public domain regarding whether the advertisers have taken any corrective action in response to such complaints, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Weak outlook for sugar sector**

1198. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the overall outlook for sugar remained weak even when the Government's cane subsidy might marginally improve the operational profitability of the Sugar mills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of the expected marginal improvement in operating profitability, the overall profitability for the sugar sector remained weak for the financial year 2018-19;

(c) whether it is also a fact that subsidy

amount is expected to be around ₹ 1540 crore, less than a tenth of the outstanding cane dues to sugarcane growing farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Procurement of wheat**

1199. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement of wheat has touched an all-time high of over 35 million tonnes this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is also planning to hire extra storage facilities to stock foodgrains before monsoon in North and Central India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Stock of foodgrains with FCI**

1200. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of rice and wheat with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), as on date, the quantity details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any effort by the FCI to procure and store coarse grains also in 2018-19;

(c) the targets of FCI for storage of all foodgrains during 2018-19; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce storage costs for the benefit of farmers?

**Home delivery of subsidized foodgrains**

1201. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:  
SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to ask the State Governments to provide home delivery of highly subsidized foodgrains to the Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries to avoid instances of starvation deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other reforms which the State Governments have been asked to pursue urgently in order to strengthen the PDS; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to ensure that there are no starvation deaths because of non-delivery of PDS grains?

**Payment of rent to owners of private godowns**

1202. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data about rent paid to the private godown owners to store the foodgrains purchased by Government;

(b) the details of Government and private godowns in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of storage capacity for both types of godowns;

(d) the details of rent paid to private godown owners; and

(e) the details regarding duration of time in a year during which godowns remain empty/underutilised, private and Government, godown-wise?

**Payment of dues for sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh**

†1203. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy with regard to purchase of sugarcane from sugarcane growing farmers and its payment to them across the country, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has any scheme in various States for payment of sugarcane by it and steps being taken by Government to prevent arbitrariness of sugar mills, if no steps are being taken, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh would be paid to them and the steps being taken by Government in this regard, if no steps taken, reasons therefor?

**Payment of arrears to sugarcane growers in Tamil Nadu**

1204. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conceived any comprehensive plan to ensure that sugarcane farmers across the country get payment for the raw cane they supply to a mill within 14 days, after which it is considered due;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that sugar mills owners, both private and Government, have not cleared dues of farmers, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government hitherto to ensure timely payment of arrears to the farmers?

#### **Package for Sugar sector**

1205. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced a package for the Sugar industry and the sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Sugar industry and sugarcane growers of Maharashtra have been covered in the package; and

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

#### **Impact of increased MSP**

\*1206. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some experts have argued that enhancement of MSP would increase the inflation:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures that have been put in place to prevent this situation?

#### **Incidents of cyber thefts**

1207. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of increasing incidents of cyber thefts and looting of senior citizens and cyber-illiterate people;

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

(c) whether the menace of cyber thefts is disturbing the campaign of paper-less currency and digital economy; and

(d) whether Government would undertake a special drive for improving cyber safety?

#### **Image makeover for Aadhaar programme**

1208. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether UIDAI has been hiring advertising and creative agencies for publicity and undertaking an image makeover for Aadhaar programme;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies hired since 2014 and the funds spent thereon;

(c) whether UIDAI refused to reveal the details of such agencies hired and money paid to them in an RTI response recently; and

(d) if so, the basis on which this information has been denied?

**Employment generation in Electronic and IT industry**

1209. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employment generated in the Electronics and Information Technology industry in the country along with the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is becoming a promising centre of mobile manufacturing in the recent years;

(c) if so, the details of the number of mobile factories set up in the country during the last five years, including current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether Government is taking any measures to encourage more mobile companies to set up their manufacturing factories in the country; and

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto along with the details thereof?

**Anti-national activities on social media by Government servants**

1210. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of illegal activities, anti-national slogans in social media are being engaged through the internet connections provided

to Government servants in the offices;

(b) if so, whether any check mechanism has been provided to track Government servants engaged in such activities in Government offices;

(c) whether any punitive action has been taken against Government servants for misusing social media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Protection of Aadhaar data**

1211. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some IT experts have raised serious doubts over the security of Aadhaar data which can be misused and leaked in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the protection of Aadhaar data?

