

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, January 1, 2018/Pausha 11, 1939 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 15

Floods in Bihar

*136. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:
Will the Minister of RURAL
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several rural roads/bridges
have been damaged and washed away, due
to recent floods in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof including
Sugauli-Piparpati road in Champaran
district;

(c) whether Government has received
any proposal from Bihar Government for
funds to repair/rebuild such flood damaged
rural roads;

(d) the details of funds made available
to the State for the last two years, district-
wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to
repair/rebuild the roads/bridges damaged
in the recent floods in the State?

Cleaning of Ganga river from Haridwar to Unnao

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

(a) whether it is a fact that river Ganga
has been cleansed from Haridwar to Unnao
in the first phase of cleaning and if so, the
expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the system put in place to make the
steps already taken in the first phase of
cleaning of Ganga permanent;

(c) whether, during the second phase,
the river is proposed to be cleansed from
Unnao (UP) to the border of Bihar;

(d) whether, as per the opinion of
National Green Tribunal (N.G.T.),
Chairperson, water quality remains the
same, even after spending rupees seven
thousand crores; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expenditure on food rations for Armed Forces personnel

*138. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on food rations for Armed Forces personnel and the expenditure incurred for those in peace postings for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the formula used to arrive at the figure of ₹ 96.03 as a daily cash allowance for rations for officers in the Army;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to enhance access to markets to buy ration for officers residing in poorly connected cantonments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Forecast of cyclones

*139. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in recent past, there was any cyclone other than Ockhi which originated from the vicinity of Sri Lanka and moved towards the coast or to north through sea;

(b) whether India Meteorological Department (IMD) was able to predict cyclones, one or two days before it hit the coast;

(c) whether origination of cyclones so close to main land is a phenomenon of climate change; and

(d) what steps the Ministry has adopted to predict such cyclones early and warn all concerned?

Use of Ganga waterways from Haldia to Varanasi

†*140. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to use Ganga waterways from Haldia to Varanasi, comprehensively, for transportation of goods because of deposition of soil in the Ganga, which is a major hurdle in this regard;

(b) whether Bihar Government has set up an expert committee for desilting Ganga river along with the request to Central Government to conduct a study for uninterrupted flow of Ganga; and

(c) if so, the progress thereof?

Military expenditure on maintenance and modernisation

*141. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the military expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has reduced over a period of time, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether India is not spending proportionately on operations and maintenance of military equipment and development of defence infrastructure; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of the funds allocated for modernisation and equipments during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Compensation for crop destruction by wild animals

†*142. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system in place for compensation for losses to farmers in the country due to destruction of crops by wild animals;

(b) the extent of destruction of crops done by wild animals every year and the measures taken by Government to prevent the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers themselves have to bear the burden of destruction of crops by wild animals as a result of which every year farmers have to suffer huge losses; and

(d) whether Government would develop a system to compensate farmers for losses incurred on account of destruction of crops by animals?

Arsenic and chemical contamination in drinking water

†*143. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has conducted any study in the country especially in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh to detect the prevalence of Arsenic and other chemical substances in water and to know about its ill effects on people's health;

(b) if so, the data of contaminated water from various sources in the country collected by the Central Ground Water Board, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the number of quality testing laboratories in the country to test the purity of water and the present number of posts vacant therein?

Task force on micro-irrigation

*144. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of task forces on micro-irrigation formed by Government to encourage farmers to take up drip irrigation in a big way;

(b) whether Government has initiated any project in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Government's other proposals if any, to adopt latest technologies for this purpose?

Discrimination in employment opportunities for Armed Forces Veterans

*145. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever received memoranda on discrimination amongst the Armed Forces Veterans on the basis of ranks held in Armed Forces for various opportunities extended for their self-employment and re-employment provided to them after retirement, from National Ex-servicemen Co-ordination Committee (Regd.); and

(b) if so, what remedial action has been initiated or is being contemplated for removal of such discrimination by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to save the spirit and provisions of the Constitution of India?

Study on pollution level in the country

*146. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution level in the country is at an all-time high;

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

(c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to curb pollution in the country?

Stalling of defence procurements

*147. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several defence procurements have been stalled due to corruption allegations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to deal with the shortage caused, as a result of these deals;

(c) whether Government proposes to clear all pending procurements for the Armed Forces including acquisition of modern equipment, armaments and 98 heavyweight torpedoes for the scorpene submarines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, service-wise?

Introduction of double time zone in the country

*148. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Arunachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government to look into the possibility of double time zones in the country keeping in view the difficulties in the single time zone as there is much time difference between Eastern and Western parts of the country;

(b) whether Government is contemplating for introducing double time zone in the country and a study is being conducted under the guidance of the Department of Science and Technology in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

Construction of roads in naxal-affected States

†*149. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a special scheme for construction of roads in naxal-affected States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total amount provided under this scheme for construction of roads and the amount to be allocated out of that State-wise; and

(c) the total number of roads proposed to be constructed in naxal-affected areas

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of Maharashtra under this scheme along with locations thereof, district-wise?

Air Force schools

*150. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air Force schools that are functioning in the country at present, place-wise;

(b) whether Himachal Pradesh has been provided with only one Air Force school;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether, in view of a number of people employed in various Armed Forces in Himachal Pradesh, Government proposes to open an Air Force school in District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh; and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 26th December, 2017
Pausha 5, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Defence	: 138, 141, 145, 147, 150,
Drinking Water and Sanitation	: 143,
Earth Sciences	: 139,
Environment, Forest and Climate Change	: 142, 146,
Information and Broadcasting	: —
Mines	: —
Panchayati Raj	: —
Road Transport and Highways	: 149,
Rural Development	: 136,
Science and Technology	: 148,
Shipping	: 140,
Textiles	: —
Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	: 137, 144.