

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 15, 2017/Agrahayana 24, 1939 (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 — 15

Train accidents and strengthening of railway safety

*1. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of accidents of trains carrying passengers and freight that took place since 2014;

(b) whether Government has investigated into the causes of such mishaps;

(c) if so, the reasons thus ascertained for the accidents and the corrective measures taken by Government, since 2014, to redress these lapses in safety;

(d) in the above context, the proportion of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches converted to Linke-Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches since 2012-13 to strengthen the passenger safety; and

(e) by when Government proposes to complete the conversion of ICF coaches to LHB coaches?

Redevelopment of slums on railway land

*2. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has large tracts of land in Mumbai which have slums on them;

(b) whether Kranti Nagar, Kurla, Mumbai is one such slum cluster;

(c) whether Government is aware that the State Government allows rehabilitation and redevelopment of slum colonies under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) Schemes in Mumbai;

(d) whether slum dwellers of Kranti Nagar, Kurla have approached Railways for NOC for the redevelopment of this slum pocket; and

(e) if so, the response and stand of railways on the issue of redevelopment of slums on railway land?

Establishment of new railway zone at Visakhapatnam

*3. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Senior Officers set up to examine the feasibility of establishing a new railway zone at Visakhapatnam has not commenced its work till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-limit was given to the Committee to submit its report; and

(d) if not, by when the Committee will submit its report and by when Government will take a decision on establishing a separate railway zone at Visakhapatnam?

Fall in prices of DAP fertilizers

*4. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether average landed cost of DAP has fallen from US \$ 650 per tonne in 2011-12 to about US \$ 370 per tonne now;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the price of DAP, hovering at ₹ 20,000 per tonne (without taxes), has gone up to around ₹ 25,000 per tonne (without taxes) between 2014 and 2016;

(c) whether in spite of global prices of MOP (Muriate of Potash) falling by one-third between 2011 and 2012, the overall reduction is just ₹ 1000 per tonne; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not transferring the benefit of low prices to farmers by Government?

Unmanned Level Crossings

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

(a) whether Government has identified Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of ULCs, State-wise;

(c) the time-frame set by Government to prevent train accidents at ULCs; and

(d) the details of security and safety measures taken by Government in this regard?

New techniques/methods to clear stubble/crop residue

*6. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the impact of burning of stubble/crop residue in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is planning to impart new techniques/methods to the farmers to clear their stubble/crop residue without burning them as a way of post-harvest management; and

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

Appointment of CEC and ECs

*7. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a prescribed law for appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs) and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India;

(b) if not, how Government has been appointing Election Commissioners and CEC;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also observed about the need for bringing in a

law for appointment of ECs and CEC; and

(d) if so, whether Government would bring in a legislation for their appointment on the pattern of appointment of Director, CBI and Central Vigilance Commissioner, if so, the details thereof?

Payment of insurance claims to farmers of Tamil Nadu

*8. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of crop insurance premium collected under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during last one year, State-wise and

(b) whether it is a fact that farmers have not been paid insurance claims in Tamil Nadu for losses of their crops in recent months, if so, the reasons therefor?

Bringing down import of coal by thermal plants

*9. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is aiming to bring down to zero the coal imports of thermal power plants of Public Sector Undertakings in the current financial year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this move would reduce the country's import bill by about ₹ 17,000 crore; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to convince private companies operating in the power

sector to totally stop the import of thermal fossil fuel, if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Extending the benefit of reduction in GST rates to consumers

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

(a) whether the benefit of reduction in the rates of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on almost 200 items is extended with immediate effect to the consumers;

(b) whether any action has been taken so far against any shopkeepers or companies for not extending the benefit of reduced GST rates to the consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Length of railway network

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

(a) the total length of railway network in the country, in kilometres, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(b) the total length of railway network in the country which require repair, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(c) whether major routes of Railways' network have more trains operating per day than the designated capacity currently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Ministry to remedy this?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Transfer of a section of railway lines
from Thiruvananthapuram Division**

*12. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways intend to transfer a part of railway lines in Thiruvananthapuram Division to adjoining division in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether this is against the assurance given by authorities to Kerala when there was a similar move earlier; and

(c) whether Railways propose to introduce more trains along the new Palakkad-Pollachi broad gauge route as desired by passengers and businessmen in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

**Committee to study demands of rural
postal employees**

†*13. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has constituted a Committee to study the demands of rural postal employees working in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, when and whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee that have been accepted; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

Setting up of Commercial Courts

*14. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to establish Commercial Courts in districts to further improve the parameters, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the specified value of commercial disputes is likely to be brought down so as to expand the scope of commercial adjudication effectively and expeditiously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Train accidents due to old and poor
quality tracks**

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

(a) whether train accidents are taking place frequently, particularly due to old and poor quality of tracks;

(b) if so, the number and details of accidents occurred during the current calendar year so far;

(c) the number of persons who lost their life and those injured in these accidents, accident-wise;

(d) whether, instead of taking up any new rail projects for development, Government has any proposal to replace all old and dilapidated tracks to ensure safe journey of passengers; and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 9th December, 2017
Agrahayana 18, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 6, 8,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 4,
Coal	: 9,
Communications	: 13,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 10,
Electronics and Information Technology	: —
Food Processing Industries	: —
Law and Justice	: 7, 14,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Railways	: 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 15.