

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, December 18, 2017/Agrahayana 27, 1939 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

Procurement of fighter planes

†161. SHRI OM PRAKASH
MATHUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of procuring
fighter planes was going on for a long time
to enhance the capacity of Indian Air Force
and the process of procurement of fighter
planes (Rafale) could not be completed
earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the process was completed
promptly and transparently by the present
Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of ammunition in WWR

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

(a) whether there is a shortage of
ammunition held in War Wastage Reserve
(WWR) as on November, 2017;

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

(c) the details of procurement orders for
ammunition which are pending;

(d) whether the Ministry is taking steps
to reduce the shortage of ammunition in
WWR; and

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

Agreement with France for supply of Rafale fighter jets

163. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will
the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
has made an agreement with France for
supply of Rafale fighter jets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the difference between
original request for proposal issued in 2007
and present agreement; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what is the amount Government is spending for this deal?

Recruitment of female cadets in the Army, Navy and Air Force

164. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of female cadets who have been recruited in the Army, Air Force and Navy during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government is taking any initiative to increase the participation of women in the defence services of the country and if so, the details thereof?

Private partner in joint venture of Rafale aircraft

165. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for making Reliance Defence Limited, a private company as a joint venture partner in the purchase of 36 Rafale aircrafts from France, excluding Government controlled Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) the details thereof?

Consultation of CCS on Rafale aircraft

166. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was consulted before or after the announcement of purchase of 36 Rafale aircrafts by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in France in 2015; and

(b) the details thereof?

Defence lands and buildings used for commercial purposes

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

(a) the total area (in sq. km) of defence lands and the number of defence buildings that are being used for commercial purposes;

(b) the amount of revenue received from the above commercial use, every year during the last three years; and

(c) the details of utilization of revenue collected from this use?

Shortage of ammunition in Army's stock

168. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, despite concerns, there is no significant improvement in army's stocks of ammunition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not making adequate procurement when the C&AG in its 2015 Report pointed out that there is a massive ammunition shortage with reserves that would barely last 20 days of intense fighting;

(d) what per cent of Army's ammunition is being procured domestically and from international market; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to augment defence procurement?

Status of report on litigation and allied issues

169. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the Report of Expert Committee constituted by the Minister to suggest measures for reducing on litigation and allied issues submitted on 24 November, 2015;

(b) whether the process of implementation of the report has started, as per the announcement made by Government on 21 August, 2016;

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

(d) the steps Government has taken to reduce litigation against soldiers?

Holding of defence funds by UN

170. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations has held ₹ 338 crore defence fund to India in respect of Indian Army deployed in peace keeping missions;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

Candidates from Sainik Schools in NDA and IMA

171. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:
SHRI AJAY SANCHETI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Sainik Schools functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) what is the intake of candidates from these Sainik Schools to NDA and IMA;

(c) whether there is a proposal to open new Sainik Schools in certain States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Irregularities in Rafale aircraft deal

172. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been reported in Rafale aircraft deal for Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would inquire into the irregularities and fix responsibilities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason for not taking action against the corrupt persons and preventing corruption?

Increase in threshold limit for DPP

173. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offset threshold limit has been increased from ₹ 300 crore to ₹ 2,000 crore in the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) for 2016;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the change in limit would have a negative impact on indigenous enterprises and local manufacturers; and

(d) the steps taken to check this and to promote indigenous enterprises and self-sufficiency with respect to technology and arms production?

Menial tasks to Sahayaks

174. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued instructions that Sahayaks or Orderlies are combatants and they must not be asked to perform menial tasks which are not in conformity with the dignity of a soldier;

(b) the recourse available to a Sahayak in case he is asked to perform tasks not in keeping with this order; and

(c) whether there have been any cases of non-conformance to this order, so far?

Sahayaks in the Indian Army

175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff appointed as Sahayaks under the Sahayak System of the Indian Army as in October, 2017;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the dissatisfaction among those who are functioning as Sahayaks and whether any satisfaction survey has been undertaken in response to the recent criticisms of the Sahayak system; and

(c) if so, the initiatives to be taken on the issues raised by the Sahayaks?