**Criteria for creating New Railway Zone**

1212. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the traditional criteria fixed by Railways for creating a separate Railway Zone for a new area:

(b) whether there is any requirement of a minimum amount of traffic and income to be generated for a proposed Zone:

(c) whether any weightage is given to the backwardness of a particular area to create a new Railway Zone; and

(d) the number of Railway Zones in the country and the respective gross income generated in by them in 2016-2017?

#### **Data protection legislation**

1213. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring a data protection legislation in the country on the lines of European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to address the issue of data privacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing measures available to deal with data protection in a comprehensive manner?

#### **Malicious content circulated on social media**

1214. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the enactment of the IT Act, 2000, mis-information and malicious content is being openly circulated on social media on a daily basis;

(b) whether Government has any additional plan/policy to counter this spread of false information, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is aware that many anti-social elements, posting malicious content on social media, have been misusing photographs of many Central Ministers and senior leaders to assert their legitimacy for violating the IT Act, 2000, if so, the details of action taken by Government against them?

#### **Cases of fraud in digital transactions**

1215. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a 35 per cent increase in the ATM, credit cards, debit cards and net banking cases of frauds from 2013 to 2016;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people are refraining from using digital transactions after such breaches;

(c) if so, how does it impact the financial inclusion through digitisation; and

(d) the manner in which Government is planning to tackle this problem along with the details thereof?

#### **Benefit to farmers under PMKSY**

1216. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with a view to benefit the farmers;

(b) if so, the extent to which the farmers have actually been benefitted over, since the launching of the scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether creation of job opportunities was also one of the main objectives of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of targets fixed and achievements made, State-wise?

#### **Key administrative reforms**

1217. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has implemented any key administrative reform pertaining particularly 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 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?

#### **Assessment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana**

1218. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any assessment regarding works and performance of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has developed a Central Monitoring System to implement its schemes properly and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the percentage of agriculture budget spent on food processing during each of the last three years, since 2014, State-wise?

#### **Processing plants for vegetables in Jharkhand**

†1219. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have to sell vegetables at very low prices due to unavailability of processing plants in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been decided to establish several plants, including pea processing plants and Mega Food Parks, in Jharkhand for the preservation of vegetables produced in the State and to provide the reasonable price to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made, till date, regarding establishment of these plants?

#### **Setting up of Food Parks in Bihar**

†1220. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish Food Parks in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would establish Food Parks in all districts of Bihar and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Imbalance in creation of Cold Chain projects**

†1221. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for regional imbalance in the creation of all the 236 Cold Chain projects running in the country, including in Maharashtra; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure regional balance and the eligibility taken into consideration for it to evaluate, approve and sanction grants for these projects in the country, including in Maharashtra?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Mega Food Parks in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1222. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: 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 last three years in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) to what extent, 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?

**Affordable and easy justice to common man**

1223. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement made by Government to make availability of affordable and easy justice to the common man in the country along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has evolved any scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Steps to encourage usage of Hindi in courts**

†1224. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the implementation of annual programme declared by the Department of Official Language, item-wise and date-wise, in the

last meeting of Hindi Official Language Consultative Committee of the Ministry; and

(b) the measures taken by the Ministry to encourage the usage of official language, Hindi, in adjudication in courts and appellate courts in law and justice section under Hindi speaking regions "A" of the official language?

**Malfunctioning of EVM machines**

1225. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) whether large scale malfunctioning of EVM machines has been reported during the recent by-elections in Kairana Lok Sabha and Noorpur Legislative Assembly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per the Election Commission, malfunctioning in EVM machines was due to hot weather;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Election Commission would conduct forthcoming General Election in 2019 in April-May, which is the peak of hot weather?

**Pending cases in High Courts and subordinate courts**

†1226. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in High Courts and the subordinate courts for last ten years or more;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to address the same?

