

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

#### Transparency in selection examination of Agricultural Scientists

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the selection examination of Agriculture Scientists was caught in controversies and the result was declared only after the advice of the Law Ministry;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to make the selection examination of Agriculture Scientists more transparent and to select the deserving Scientists; and

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

#### Production of wheat

2. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for wheat in the country will reach 140 million tonnes by 2050, according to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has so far recorded huge growth in wheat production, if so, the details thereof?

#### Post harvest losses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the top countries for the losses of agricultural commodities during post harvesting period, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the effective and concrete measures Government has taken or proposes to take

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to substantially reduce losses of post harvesting agri commodities in the country?

#### **Suicide by farmers**

4. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has any comprehensive policy to address the issue of increasing number of farmers suicide in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, in what manner Government proposes, to deal with the larger issue of farmers woes, crop loss and increasing debt burden;

(c) whether State Governments, which have announced loan waivers on repayments have demanded grants/funds from the Centre, if so, the response of Central Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to ensure higher penetration of financial institutions in rural areas and insurance coverage for farmers?

#### **Funds for deep sea fishing vessels**

5. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is re-considering the project submitted by Government of Kerala requesting funds to build vessels for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been earmarked to meet the project submitted by the State; and

(c) whether any funds/permission to build such vessels have been sanctioned to other States under similar project during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Separate fund for welfare of fishermen**

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

(a) the total number of fishermen in the coastal areas of the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the objectives and the salient features of the National Scheme for the welfare of fishermen, and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide a special package and to establish a separate fund for the welfare of the fishermen community in the country during the current five year plan period, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Sale of spurious GM cotton seeds**

7. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Ministry that as many as 35 lakh packets of GM cotton seeds incorporating unapproved herbicide tolerance technology are being sold in the market this season;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has permitted GM varieties to grow contain 'cry1Ac' and 'cry 2 Ab' genes to protect against bollworm insects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sale of spurious GM cotton seeds is rampant in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(d) if so, in what manner Ministry is going to contain this?

#### **Implementation of PMFBY**

8. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:  
SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reaction of Government to Centre for Science and Environment's report that private insurance companies are making huge profits under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details of premium collected and compensation paid by each of the private sector insurance company under the Yojana since its implementation, State-wise, season-wise and year-wise?

#### **Schemes for traditional fishing**

9. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special schemes to support the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities living in coastal areas are under operation by Centre; and

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned for such schemes during the last three years?

#### **Reforms in the Ministry**

10. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any

new and specific policy initiatives after June, 2014 to achieve the overall objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details of these initiatives and their overall impact; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry, in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details alongwith their impact thereof?

#### **Imparting integrated pest management practices to farmers**

11. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to impart integrated pest management practices to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government now plans to raise the Pesticides Management Bill before the Parliament on an urgent basis; and

(c) whether Government feels the need for a high level enquiry into the nature of pesticides used across the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Use of pesticides in the country**

12. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of pesticides is in the country approximately 76 per cent as against the world average of 44 per cent, if not, the figures as compared to other countries;

(b) whether the new registration guidelines by the registration committee governing import and manufacture of pesticides, promote further usage of fertilizers, if so, whether there were any objections made by Government; and

(c) whether Government has brought any stringent rules related to organic farming unlike promotion of fertilizers mentioned in the above mentioned guidelines?

#### **Suicide by farmers**

13. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an unabated increase in the farmers suicide rate in the country, particularly during the last one year, including the Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan to address this situation?

#### **Suicide by farmers**

14. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicide cases of farmers are increasing in an alarming rate in the country, particularly in State of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Supreme Court has suggested to Government to bring out a concrete National Policy to tackle farmers' suicides and to evolve reasons for their suicides and also for proper protection of their crops from natural calamities and holistic approach for their well-being, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Benefits of use of modern technology**

15. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and marginal farmers have not fully succeeded in reaping the benefits of use of modern agriculture technology and various special schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the States/areas/sectors where the benefits could not be percolated;

(c) whether Government has identified the areas using obsolete technology, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agricultural Institutes/Universities have played any role to rejuvenate agriculture extension schemes for the proper dissemination of information/knowledge, especially to the small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Vocational training for farmers**

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

(a) whether all States/UTs in the country provide vocational training in agriculture to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of districts in a State having Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the details thereof along with the location thereof;

(c) whether any NGOs have been approved by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for organizing camps at villages for educating the farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the statistics of farmers who participated in the vocational training, the details thereof along with location thereof?

#### **Expansion of Seed Village Programme**

17. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to develop a software to generate crop specific and site specific recommendation of fertilizers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to expand the Seed Village Programmes from existing 30,000 to 60,000 villages; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to introduce a Seed Bill for effective regulation and mandatory registration of seeds, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Protest against anti farmer policy by farmers**

18. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of farmers who have committed suicide during 2017, till date, State-wise and month-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware of the huge farmers protest in Delhi during the month of November, 2017 against the anti farmer agricultural policies and callous attitude of Central Government towards farmers of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action Government

would take in this regard in response to the huge protest by farmers?

#### **Setting up of KVKs in Chhattisgarh**

†19. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to establish 8 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in various districts of Chhattisgarh, including Surajpur district, through Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra only in one district and the approval for the remaining kendras is awaited; and

(c) if so, whether Government has fixed any time-frame for according approval to the remaining Krishi Vigyan Kendras, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Rearing of indigenous breed of cows**

†20. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is encouraging the farmers for rearing indigenous breed of cows; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lakhs of farmers in the country are willing to rear indigenous haunch bearing breed of cow but the calves of indigenous breed like Gir, Sahiwan, Haryana-Sindhi, Tharparkar, etc. are not available in sufficient number in proportion to demand, if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Nutritious milk of indigenous haunch bearing breed of cows**

†21. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientific research has proved that the milk of indigenous haunch bearing breed of cow is more nutritious and bears more resistant power to fight against the incurable diseases; and

(b) if so, the plans being formulated by Government to develop the indigenous breed of cow?