Clearance for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport

176. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of Thiruvananthapuram

International Airport is at a standstill, owing to the non-availability of land for basic strip clearance of the runways and parallel taxi track construction;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would take urgent steps to handover 63.726 cents of land from Brahmos and 117.300 cents of land from CSD Canteens to the Airport Authority for the development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport; and

(c) whether the Ministry would give clearance for construction of flyover from Chakka to Enchakkal retaining the approach road to International terminal of the airport?

Transparency and accountability in defence production and purchase

177. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new policy initiative after June, 2014 to ensure greater transparency and accountability in defence production as well as purchase, 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 Department of Defence production in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof and its impact?

Judicial interference and role of court martial in the army

†178. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that such a rule

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

was framed that the army would settle its issues itself and the courts would have no say in it;

(b) if so, whether army matters have witnessed increasing judicial overreach recently; and

(c) if not, the role of Court Martial in the Army?

Procurement of helicopters for the Navy

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy has requested for procurement of modern helicopters and naval utility helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the preparedness of Navy to meet any challenge; and

(d) the details of efforts taken to provide latest machinery and equipment to deal with any eventuality and the time by which, they would be procured?

Committee to examine reorganization of areas/sub areas

180. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry/Army has set up a Committee to examine reorganization of areas/sub areas etc.

(b) whether the report of the Committee has been submitted to the Ministry with its recommendations;

(c) if so, the salient features of those recommendations; and

(d) whether the army headquarters in Jabalpur has been effected by the said recommendations and if so, the reasons therefor?

Manufacturing of indigenous defence equipments and weapons

†181. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to manufacture indigenous defence equipments and weapons during the last three years and by when it has been targeted to manufacture indigenous weapons as per the defence requirements of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the steps being taken to become self-reliant in respect of weapons for indigenous manufacturing are inadequate, resulting in the increase of import of weapons year-by-year;

(c) the expenditure incurred or proposed to be incurred on purchase of weapons during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

Difference in Rafale fighter jet deals

†182. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Rafale fighter jet deal differs from the previous one and the changes that led to phenomenal increase in the cost of the deal;

(b) the details of the difference between the cost of each aircraft and technology

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transfer in the previous deals and the deal made by the present Government;

(c) the details of inclusion of private players leaving aside Government companies for bringing about changes to this fighter jet and the amount charged by private companies for inclusion; and

(d) whether rules have been relaxed in the case of private companies and if so, the details thereof?

Facilities to non-commissioned defence officials

183. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-commissioned defence officials including soldiers are being provided facilities as per entitlements especially in difficult terrains and high altitude areas;

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

(c) whether substandard items and inadequate facilities were being extended to them during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by Government thereon?

Winding up of Army Postal Units

184. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to wind up Army Postal Units in peace locations;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(c) in what manner the staff of these Army Postal Units are to be rehabilitated after their closure?

Procurement policies of defence equipment

185. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the third largest armed forces in the World;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the last few years, India is the world's largest arms importer;

(c) if so, the budgetary allocation therefor and the purchase of arms and defence equipment during the last five years; and

(d) the details of procurement policies to promote greater collaboration between international defence manufacturers and the Indian private sector with respect to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) thereof?

Opening of new Sainik schools

186. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open new Sainik schools in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the places identified for the purpose; and

(c) the names of States which have requested for the same?

Protests against discrimination in promotion in Army

187. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

a large number of officers of the rank of Lieutenant Colonels and Majors of the Army have submitted their representations protesting discrimination in their promotion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Parity of remuneration of Army, Navy and Air Force with civilian counterparts

188. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status and remuneration of the Army, Navy and Air Force personnel are not equal to their civilian counterparts; and

(b) if so, the details and measures proposed to be taken for an equal treatment in status as well as monetary benefits with the civilians?

Building of foot-over-bridges in Mumbai by the Army

189. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to ask the Army to build three foot-over-bridges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether using the army for undertaking routine jobs like this amounts to misusing the Army for civilian purposes; and

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

Allocation of funds under NRDWP

190. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and utilised under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for the financial year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any study was conducted before the allocation of the funds under this scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that some States have utilised more funds, than were allocated under this scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the projects started under this scheme with the status of these projects, State/Union Territory- wise?

Areas affected by arsenic contaminated water

†191. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that all those living in areas affected by arsenic contaminated water get safe drinking water and are not affected by water-borne diseases;

(b) the number of districts in States/ Union Territories of the country where these problems exist and the details of districts/places identified by Government in this connection; and

(c) the reasons for presence of arsenic in the water and the details of the current status of the decision taken earlier by Government to remove this problem?