#### **Draft Anti-Torture Bill**

1227. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken towards torture prevention after Law Commission provided a Draft Anti-Torture Bill in its 273rd report;

(b) whether comments have been received from State Governments on this report, if so, the response received along with reasons, State-wise;

(c) whether Ministry is also contemplating amendment of Sections 330 and 331 of IPC, if so, the status of progress thereon, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government intends to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Torture, as recommended by Law Commission;

(e) if so, the steps being taken towards ratification; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Vacant posts in Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate judiciary**

1228. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

(a) whether there are more than 6000 vacant posts in the subordinate judiciary in lower courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the reasons for keeping these posts vacant since long;

(c) whether a large number of posts of Judges are vacant in the High Courts and in the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof, as of now, Court-wise;

(e) whether Government has taken any firm decision to fill up these vacant posts in all the courts of the country; and

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

#### **Review of procedure for appointment of Judges**

1229. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal for an immediate review of the present procedure for appointment of Judges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Seats available under Law courses**

1230. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of seats available in integrated Law courses, LLB and LLM, in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a huge demand for introducing Law courses in Universities/Colleges in the country;

(c) the permission for number of seats granted to Universities and Colleges during the last three years; and

(d) whether there is any mechanism to check and uphold the standard of Law degree courses?

**Bringing down Government  
litigations in courts**

1231. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government may soon enhance the financial threshold of cases to bring down litigations in courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an analysis carried out by Government last year had found that 46 per cent of all litigations across courts were cases or appeals filed by Central or State Governments;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the docket of 3.5 crore pending cases would come down, if Government litigation is brought down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Fast Track Courts for speedy trial of  
political cases**

1232. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any proposal to set up Fast Track Courts for speedy trial of political cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when they are likely to be set up?

**Installation of e-Court facility**

1233. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has proposed installation of e-Court facility for all the courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which this initiative would help in transparent and speedy trial of cases and whether there is any such proposal for modernisation of courts?

**Simultaneous Lok Sabha and  
Assembly elections**

†1234. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received many proposals regarding holding of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also received suggestions from the Election Commission recently regarding holding of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Non-filing of Counter and Reply  
Affidavits by various Government  
Departments and affiliates**

1235. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases are pending in various High Courts and the Supreme Court due to non-filing of Counter and Reply Affidavits by various Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs and other Government bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any specific instructions from the Government on how

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to deal with court cases and regarding filing of Counter and Reply Affidavits where various Government agencies were arrayed as respondents?

**Legislative changes for simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**

1236. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has agreed upon a number of legislative changes necessary for implementing the process of holding simultaneous elections of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has invited suggestions from the people as well as stakeholders from political parties, academia and constitutional experts among others;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of views/suggestions received by the Commission, so far; and

(e) by when the Commission proposes to finish this process and make necessary changes in the election laws?

**Appointments of Judges and staff for speedy trials**

1237. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 400 vacancies of Judges in all 24 High Courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of vacancies therein, State-wise ;

(c) the details of vacancies in different

posts of High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(d) the time-bound proposal of Government to appoint Judges and staff for speedy trial of cases?

**Time-limit for disposal of criminal and civil cases**

1238. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to fix any time-limit for disposal of criminal and civil cases in various courts of the country so that people can get justice timely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any commission or committee for judicial reforms and speedy disposal of pending court cases; and

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

**Filling up of vacancies of Judges**

1239. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and in the Supreme Court, leading to pendency of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of vacancies in the High Courts and in the Supreme Court; and

(d) by when Government is contemplating to fill up the vacancies for effective delivery of justice?

### **Vacancies in Family Courts**

1240. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of space, buildings, staff and other facilities in Family Courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of vacant posts, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to appoint staff against vacant posts and to improve working conditions of the staff?

### **Inland Container Depots at Amritsar**

1241. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce Inland Container Depots (ICDs) at Amritsar to expand import and export of rice and many other items from Amritsar to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Late running of trains due to shortage of staff**

†1242. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of staff is the cause of late running of trains;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to take any step to do away with this shortage;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Ending of social subsidies by Railways**

1243. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to end social subsidies worth ₹ 30,000 crore and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Railways have appointed two financial institutes in order to conduct survey in this regard and if so, the details of these institutes, their survey reports and cost incurred thereon; and

(c) whether meetings have been held in this regard and if so, the details of each meeting held till date along with the minutes of the meetings?