**Shortage of milk**

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

(a) whether the country is likely to face shortage of milk in the coming years;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated by Government to meet the shortage of milk and ensure its sufficient availability in the country; and

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

**Implementation of PMFBY**

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the average premium paid by these beneficiaries;

(b) the number and value of claims received and processed each month since

the scheme's introduction and the average value of processed settlements;

(c) the number of claims currently pending or dismissed;

(d) whether Government has taken measures to oversee the processing of these claims; and

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

**Supply of quality seeds to farmers**

24. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government mechanisms existing for the supply of quality seeds to farmers;

(b) the number of high yielding variety rice and wheat seeds distributed through High Yielding Variety Programme (HYVP);

(c) the details of quantity of different seeds imported during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(d) the details of total expenditure under HYVP scheme during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

**Implementation of RKVY**

25. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocation for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for the last five years;

(b) the details of all projects under RKVY for the development of agriculture and allied sectors, State-wise; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps Government is taking to strengthen on the RKVY in the near future?

#### **Production of pulses**

26. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2016-17 there have been record production of pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the comparative per hectare yield of pulses in the country with rest of the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite record production, farmers are switching to cotton farming, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government is confident that the prices of pulses will come down in 2017-18 due to record production in 2016-17, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Production of wheat**

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

(a) the quantum of wheat produced in the country in years 2015-16 and 2016-17;

(b) the quantum of wheat imported from April, 2016 to May, 2017 and the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of import duty levied on imported wheat; and

(d) the total estimated stock of wheat in the country at present?

#### **Agriculture revolution**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has unveiled three year road-map for evergreen revolution in agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government aims to double the farmers' income by 2022, if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by Government in this regard?

#### **Loss of lives due to toxic pesticides**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many farmers in the State of Maharashtra lost their lives due to poisoning after inhaling pesticides recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action State and Central Governments have taken in the matter?

#### **Deaths due to pesticides poisoning**

30. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths of farmers have been reported in Maharashtra, particularly from Vidarbha region, mostly from Yavatmal due to pesticides poisoning since July this year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether many pesticides are currently used in the country despite ban

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in many countries for their toxic effects, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether an independent fact finding team of farmer rights' groups and farm experts has made a study of use of pesticides and submitted its report to the Ministry which demand ban on such pesticides, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Production of wheat and pulses**

31. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat output projected to be at an all time high of 97.44 million tonnes in the 2016-17 crop year due to good monsoon, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pulses output has also been revised upward to a record 22.40 MT as against the actual output of 16.35 million tonnes last year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that with upward revision in wheat and pulses, total foodgrain output now has been pegged at a record 2734.38 MT for 2016-17?

#### **Selling of pesticides without labeling of adequate safety information**

32. SHRI RITABRATA  
BANERJEE:  
PROF. M.V. RAJEEV  
GOWDA:

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

(a) the number of farmers reported to have died due to inhalation of pesticides since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether private and multinational companies have been selling pesticides without providing adequate safety information regarding potential pesticide poisoning; and

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

#### **Establishment of NIPER in Chhattisgarh**

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

(a) whether Government has taken any step to establish National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh regarding setting up of NIPER, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to State Government by the Central Government for this purpose?

#### **Production cost of urea in the country**

34. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported urea is cheaper than that produced in the country, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps Government has taken to make the production of urea cheaper in the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Subsidy on fertilizers**

35. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy given for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers during the last five years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that CCEA has fixed subsidy on P&K at ₹21,274 crore for 2016-17;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount fixed for 2017-18; and

(d) the total overall fertilizer subsidy fixed during the last five years and the current year, year-wise and variety-wise?

### **Increase in dealer margin of fertilizer retailers**

36. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to increase dealer margin for fertilizer retailers, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the increase in dealer margin is likely to adversely affect farmers using fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to insulate farmers, especially marginal farmers in Rajasthan, from rise in fertilizer costs due to increase in dealer margin, if so, the details thereof?

### **Pricing of generic drugs**

37. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware of the

exorbitant prices levied by private pharmaceutical companies on generic drugs in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the initiatives taken by the Ministry to curb these practices by private companies?

### **Capping the prices of essential medicines**

38. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped prices of 51 essential medicines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices have been slashed in the range of 6 to 53 per cent; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NPPA has fixed prices of medicines that are listed in Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013, if so, the details thereof?

### **Dependence on China for raw materials for drugs**

39. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting has been held with pharma companies to review India's dependence on China for raw materials used for drugs in the country;

(b) how prudent the move is and the alternative routes that the Indian drug companies have to get raw materials from other countries at the same price as offered by China;

(c) whether it is a fact that a second meeting was also held in the second week of November, 2017;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) to what extent the bulk drug zones in Visakhapatnam and Chennai are going to help?

#### **New fertilizer plant at Sindri, Jharkhand**

40. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to build a new fertilizer plant at Sindri, Jharkhand;

(b) if so, by when it's construction is likely to commence; and

(c) whether there is any plan to use it's land, even partially, for rehabilitating Jharia township?

