

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Wednesday, August 2, 2017/Shravana 11, 1939 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries : Commerce and Industry; Culture; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Home Affairs; Labour and Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Steel; Tourism; Tribal Affairs)**

**Total number of questions — 15**

#### **Facilities for domestic and foreign tourists**

†\*181. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the notable measures taken in the field of traffic, transportation, lodging and security to make tourism comfortable for the domestic as well as foreign tourists in the country;

(b) the top ten tourist places in the country during the last year *i.e.* 2016 where maximum domestic and foreign tourists arrived; and

(c) the policy with regard to expansion of tourism facilities along with the details of the programmes relating thereto?

#### **Decline in prices of crude oil**

\*182. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in prices of crude oil in the international market, if so, the quantum of decrease in the prices as compared to the prices in first half of year 2017; and

(b) whether Government proposes to further reduce the retail prices of petroleum products in view of decline in prices in the international market and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Upkeep of historical monuments by corporate organisations**

\*183. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan of approaching corporate organisations in order to seek their contribution in the upkeep of historical monuments that are attracting tourists in a big way, if so, what has been the response to these efforts; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) how Government is meeting the increasing expenditure for the same and whether Government is considering any policy of involving local citizens by inculcating a sense of ownership among them towards such monuments?

#### **Interest rate of EPF**

\*184. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal of keeping the rate of interest payable on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) above the market rates of interest in the prevailing regime of low interest rates;

(b) whether Government is considering to raise the salary limit under the EPF scheme to widen the coverage of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for digitisation of contribution, returns and settlement of claims?

#### **Development of Punaura Dham in Bihar**

†\*185. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed ASI to restore and develop Punaura Dham, the birth place of Mata Janki in Sitamarhi, Bihar;

(b) whether ASI has formulated any action plan to develop birth place of Mata Sita in Punaura Dham on the lines of Nalanda and Vaishali; and

(c) whether the Minister had earlier said that all the historical facts about birth place of Mata Sita would be brought forward by sending a team of ASI to Punaura Dham and further development work would be done by the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, if so, the progress so far made in this direction?

#### **Change of name of railway station**

\*186. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government for change in the name of Parewadi railway station as Ketur railway station situated on Daund-Solapur railway line in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, how much more time Government is likely to take to approve the proposal?

#### **Children lost/kidnapped in West Bengal**

\*187. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2015, 1198 children were lost/kidnapped in West Bengal; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of those, 80 per cent were girls and if so, the actions being taken by Government to launch coordinated actions with Government of West Bengal to bring back those lost children?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Expenditure on modernisation of police force**

†\*188. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Indian police force is neither in line with modern standards nor they are trained as per those standards, if so, the likely expenditure to be incurred on modernisation of Indian police force; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to modernise and update Indian police force and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Decline in job growth**

\*189. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had added just 1.35 lakh jobs in eight labour-intensive sectors in 2015 as compared to the 9.3 lakh jobs that were created in 2011, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the decline in job growth indicates the problem of decline in jobs the country is facing today and if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken?

**Export of leather garments**

\*190. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total figure of export

of leather garments/items from India during the last three years; and

(b) how many people are employed in this industry/trade in the country?

**Impact of indiscriminate drilling by oil companies on soil fertility**

\*191. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that hectic and indiscriminate drilling operations of the PSU and private oil and gas companies is drastically affecting fertility of soil in Konaseema area of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether several requests from farmer unions to stop this indiscriminate drilling have been ignored and companies were allowed drilling; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the oil companies are not filling the oil wells with sterile water after extracting oil and gas resulting in the salt water filling these vacuum rapids causing damage to soil, if so, the details thereof?

**Duty free barter trade along LoC**

\*192. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items permitted for duty free barter trade along Line of Control (LoC) in J&K between India and Pakistan;

(b) how many Indian firms are associated with such trade;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether container scanners are proposed to be installed at Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) along Line of Control in J&K to regulate smuggling of contraband goods; and

(d) how long the National Investigation Agency will take to acquire and install such scanners in the TFCs and which are the firms identified for supplying such scanners and the cost of such equipments?

#### **Intangible Cultural Heritage**

\*193. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has a list of what constitutes 'Intangible Cultural Heritage', if so, the details and quantum of funding thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the prerequisites to be fulfilled for being classified as Intangible Cultural Heritage?

#### **Medical visa to foreign patients**

\*194. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

has restricted medical visa to foreign patients, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the effect on the patients and the reaction of foreign counterparts on medical visa; and

(c) the details of foreign patients who visited India for treatment during the last three years?

#### **Ecomark label for coir and coir products**

\*195. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coir and coir products importing countries are conscious of the Ecomark label on the products;

(b) if so, what efforts the Minister is making in obtaining such Ecomark labels from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the coir exporting units; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the possession of such Ecomark labels by the coir and coir products exporting units will give an immense boost to their exports and if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 27th July, 2017*  
*Shravana 5, 1939 (Saka)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

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<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	: 182, 191,
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