### **Punctuality of trains and delivery of free food and water in general compartments**

1244. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether based on latest data, the punctuality of Indian Railways dipped to 65 per cent during the week ended June 3, 2018;

(b) whether the Railways are now planning to rework the schedules of all trains from 15 August, 2018, factoring in work on safety-related maintenance; and

(c) whether delays on Sundays normally being longer, Government proposes to provide free food and water to reserved passengers during meal time and whether this facility would also be extended to passengers in general compartments?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Penalty for carrying excess baggage in trains**

1245. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to strictly enforce their 30 year old baggage allowance norms by imposing hefty penalty for undeclared excess baggage carried in the compartment;

(b) if so, whether this move is prompted by numerous complaints to Railways regarding excess baggage within the compartments causing inconvenience to travellers; and

(c) whether Railways have launched special drive on all trains across all zones to carry out random checks on passengers carrying excess undeclared baggage?

**Incidents of crimes in trains**

1246. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of crimes like theft, robbery, etc., reported in the running trains in the country, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways are aware that recently some miscreants are using drugged biscuits and eatables, to rob passengers of their valuables; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to ensure the safety of rail passengers, including deployment of GRP and coach attendants in the coaches, and safety precautions to be followed by passengers?

**Frequency of Lokmanya Tilak Express**

1247. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways would increase the frequency of Lokmanya Tilak Express from Bhubaneswar/Puri to Mumbai from three times in a week to daily; and

(b) by when the Ministry of Railways would start stoppage of new passenger trains at all stations in Sambalpur-Angul, Kotavalsa-Kirondol and Rayagada-Koraput lines?

**Passenger amenities and cleanliness in trains and toilets**

†1248. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry gives priority to passenger amenities in train journey and special attention is given on cleanliness;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that there is acute lack of cleanliness in the sleeper coaches in second class as a result of which very offensive smell gushes out from the toilets and passengers are forced to travel amidst such an offensive smell; and

(c) whether the Ministry would conduct any survey to ascertain the actual condition in sleeper class coaches and to suggest corrective measures thereon?

**Vacancies in Railways**

†1249. SHRI HARIVANSH: 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 a large number of posts are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the total number of posts lying vacant, as on date; and

(c) by when these vacant posts would be filled up?

**Sanctioned Ministerial Staff Under North Eastern Railway**

† 1250. SHRIVISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post of Ministerial staff sanctioned, grade-pay-wise in the North Eastern Railway and the number of employees working against them; and

(b) the details of number of Group-D and Group-C posts, the Ministry proposes to surrender?

**Upgradation of safety standards to prevent accidents**

1251. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:  
SHRI RAJ BABBAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after taking note of recent rail accidents, Government has taken steps for passenger safety to prevent such accidents in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has contemplated/propose to upgrade the

various safety standards and infrastructures of the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expected time-limit to complete the process, including expenditure earmarked for such upgradation of safety standards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Revenue generation by Railways**

1252. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue generation remains a problem area for railways policy makers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railways may have found sources of funding for spending on capital works, but earning money to run the house and make a profit remains a problem in the face of mounting expenses;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the flexi fare helped to earn Railways ₹ 1800 crore in a year as well as a lot of criticism for the sleight of hand approach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Wi-Fi at railway stations**

1253. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies have not shown much interest in providing Wi-Fi at 7700 railway stations under the D, E and F categories and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that advertisement sales revenue from such Wi-Fi spots could be as high as ₹ 170 billion a year by 2020; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to attract private firms for supply, installation, testing, commissioning, operation and maintenance of Wi-Fi services at these railway stations?