#### **Capping the prices of drugs**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority capped the prices of 31 more drugs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are 829 drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 and all of them will be brought under price control, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Status of generic medicine outlets**

42. SHRI SAMBAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned to open sales outlets for generic medicines on a large scale to make medicines available to public at much cheaper rates;

(b) the number of such outlets opened so far in the country;

(c) whether such outlets have been opened in Maharashtra also; and

(d) if so, the figures of such outlets in Maharashtra, district-wise?

#### **Supply of fertilizers at MRP to farmers**

43. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to the farmers at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by the Government, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fertilizers are not being provided by the agents at the price fixed for farmers;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide economic benefits to the farmers in the country; and

(d) whether the fertilizer companies, including the Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Chennai, are underperforming to their installed capacity, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

#### **Use of water stored in open cast mines for drinking purpose**

44. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps so far to make the availability of

treated safe drinking water in the mining areas of Jharkhand; and

(b) whether there is any plan to make use of huge water stored in the open cast mines for drinking and other purposes, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Fall in coal imports due to surge in domestic production**

45. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal imports into the country are unlikely to rise because of surge in domestic coal production;

(b) whether demand for coal from new thermal power plants is likely to taper off after five years and leave some coal mine assets stranded;

(c) whether India is no longer the dynamic coal import market of yesteryears; and

(d) whether, while the domestic production would continue to expand, India's energy trajectory is becoming less coal based raising a real risk for stranded assets, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Auction of coal linkages by CIL**

46. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided to make auction of linkages to ensure dry fuel supply to non-regulated sectors like steel and cement, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether auction of coal linkages would be for non-regulated sectors, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allowing private players in commercial mining space**

47. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether private players will be able to bid for mines with about 100 million tonnes of coal reserves in the initial phase of auctions for commercial mining rights;

(b) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) is gearing up to compete with private companies for the first time since 1973;

(c) whether allowing competition in the commercial mining space will create a positive disruption in the market;

(d) whether CIL is closing 37 unviable mines this year; and

(e) whether CIL will close several more mines in the next two years?

#### **NOC for coal block allocation in Southern India**

48. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal block allotment for ultra mega power project is pending with Government for No Objection Certificate (NOC) and other observations in South Zone of the country;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof; and

(c) by when Government proposes to issue approval in this regard?

#### **Strike call by Coal sector Trade Unions**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central

Trade Unions in the Coal sector threatened to go on a three day strike demanding among other things, withdrawal of the proposal of merger of the Coal Miners Provident Fund with the Employees Provident Fund, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision to redress the grievances of the Coal sector trade unions, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Business roadmap plan for CIL**

50. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has approached a multinational consultant for a business roadmap plan-Vision 2030, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether CIL considers all options open at a time when coal demand is subdued and uncertainty looms over it in the long run; and

(c) whether the said multinational consultant has submitted any proposal or report in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production, demand and supply of coal**

51. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production, demand and supply of coal by the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is shortage of coal in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the plans to increase domestic production of coal for meeting the domestic demand; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand-supply gap of coal in the country?

#### **Digitally mapping of addresses of citizens and establishments**

52. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to map the addresses of the citizens and the establishments digitally, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the advantage of digital mapping envisaged?

#### **Connecting panchayats with optical fibres**

53. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has a proposal to connect 1.5 lakh panchayats by laying of the optical fibre and high speed broadband connectivity in the country till 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status thereof;

(c) how many rural areas have been connected so far with optical fibre and high speed broadband connectivity; and

(d) how much of funds have been utilised for this proposal so far?

**Late arrival of registered post within the same district of Uttarakhand**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a registered post from district head quarter in Uttarakhand takes 10 days to reach a destination within the same district, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to ensure that registered post, within the same district, reaches its destination in three days, along with the details of such steps, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Benchmark for call drops by telecom operators**

55. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom operators are adhering to the benchmark of 2 per cent for call drops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the average rate of call drops currently and the initiatives taken by Government to ensure adherence to the benchmark;

(c) the infrastructure targets of Government to minimize call drops;

(d) the total number of cellular towers commissioned by the Ministry in Government-owned buildings and spaces, along with the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government is on its target to achieve the installation of such cellular towers, if so, the details thereof?

**Interconnection Usage Charges**

56. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many telcos want Interconnection Usage Charges doubled while others were against such a hike; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Global Connectivity Index**

57. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Global Connectivity Index, India, which was at 15th rank in 2014, has slipped to 43rd rank in 2017;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to improve the country's position in Global Connectivity Index; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Broadband services in Government schools**

†58. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide broadband services in all Government schools of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to connect broadband internet services to provide computer education in Government schools and make Digital India Programme a success; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

#### **4G services by BSNL**

59. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 4G spectrum has been made available to BSNL by the authorities;

(b) if so, whether 4G connections are given by BSNL, Kerala;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether BSNL is considered only as one of the network providers and not eligible for special consideration as a Government institution?

#### **Unclaimed amount in Indira Vikas Patra**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 16 years after the small savings scheme, Indira Vikas Patra, was discontinued over ₹ 900 crore is lying unclaimed with Government as outstanding amount, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to disburse the abovesaid unclaimed money or the decision taken by it to utilize it?

#### **Steps to check call drops**

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

(a) whether Government undertook any assertive step to check the call drop

problem which is becoming a stumbling block in Government's ambitious Digital India programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the telecom service providers against whom highest number of call drop complaints have been received during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

#### **5G services**

62. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a high-level forum that will evaluate and approve roadmap and action plan to bring in the latest technology in the country to roll out 5G services;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with composition of the forum; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the existing 3G and 4G networks in the country and to increase the access of 3G and 4G services in various areas to have a better internet experience?

