

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 29, 2017/Pausha 8, 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

Production of pulses

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the record production of pulses this year;

(b) if so, the quantum of production thereof;

(c) whether Government has made provision for buffer stock of pulses, if so, the total procurement of pulses made along with rate at which these were procured; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the prices of pulses from falling and the outcome thereof?

Corrective actions suggested by railway officers for safety

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent

of corrective actions suggested by railway officers regarding the safety of the railways have remained unaddressed in the last eight months;

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

Making internet availability a fundamental right

*123. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make internet availability a fundamental right; and

(b) if so, the plan of the Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Hiving off mobile tower assets of BSNL into a separate company

*124. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved hiving off the mobile tower assets of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited into a separate company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are 4,42,000 mobile towers in the country of which BSNL owns about 66,000;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this approval authorizes BSNL to monetise its telecom tower infrastructure with the formation of a separate subsidiary company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Barwadih-Chirimiri railway line

†*125. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the area of land acquired for Barwadih-Chirimiri railway line and the extent of work of this project completed;

(b) if so, the dates of sanction and commencement of this project along with the total amount allocated and spent on this project, so far; and

(c) whether this project has been cancelled, if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the deadline set by Government for completion of this project?

Laying of Sakri-Saraigarh railway line

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a former Prime Minister had laid the foundation for laying of the Sakri to Saraigarh railway line *via* Nirmali in Bihar, in the year 2004;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) by when the above project would be completed and the amount of funds required for the same;

(d) the year-wise allocation of funds in comparison to the desired funds; and

(e) by when Government proposes to complete this important project?

Delay and cancellation of trains

*127. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains delayed and cancelled since 1 August, 2017 to 15 December, 2017, Zone-wise and date-wise;

(b) the number of trains which reached on or before time since 1 August, 2017 to 15 December, 2017, Zone-wise and date-wise;

(c) whether trains connecting Ballia to Delhi and Mumbai have always been got delayed during current year, including the summer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reduction in call drop rate

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the call drop rate in the country has come down by 8 per cent in the last one year and the target is to reduce it further by a similar margin by year end;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telecom operators are facing resistance from people in installing mobile towers, especially in Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite necessary approvals from Government, operators are not getting space to install mobile towers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Unauthorised favours/expenditure by BCCL

*129. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), a large amount of company funds are being expended on non-entitled officers of Central and State Governments, including on some prosecuting agency officials like the CBI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the houses of BCCL are also being allotted to such non-BCCL officials, if so, the details of all such cases;

(c) whether CAG, specifically in the audit of BCCL, looked at this aspect of unauthorised favours and other expenditure being incurred by BCCL on such officials/ others; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Prices of imported medical devices

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of medical devices are imported from various countries;

(b) if so, the details of major medical devices imported in the last two years and the landing price of each of such device;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge gap between import price of devices and the price charged from patients, which indicates nexus among company, importer, distributor and hospital; and

(d) if so, how Ministry is going to regulate prices of all imported medical devices, as has been done in the case of stents?

Bio-toilets in railway coaches

*131. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a detailed plan for the replacement of existing toilets with bio-toilets in railway coaches; and

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure to be incurred on the same along with the detailed timeline set therefor?

Increase in cyber crimes/frauds post-demonetisation

*132. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-demonetisation, there

has been an increase in cyber crimes/frauds in online transactions, the details of cyber crime cases filed since 8 November, 2016 till date;

(b) whether many people have been duped while doing online transactions, and whether Government is planning to control online frauds which have increased post-demonetisation;

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

(d) the State/UT-wise details about cyber crimes/frauds in online transactions in last three years and the measures taken by Government to prevent them?

Sale of crops by farmers below MSP

†*133. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different foodgrains purchased from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether because of indifference of Government agencies in procurement, businessmen of Private sector procure the foodgrains from farmers at throw-away prices at the time of production, as a result of which farmers are forced to sell their produces at rates much lower than MSP; and

(c) whether Government would consider to throw out the middlemen from the procurement process of agro products and formulate a mandatory rule for procurement of the agri produces at MSP only?

Supply of sugar to Tamil Nadu at subsidized rate

*134. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any communication from Government of Tamil Nadu to extend coverage of subsidized sugar to all priority households at the rate of 2 kgs. per household and to enhance subsidy from ₹ 18.50 to ₹ 28.50 per kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidy rate of ₹ 18.50 per kg. was fixed in 2002 and has not been increased till date, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to increase the supply of sugar to Tamil Nadu?

Discrepancy in demarcation of Assembly Constituencies in Manipur

*135. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of fixing the size and area of Assembly Constituencies in Manipur where there is a huge difference between the valley and hill constituencies in terms of size and population and the constituencies of valley areas have less population and size in comparison to hill areas thereby skewing the ratio in favour of the valley areas; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for redefining the Assembly Constituencies to correct this discrepancy?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd December, 2017
Pausha 2, 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	: 121, 133,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 130,
Coal	: 129,
Communications	: 124, 128,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 134,
Electronics and Information Technology	: 123, 132,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Law and Justice	: 135,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Railways	: 122, 125, 126, 127, 131.