#### **Procurement of wagons**

1254. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2017-18 the Railways procured 8,000 wagons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that each wagon costs around ₹ 3 lakh;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have a fleet of around 2.8 lakh wagons in circulation;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Railways are facing acute shortage of wagons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Criteria for electrification of rail routes**

†1255. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed for selection of rail routes for the purpose of electrification;

(b) the total length of rail network, in kilometers, that has not been electrified, so far, Zone-wise;

(c) the details of requests for electrification of rail routes received from various State Governments, including the State Government of Rajasthan, for their States during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by Railways thereon?

#### **Opposition to Bullet train project**

1256. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train project has been witnessing opposition by villagers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) to address the concerns of villagers and expedite the project?

#### **Low freight traffic in comparison to China**

1257. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the freight traffic throughout the country is lower as compared to our neighbouring country China;

(b) the measures undertaken by Railways to modernise the rolling stock, tracks and signalling system; and

(c) the specific steps being contemplated by Railways to increase the speed of freight trains for fast movement of freight traffic?

#### **Procurement of wagons**

1258. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to go in for large scale induction of wagons to meet the growing demand for different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that wagons of rakes would have to be procured from the sources approved by Railways to meet the technical standards;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the clients would have to take route-specific permission from Railways before buying them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Construction/ reconstruction of railway stations**

†1259. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of new railway stations constructed and the number of railway stations reconstructed/expanded from the year 2014 till date during the regime of current Government along with the increase in number of railway passengers recorded and the number of new trains operated during these four years?

#### **Train services in Manipur**

1260. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would extend passenger train services to Jiribam and then upto Tupul/Imphal;

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

(c) whether the trial run of Jiribam-Tupul/ Imphal line has been successfully completed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for delay in train services in Manipur?

#### **Rail accidents**

1261. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail accidents/derailments occurred in various Railway Zones during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) the number of passengers died/wounded in these accidents, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken action against the railway officials who were found responsible for such accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Late running of trains**

1262. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trains are running late regularly causing inconvenience to the passengers and if so, the details of such trains, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Railways have assessed the reasons for late running of trains and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways regularly monitors the arrival/departure of trains, so as to assess the extent of delay and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to ensure punctuality of trains?

#### **Electrification of rail lines**

1263. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) the details of status of implementation of electrification of Railways across the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry is set to achieve the track electrification target of 4,000 kilometer; and

(c) whether State-run Power Grid Corporation (PGCIL) is being consulted to speed up the process of electrification and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Structural audit and monitoring of bridges, Crossings and railway lines**

†1264. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering structural audit and monitoring system for all bridges, crossings and railway lines in various parts of the country by involving third party experts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways are developing modules to monitor rail temperature and bridge water level online as part of the Track Management System (TMS) across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Web-enabled Track Management System has been fully implemented in all Railway Divisions in the country to monitor track maintenance-related activities on a real-time basis?

#### **Railway lines under PPP model**

†1265. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State where the first railway line of the country built under Public-Private-Partnership model is situated;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on such type of railway line; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to build such type of railway line in any other State and if so, the amount of budget stipulated by Government for the same?

#### **Timely arrival of trains**

†1266. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the trains do not run on time due to which passengers have to face a lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the trains that always reached their destination on time during the last one year?

#### **Motihari-Sitamarhi rail line via Shivhar**

†1267. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 689 kilometer long Motihari-Sitamarhi rail line via Shivhar had been approved in 2007;

(b) whether approximately ₹ 100 crore have been spent on this rail project during last ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways have cancelled the Motihari-Sitamarhi *via* Shivhar rail line;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that Shivhar region, which is on the border of Nepal, is very backward and is deprived of railway facility even today after so many years of independence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Late running of trains**

†1268. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the trains are arriving late to their destinations with a delay of at least two-three hours;

(b) whether Government is aware that trains' movement is getting delayed by two-three hours on the Delhi-Mughalsarai section;

(c) whether most of the trains arriving at Delhi from Kanpur are running with a delay of two-three hours, along with trains on Kota-Mathura-Agra Section and trains from Sonipat to Delhi are also running with a delay of one to two hours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to resolve the said problem?