#### **Core Banking facilities in Post offices**

63. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many post offices in the country are having Core Banking facilities with various services for the customers; and

(b) whether Government is planning to facilitate more post offices with such facilities in the near future, if so, the details thereof?

**Implementation of quality of services norms**

64. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom industry had urged the TRAI to consider a six month extension for implementation of new quality of services norms;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry feels that the request of the Telecom industry for extension of the deadline by six months will genuinely improve the quality of services as per the norms; and

(c) the counter measure that the Ministry proposes to put in place, in the interest of the service users, if the telecom industry fails to meet its own assurance?

**Pension settlement of retired employees**

65. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the method of pension settlement in Ministry of Communications for retired employees and how many cases are pending unsettled;

(b) who is responsible for maintaining Service Books;

(c) whether any cases of non-availability of Service Books and pension settlements are pending in Karnataka, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, by when those cases would be settled?

**Deployment of 5G services in the country**

66. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to deploy 5G wireless technology in the country;

(b) if so, the roadmap and the action plan that Government proposes to adopt for its deployment and whether the technical knowhow would be borrowed or be an indigenous one; and

(c) by when Government propose to deploy the 5G wireless technology in the country?

**Selling of stake in VSNL**

67. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to sell its stake in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(VSNL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of land that will be sold and money that is likely to be realised?

**Export of wheat**

68. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat and pulses in the years 2015, and 2016 along with the estimated production for 2017;

(b) the quantity of wheat and pulses procured by the FCI at Minimum Support

Price (MSP) and the quantum of buffer stocks available; and

(c) the quantity of wheat and pulses exported in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 and its value in US \$ of wheat and pulses exported?

#### **Implementation of Price Support Scheme for farmers**

69. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of farm produces procured from farmers at MSP, State-wise, crop-wise and month-wise since 2014;

(b) the prices of the farm produces in the domestic open market, State-wise, crop-wise and month-wise since 2014;

(c) whether the prices of pulses in the open market fell below the MSP in 2016-17;

(d) if so, the reasons for failure of Government to increase procurement, despite the guaranteed offtake promised under MSP; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to compensate losses incurred by farmers from low output prices in 2016-17?

#### **Rise in prices of daily commodities**

70. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of rise in prices of daily

consumable commodities during the recent months;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to assuage the prices of all edible items?

#### **Handling of bags by labourers at FCI depots**

71. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prescribed any norms for handling of bags by labourers at the depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as per a report, labourers at FCI's various depots were handling almost double of the bags per day, unusually high against all prescribed norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government has got the matter inquired into, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by Government against officials of FCI for making excess payments towards unusual labour cost?

#### **Problems of Rice Millers in Andhra Pradesh**

72. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the Federation of



All India Rice Millers Association requesting redressal of grievances of rice millers with regard to increase of Custom and Milling charges along with increase of depreciation percentage and increase of Out Turn Ratio (OTR), etc. if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision on this request, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of Central Authority for redressal of consumer grievances**

73. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held First International Conference on Consumer Protection recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with theme of the Conference;

(c) the main issues discussed in the Conference along with the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government will bring in a new law to crack down on misleading advertisements and set up a Central Authority to fast track redressal of consumer grievances, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of consumers?

**Supply of edible oil in smaller packs for rural India**

74. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has suggested the Government to direct edible oil traders to make available edible oil in smaller packs for rural India;

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

(c) the response of Government in this regard?

**Storage of foodgrains**

75. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government agencies engaged in warehousing and storage activities of foodgrains;

(b) the number of multinational private agencies engaged in the above activities along with the details thereof; and

(c) the number of warehouses and storage facility centers started during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in Government sector, State-wise details thereof?

**Installation of PoS devices at ration shops**

76. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that website [www.annavitran.nic.in](http://www.annavitran.nic.in) monitoring the sale with the help of PoS devices on ration shops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of ration shops along with the number of shops having PoS devices, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the time consumed in transaction before and after installation of PoS devices, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(d) the details of connectivity of ration shops having PoS machines; and

(e) the details of amount incurred in installing the PoS machines in ration shops?

#### **Implementation of NFSA**

77. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries identified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds released by the Centre to the States for its implementation, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementation of the NFSA?

#### **Status of National Consumer Helpline**

78. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established/planning to establish National/ Zonal Consumer Helplines in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of people lodging complaints in the helpline have increased many fold every year;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of complaints in general and the

remedial mechanism available to redress such complaints;

(d) whether all the States in the country have been covered by the National Consumer Helpline; and

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

#### **Allocation of foodgrains to Jharkhand**

79. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there were starvation deaths in Jharkhand in recent months;

(b) whether public distribution of foodgrains etc. to the State has been a reason for it;

(c) the number of people eligible for public distribution of foodgrains in that State;

(d) the amount of foodgrains due to the State so far in 2017: and

(e) the quantity of foodgrains released so far and used by the State?

#### **Selling of products on premium rate**

80. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many of the products are being sold on premium rate using the terms like fresh, organic and Natural;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism to identify the claim of such products in the country; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban such activity, if so, the details thereof?

**Withdrawal of subsidy on sugar under PDS in Tamil Nadu**

81. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that subsidy on sugar has been withdrawn under PDS in Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the State Government would be compensated to distribute sugar on low price under PDS, if so, the details thereof?

**Expenditure on computerisation of TPDS**

82. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations has involved huge expenditure from Government exchequer, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the funds spent on computerisation of TPDS, State-wise, as Central share and State-share?

**Implementation of NFSA**

†83. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) the details of total budgetary allocation made to States by Centre for the Programme along with the budget demands made by the States;

(c) the details of number of ration cards that have been linked to Aadhaar and number of bogus ration cards discovered in the process; and

(d) whether State Food Commissions in States have established any mechanism for redressal of complaints related to ration distribution as per the directions of NFSA, if so, the details thereof?

**Wastage of agricultural produces**

84. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding percentage of wastage of agricultural food produces in the country during the last three years, product-wise;

(b) the rate of wastage reduction achieved in respect of agricultural produces in the country over the said period through the schemes and programmes of the Government; and

(c) whether any new initiative is under the consideration of the Government to identify regions of high wastage due to poor infrastructure for processing of agricultural produces so as to address the issues, if so, the details thereof?

**Linking of Aadhaar with ration cards**

85. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether an eleven year old girl died on 28th September, 2017 at her village in Jharkhand after stoppage of subsidised foodgrains for months owing to cancellation of ration card for want of Aadhaar linkage;

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take in the matter;

(c) the total number of ration cards not linked to their Aadhaar unique ID number, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the policy of Government to provide subsidized foodgrains to BPL families?

prey to harmful online games such as Blue Whale and other such games including banning them;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that such games are still available online;

(c) whether the Ministry has made any such list, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the existing IT Act is compatible to punish administrators of such games and the intermediaries through whom games reach the users, if so, the details thereof, if not, steps taken to amend existing law?

#### **Fake Aadhaar network system**

86. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has information on fake Aadhaar network system;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received and action taken thereon, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to clear false biometric documents and fingerprints therein?

#### **Tackling the menace of harmful online games**

87. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA:  
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to prevent teenagers from falling

#### **Seats allocated to Tamil Nadu under India BPO Promotion Scheme**

88. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that out of 2800 seats allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu under BPO Promotion Scheme, nearly 700 seats have not started their operation even after six months after the In-Principal Approval (IPA), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken, if any, by Government to make them operational?

#### **Aadhaar data leak**

89. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of Aadhaar personal information leaks from the CIDR since 2014;

(b) whether Government is planning to

set up a nodal agency to compensate victims of Aadhaar data leaks or theft or misuse of data, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that 210 websites of Central Government and State Government departments were displaying the list of beneficiaries along with their personal information to the public, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Government schemes where Aadhaar is mandatory for availing them?

#### **Decline in employee strength of companies in IT industry**

90. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headcount of the six major companies in IT industry has dropped by 4157 in the first six months of the current fiscal year against an increase of almost 60,000 in the same period last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a major drop in the recruitment by the IT industry this year?

#### **Establishment of Software Technology Parks**

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

(a) the number of Software Technology Parks (STPs) established during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there are adequate proposals

to increase rural employment in the STPs; and

(c) if not, the remedial measures taken therefor?

#### **Prevention of cyber crime**

92. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is one cyber crime in the country in every 10 minutes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to cyber experts, putting in place critical infrastructure to predict and prevent cyber crimes, is crucial, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Hacking of Android phones**

†93. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has become easy to hack all the information stored in Android phones by using very simple methods and despite being aware of the same Government has not taken any cognisance thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps Government is going to take in this regard as it has totally compromised with the privacy of mobile phone consumers?

#### **Setting up of ITIR in Visakhapatnam**

94. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received and the present status of the same;

(c) whether the proposal was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be placed before the CCEA?

#### **Jobs in IT sector**

95. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IT sector is expected to see upto 38 per cent fewer jobs this fiscal as compared to last fiscal, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country needs to take more actions to ensure high percentage of employment in IT sector, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Justice B N Srikrishna Committee report**

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

(a) whether a draft Data Protection and Privacy law has already been provided to the Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee by the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Privacy Bill of 2011 has been referred to the Committee for

study, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposed timeline for submission of report by the Committee?

#### **Representation for ITIR in Telangana**

97. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh representation from the Government of Telangana requesting for release of necessary funds for the proposed IT Investment Region in the State;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to complete the project at an early date?

#### **Waiving off farm loan**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small and marginal farmers, who take loan to produce their agriculture products, have incurred heavy losses due to demonetization;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to consider waiver of their loan borrowed from the banks or financial institutions for farming purpose;

(c) if so, the criterion adopted by Government to shortlist the farmers whose loan would be waived; and

(d) the quantum of loan amount that would be considered for waiver?

### **Deactivation of Aadhaar number**

†99. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the process to deactivate Aadhaar number and the number of Aadhaar numbers deactivated in last three years, the details thereof;

(b) whether the concerned person is given prior intimation before deactivating his Aadhaar number, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued to investigating agencies entrusted with the investigation of deactivation of Aadhaar numbers, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the right to discontinue Aadhaar number or get it deactivated rests with the person concerned or with Government only and whether there is any guideline in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

### **Access of Aadhaar database and its encryption**

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

(a) whether Aadhaar database has been accessed by other agencies, including Central Intelligence Agency;

(b) whether Government has met its target of data encryption of all registered citizens, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) how Government plans to prevent misuse/leak of data by the Aadhaar-enabled service providers;

(d) whether Government has tested the biometric readers certified by UIDAI for liveness detection, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has proposed the approach of dummy Aadhaar numbers to solve the security issues associated with Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof?

### **Steps to check misuse of Aadhaar information**

†101. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aadhaar information is being misused after hacking, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check hacking of Aadhaar information for ensuring privacy of citizens?

### **Setting up of Mega Food Parks and Integrated Cold Chain units**

102. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding number of Mega Food Parks being set up under the National Mission on Food Processing; (NMFP);

(b) whether Government proposes to set up any Mega Food Park in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Integrated Cold Chain units; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the amount earmarked for this purpose in the current fiscal year?