### **Development of Meelavittan railway station**

1269. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop Meelavittan railway station in Tuticorin district with various measures for passenger amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal is pending with Government to introduce "Double-Decker" train between Tuticorin and Chennai Egmore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Installation of display boards and announcement machines in passenger trains**

†1270. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to install display boards and announcement machines to inform the passengers about the next stations in all the passenger trains for their convenience; and

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

### **Railway projects in Goa**

1271. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains announced and started originating from the State of Goa between 2014 and 2017 along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of new railway tracks laid or the work pertaining to them started in Goa during 2014-17 along with the details of their progress; and

(c) the average of budget expenditure on various railway projects undertaken in Goa during 2009-14 and 2014-17?

### **Committee to examine new railway zone in Andhra Pradesh**

1272. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has been constituted to examine a new railway zone in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether committee has since

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

submitted its report and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is now considering to seek views of MPs, the State Governments and other stakeholders before a final decision is taken in the matter and if so, the reasons why this power was not entrusted to the committee constituted earlier which submitted its report; and

(d) whether it would prolong the exercise of formation of the new railway zone?

**Passenger amenities at Azamgarh  
Railway station**

†1273. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has an action plan to provide basic passenger facilities, improve the condition of waiting rooms, improve dilapidated condition of chairs at platforms and end the present disorder in the sanitation facilities at Azamgarh railway station, the city of famous poet Kaifi Azmi, under Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway;

(b) the number of trains being run from Azamgarh on daily basis and the steps Ministry would take to strengthen these facilities; and

(c) whether Ministry would consider to set up a Museum in the memory of famous writers/thinkers like Kaifi Azmi at the stations of their home districts?

**Recruitments made by RRB,  
Gorakhpur**

†1274. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that full-time post of Chairman of Railway Recruitment Board, North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur is lying vacant since long;

(b) if so, since when this post has been lying vacant and whether the Ministry is contemplating to fill up the same; and

(c) the details of total number of recruitments executed by the Railway Recruitment Board, North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur in last three years and the number of persons got engaged in service by this Commission?

**Land to private sector for rehabilitation  
of slum dwellers**

†1275. SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Railway and Western Railway in Maharashtra have decided to give land to private sector for construction of home for rehabilitation of slum dwellers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken by Central Railway and Western Railway for providing land to private sector along with the details of places where such land would be provided and the outline thereof; and

(c) the details of other Railways Zones wherein Railways are planning to provide land for development?

**Investigation into road over bridge collapse in Mumbai**

1276. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has investigated into the recent collapse of road over bridge on railway tracks in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons for the collapse and the officials responsible for it;

(c) whether any safety audit would be conducted on the ROBs, FOBs and Road Under Bridge structures to ensure such accidents do not recur and to ensure safety of passengers; and

(d) the efforts being made to replace all the weak rail track bridges in the country on which trains move along with the details thereof?

**Punctuality of trains**

1277. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to official figures, almost 30 per cent of trains ran late in the financial year 2017-18, the Indian Railways' worst punctuality performance in three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Railway sidings in Jharkhand**

†1278. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway sidings that are currently functional and the details of their locations in the State of Jharkhand; and

(b) whether Government proposes to start new railway sidings considering the possibilities of increase in industry, trade and investment in Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Crossing or overbridge at Bholanath bridge near Bhagalpur station**

†1279. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to build a crossing or flyover bridge over Bholanath bridge as all the trains cross from this bridge situated near Bhagalpur railway station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**High speed trains on Amritsar-Delhi route**

1280. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Amritsar is a very important tourism destination where around 2 lakh tourists visit daily to pay homage at Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, Durgiana Temple and other tourism and religious destinations;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government is planning to introduce high speed trains like Gatimaan and Tejas on Amritsar-Delhi route;

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

NEW DELHI;  
The 21st July, 2018  
Ashadha 30, 1940 (*Saka*)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174,
<b>Coal</b>	: 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182,
<b>Communications</b>	: 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205,
<b>Electronics and Information Technology</b>	: 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1215,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222,
<b>Law and Justice</b>	: 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240,
<b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>	: —
<b>Railways</b>	: 1212, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280.