#### **All India Judicial Service**

103. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reopened the proposal to have an All India Judicial Service to appoint District Judges through a process conducted by UPSC;

(b) whether any discussions have been held inside or outside the Ministry on this subject; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Foreign voters and proxy voting**

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

(a) the total number of registered foreign voters in the country;

(b) the details of NRI and overseas voters in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to allow proxy voting for NRI and overseas voters;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented, the details thereof; and

(e) the suggestions/ideas received by Government regarding proxy voting, the details thereof?

#### **Appointment of additional judges**

105. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more judges are required to dispose of the cases pending at different levels in the courts in the country within appropriate time-frame;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the assessment made by Government thereon; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for appointment of additional judges as per the requirement, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Average time taken for disposal of cases**

106. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that courts in the country take more time to dispose of the cases in comparison to the developed countries of the world, if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the average time taken by the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts to dispose of civil and criminal cases; and

(c) the assessment regarding the time taken for the same in USA, England, Japan, France and other European countries?

#### **CCTV cameras in District Courts**

107. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any comprehensive plan to install CCTV cameras in the District Courts across the country pursuant to the order passed by the Apex Court;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has earmarked any fund for this purpose for the current fiscal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Adherence of laid down procedures by Fast Track Courts**

108. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one out of the four Fast Track Courts was found to be adhering to the laid down procedures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the guidelines provide that in every trial, proceeding will be held on day-to-day basis, until all the witnesses have been examined; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to a study, no evidence of counselling provided to survivors was found except in two of the sixteen cases recently?

**Independent body to regulate ethics in the legal profession**

109. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering setting up an independent body to regulate the ethics in the legal profession, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a meeting of PMO and Ministerial heads has taken place recently and underlined the need to set up a regulatory framework for legal profession, if so, the details thereof?

**Uniform Civil Code**

110. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the judiciary has been prodding successive Governments to bring forward a Uniform Civil Code as enshrined in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution for the last more than three decades;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for not bringing in the legislation on this issue; and

(c) whether Government proposes to bring forward this legislation as per recent SC Judgement on triple talaq issue and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Courtrooms for Subordinate Judiciary**

111. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of courtrooms available for lower courts in the country is less than the sanctioned strength of judges in the Subordinate Judiciary, if so, the details thereof, and

(b) the appropriate action being taken by Government in this regard?

**Strength of officials of Legislative Department**

112. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of total sanctioned strength of personnel 171 in the Legislative Department, only 96 were in position upto August 2017;

(b) if so, the number of them filled thereafter;

(c) if not, the reasons for not filling the vacancies; and

(d) the number of personnel presently responsible for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations, etc., and how many of them are actually required?

#### **Timely framing of rules by Ministries**

113. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministries have to frame rules, regulations, etc., under an Act within six months of the Act being passed;

(b) if so, the number of Acts passed during the last one year and status of rules, regulations framed thereunder in respect of these Ministries for which figures are available; and

(c) whether these figures updated on real-time basis, Ministry-wise, would be put in public domain?

#### **Curtailment of Winter Session of Parliament**

114. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time in the history of Indian Parliament, the long accepted and followed tenure of the Winter Session has been curtailed for no valid reasons;

(b) whether this curtailment has denied the Parliamentarians' rights to deliberate on issues through legislative process; and

(c) whether such curtailment of Sessions by Government adds to the backlog of issues awaiting legislation after due deliberation?

#### **Proliferation of spurious LED devices**

115. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the mandate of Government, standards have been prescribed for LED devices by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) towards optimum energy conservation;

(b) whether according to the findings of a survey by Nielsen Market Research Group, more than 76 per cent of the LED brands in market do not adhere to prescribed standards by BIS; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the proliferation of spurious LED devices in the market and whether the Association of Compliant Manufacturers has sought action by the Government?

#### **Reworking of strategy for maintenance in Railways**

116. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that initiatives taken by Railways to keep railway stations, railway yards and passenger trains neat and clean have proved to be unsatisfactory as is inferred from the ground conditions, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision to rework the strategy to maintain

cleanliness in railways at par with other developed countries, even to the extent of adopting PPP model?

**Trains between Ahmedabad and Mumbai**

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

(a) the details of present trains, class wise, plying between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, their capacity, occupancy, schedule, fare slabs and revenue generated along with profit or loss to Railways since 2014 till date;

(c) the details regarding the speed of these trains along with the accidents since 2014 till date; and

(d) the details of the feasibility study for the high speed rail corridor between Ahmedabad and Mumbai which has been planned by Government?

**Monitoring the release of HO quota**

118. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:  
DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIP references for release of HO quota to the Minister of Railways/ Railways/Zones are not being given priority in recent times;

(b) if so, whether complaints/ representations from Members of Parliament have been regularly received

against officials of MR Cell for deliberate, biased and irregularities in treatment of VIP references;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether there is an urgent need for monitoring of release of HO quota through CCTV cameras at all Railways Board/HQ/ Divisions to ensures transparency; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Integrated Security System**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of implementation of Integrated Security System (ISS) at railway stations under Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether close circuit televisions, baggage scanners, under-vehicle scanning system, bomb detection equipments, etc., have been installed at all important stations across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when all stations in urban areas in all the Zones will be covered by ISS, the details thereof?

**Distress condition of railway bridges in Maharashtra**

120. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway bridges in Maharashtra are in distress condition;

(b) whether Government has taken any action to replace them; and

(c) if so, the amount of funds provided for replacement of these bridges during the last two years in order to save the lives of people?

#### **Vacant seats in trains**

121. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:  
SHRI RITABRATA  
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of seats in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains are going vacant after the implementation of flexi fare system;

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

(c) whether Government is considering a revision in the flexi fare system, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increase in train accidents**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents have increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to find out the reasons therefor and to suggest preventive measures;

(c) the series of steps being planned by Railways to improve the safety of rail tracks and signalling services; and

(d) the other measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure safety of train travel and to bring confidence among

the travelling public, along with the details thereof?

#### **Introduction of more Tejas Express trains**

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

(a) whether, as proposed, Railways have introduced two more Tejas Express trains, one from New Delhi to Amritsar and the other from Lucknow to Anand Vihar, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the above trains are likely to be put into service;

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal to run some more Tejas Express trains, particularly to Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha; and

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

#### **Setting up of rail coach factory in Kazipet**

124. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to set up a rail coach factory in Kazipet in Telangana State as it was a promise made in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any initiatives are proposed to be taken up in the matter as it is a long pending wish of the people of Telangana, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the matter without any further delay?

### **Incidents of train accidents**

125. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for incidents of train accidents and derailment of coaches going up in the recent past;

(b) whether there are any incidents of sabotage by anti-national elements;

(c) if not, the reasons behind each of the train accidents/derailments in the last six months, accident-wise; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof?

### **Electrification of Railways**

126. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open railway lines to private players, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total non-electrified lines in the country and expected budget required for 100 per cent electrification of railway network; and

(c) the profit and loss statement of Railways for the last five years and budget sanctioned, in percentage, towards electrification of Railways?

### **Stampede at railway foot overbridge in Mumbai**

127. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people lost their lives and many were injured in a stampede on an old railway foot overbridge in Mumbai recently, if so the details thereof;

(b) the action Government has taken on the incident;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the incident; and

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

### **Improvement in Mumbai suburban rail system**

128. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Anil Kakodkar Committee had warned in its February, 2012 Report that the situation is grim across Mumbai suburban rail system, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps that have been taken since the submission of this Report to improve the Mumbai suburban rail system?

### **Identification of routes for electrification of tracks**

129. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are set to expedite the electrification process and make all the trains run on electricity, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have identified the railway sections/routes which are yet to be electrified and if so, the details of such sections/routes, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to achieve the expeditious completion of electrification in the country?

**Facilities for foreign nationals and NRIs under FTQ**

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

(a) whether zonal railways have been advised to sensitise travelling ticket examiners on the validity of passports and visas that are mandatory documents required for travel by foreigners and NRIs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that tickets cannot be booked by travel agents under Foreign Tourists Quota (FTQ); and

(c) whether it is also a fact that if the part seeking accommodation requires more berths than what is earmarked under the FTQ, the remaining passengers would be registered and provided confirmed accommodation on the opening day of reservation of general quota, if so, the details thereof?

**Easing of train travel for foreign nationals and NRIs**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have made train travel easy for foreign nationals and NRIs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are offering confirmed accommodation in upper classes of all trains one year in advance for foreign nationals and NRIs, if so, the details thereof?

**Hi-tech system to detect track defects**

132. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to use hi-tech systems for detection of defects on tracks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that optical fiber-based rail fracture detection system is being introduced to check the defects in the railway tracks, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these safety measures will be implemented?

**Train accidents**

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

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred during August to 15th December, 2017, zone-wise and month-wise;

(b) the details of persons died and injured in those accidents, accident-wise;

(c) the details of *ex-gratia* announced and paid till date, accident-wise, during August to December, 2017;

(d) the details of compensation announced and paid till date during the year 2017, accident-wise; and

(e) the details of compensation paid to accident victims/kin of victims during the years 2015 and 2016?

**Building of foot overbridges of prescribed sizes**

134. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General in 2015 had focused on railway foot overbridges and suggested for building foot overbridges of prescribed sizes to ensure passenger safety; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to avoid tragedies like that of Elphinstone?

#### **Categorisation of railway stations**

135. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to categorise the railway stations for the infrastructure revamp as Grade 1, Grade 2 and so on;

(b) if so, the details of the categories;

(c) the time-limit for the completion of categories, and

(d) the benefits and background of this categorisation?

#### **Casualties in train accidents**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents have increased in the last five years, if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, and the reasons therefor;

(b) the total number of casualties; and

(c) the remedial measures being adopted to curb the accidents?

#### **Stampede at Elphinstone bridge**

137. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry had received any report/warning about the dangers involved with using the narrow Elphinstone bridge, Mumbai, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Ministry thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that just a few days after the stampede incident at

Elphinstone bridge, the Ministry sanctioned construction of another bridge on that station, if so, how long did it take to sanction the new bridge and why is the process of sanctioning so long; and

(c) whether the Ministry plans to conduct safety audits of existing railway infrastructure, if so, the progress thereon?

#### **Repair of washable aprons at platforms of New Delhi railway station**

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

(a) whether after a spate of accidents in recent months, rail traffic has not been restored to normalcy in and around National Capital Region with handling facilities at New Delhi railway station which was curtailed due to repair of washable aprons at many platforms;

(b) if so, whether daily commuters between New Delhi and Meerut/Aligarh/Moradabad are experiencing extreme hardships with abrupt cancellation of local trains and abnormal delay in running of suburban trains; and

(c) whether Government is aware of extent of manhours lost in Central Government establishments in the capital due to delayed running of trains carrying the workforce from suburbs?

#### **Train derailments**

139. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of train derailments have increased sharply during the last three years;

(b) the number of trains derailed during the last five years, division-wise;

(c) the reasons for increase in cases of train derailments; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent train derailments and to ensure safety of passengers?

#### **Provision for Railway's fund in budget**

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to not provide for Railway's fund in the upcoming budget, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the amount allocated and utilized for passenger safety, capital and development work, cleanliness and finance and accounting reforms in Railways in the financial year 2016-17?

#### **Aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme**

141. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme introduced last year;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that due to flexi fares, 30 per cent of seats remain unoccupied in the Western Railway since air fares are almost same or less than the flexi fares;

(c) if so, the status of average occupancy rate of the 42 Rajdhani, 46 Shatabdi and 54 Duronto Express trains since introduction of flexi fares, month-wise and train-wise; and

(d) whether there are any plans to remove flexi fare scheme, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Reasons for train accidents**

142. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for train accidents taking place frequently, the recent one being the Vasco Da Gama-Patna Express derailment;

(b) the number of people injured/died in train accidents in the last three years and the amount of compensation paid, if any;

(c) whether any investigation has been initiated/conducted in regard to all the major accidents;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to prevent such train accidents in future?

#### **New policy initiatives by Railways**

143. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new and specific policy initiative after June, 2014 to achieve the overall objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details thereof and the overall impact of these initiatives; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details and impact thereof?

#### **Stoppage of works by railway contractors**

144. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of



the Ministry that contractors have stopped works in various railway divisions of South Central Railway (SCR) demanding to apply pre-GST rates on tenders approved before July, 2017;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that 415 works worth nearly ₹ 600 crore are in limbo in six divisions of SCR;

(c) whether the Ministry is also aware that even track security related works have been stopped by contractors, thereby compromising with the security of passengers; and

(d) if so, how and when Ministry is going to take decision on applicability of GST and resume works?

#### **Model railway stations in Karnataka**

145. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 railway stations have been identified for development as model stations in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of works undertaken on each of the 44 railway stations; and

(c) by when these stations would be fully developed as model railway stations?

#### **Demand for a railway station for the residents of Dharavi in Mumbai**

146. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to have a new suburban railway station for the benefit of the residents of Dharavi between Sion and Matunga on the Central Railway suburban local network in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the action Railways have taken in this regard?

#### **Strength of loco pilots**

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

(a) the total sanctioned strength of loco pilots and the number of vacancies in each Railway Zone since 2010, year-wise;

(b) whether loco pilots have been deployed in stationary duties;

(c) if so, the details and numbers thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce vacancies of loco pilots; and

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

#### **RoB near Vikhroli railway station in Mumbai**

148. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plans to construct a Road over Bridge (RoB) across the Central Railway line near Vikhroli railway station in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allotment of top berth to a para athlete**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a para athlete was allotted top berth while travelling to Delhi from Nagpur recently in spite of her mentioning about her physical disability while booking tickets; and

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

#### **Payment to railway contractors**

150. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of railway contractors in Northern Railway have been facing a lot of difficulties on account of inordinate delay in payment of their dues for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues of contractors at DRM office, Delhi at present and since when these dues are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when payment is likely to be released to ease their problem?

#### **Vacant seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 40 per cent seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad trains and 44 per cent seats on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai route are going vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the loss incurred by Railways during the last three years on this sector due to vacant seats; and

(c) whether Government has found any reasons for vacant seats, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Complaints against Flexi Fare Scheme**

152. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that right after implementation of the Flexi Fare Scheme, trains are running with a large number of vacant seats, and a large number of complaints being raised against the inordinately high prices, if so, the detailed response thereto; and

(b) whether there is any proposal/measure in place for abolishing the said scheme?

#### **Agreement with Japan for Bullet train project**

†153. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has entered into a costly agreement with Japan to complete the Bullet train project in the country whereas China is working on a Bullet train in Thailand at many times lesser cost, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the basis for entering into such a costly agreement with Japan without any tender?

#### **Intercity Express from Ambikapur to Raipur**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to start Intercity Express train from Ambikapur to Raipur in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the above train would be started for the convenience of passengers, if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Signing of MoU with Government of Japan for running Bullet trains**

†155. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed an MoU with Government of Japan to run Bullet trains in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when MoU is likely to be signed?

**Survey for Char Dham rail route**

†156. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of Char Dham rail route in Uttarakhand has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the starting point and the terminal point of the survey;

(c) the location of stations on this rail route; and

(d) by when construction work is likely to be started after completion of survey?

**Reasons for train accidents**

†157. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents from January, 2017 to till date along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether one of the main reasons of train accidents is cracks in the rail tracks/ old rail tracks;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to identify and replace the old rail lines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Allocation of budget for rail infrastructure development**

158. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to seek additional budgetary allocation for rail infrastructure development during 2018-19 and raise the required financial resources on its own; and

(b) if so, the major areas through which the financial requirements are likely to be explored?

**Railway connectivity near Kochi International Airport**

159. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor railway connectivity and lack of amenities near Kochi International Airport Limited is adversely affecting thousands of air passengers, tourists, visitors and employees of the CIAL;

(b) if so, whether Railways will consider construction of a railway station at Nedumbassery with international standards and modern facilities; and

(c) whether Railways will take urgent steps to open ticket booths at both domestic and international terminals of the Kochi International Airport Ltd.?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Problem of pests and rodents in long distance trains**

160. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that on

the long distance trains, the problem of bed bugs/cockroaches, rodents and other insects/pests is a great nuisance and health hazard to the travelling public; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to eliminate this problem on a permanent basis?

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

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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