Construction of toilets under SBM

192. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);

(b) how many of the constructed toilets are public toilets; and

(c) which agency is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the public toilets?

Households without toilets

†193. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of households in the country that do not have toilets, State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned, allocated and utilized for construction of toilets during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, including that of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the number of public toilets constructed under sanitation drive during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government had to face hurdles in some States during construction of these toilets, if so, the details thereof along with action taken in this regard, State-wise?

Construction of toilets under SBM

†194. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the construction of toilets in rural areas in various parts of the country under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);

(b) the progress made towards construction of toilets in various districts of Bihar;

(c) whether factors which are

obstructing its construction are being reviewed; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made to achieve the objective while doing away with the obstructing factors?

Safe drinking water to each households

195. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of households in the country without any source of drinking water within one kilometer;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide safe drinking water to each household?

Monitoring of SBM

196. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited a United Nations' expert for monitoring of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the United Nation's Special Reporter on Human Rights for Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation has observed that Government's SBM is flawed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures, Government proposes to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Criteria for declaration as ODF

197. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has collected the results of baseline survey with respect to sanitation from all the States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the criteria under which a village, town and a State can be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF);

(c) the number of State Governments who have declared themselves to be an ODF State so far and if so, the status and progress in States thereof; and

(d) amount of funds allocated by the Ministry for Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) for the last three years and current year, the details thereof, with respect to States?

**Fluoride free rural habitation in
Telangana**

198. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Integrated Management Information System, 1267 rural habitations have been identified as Fluoride affected in 28 districts of Telangana State;

(b) if so, the details of habitations;

(c) what efforts the Ministry has made to make them Fluoride-free habitations;

(d) how will the making of larger districts into smaller ones help in effectively addressing the problem;

(e) the details of technical and financial assistance provided to State Government to deal with the above problem; and

(f) the present status of above habitations?

**Water conservation and rain water
harvesting in rural areas**

199. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is providing technical and financial assistance to State Governments for executing projects relating to water conservation and rain water harvesting in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has issued or proposed to issue any guidelines under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Implementation of SBM (Gramin) in
Jharkhand and Gujarat**

200. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)-Gramin and utilisation of the funds allocated/released, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to fully utilise the funds released and if so, the details thereof and response from States, especially Jharkhand and Gujarat; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to monitor the pace of implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

Cloud seeding for artificial rain

201. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has turned down the State Governments' plans to go for cloud seeding to induce artificial rain recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has advised the State Governments that they will have to bear the exorbitant cost of the programme and that the results in stimulating artificial rain might not be effective in tune with the expenses incurred; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of El Nino weather patterns

202. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is likely to emerge unscathed from the El Nino weather patterns as it is expected to set in only during the latter part of the four month monsoon season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country would have timely arrival of rains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Compensatory afforestation on forest land

203. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of compensatory afforestation on forest land and on non-forest land separately and the details of utilisation of compensatory afforestation funds by State forest departments so far, State-wise;

(b) whether undertaking such afforestation on forest land is in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act and if so, the reasons therefor and how the violations would be rectified;

(c) in case compensatory afforestation has been undertaken on forest land, whether the consent of Gram Sabhas, where Forest Rights Act is applicable, was taken; and

(d) the details of such cases and cases where consent was not taken, State-wise?

Pollution of air and groundwater due to Ghazipur landfill site

†204. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mountain of waste at the Ghazipur landfill site in Delhi is leading to pollution of air and groundwater;

(b) whether the Central Government has issued any instruction to the Delhi Government to do away with the mountain of waste at Ghazipur landfill site;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Central Government to ensure availability of clean groundwater and air to the people of Delhi; and

(d) whether there have also been incidents of fire in the landfill site, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Elephant reserve project in
Chhattisgarh**

205. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for elephant reserve project in Chhattisgarh, specially in the districts for Jashpur, Sarguja, Koriya and Korba;

(b) the result of this project; and

(c) the number of people who have died or have been killed in elephant attacks till date?

Reducing pollution in capital city

206. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capital city of the country remains one of the most polluted city in the country and the world, despite making all efforts to bring the pollution level under control;

(b) the reason for Government machinery to fail so miserably in controlling the pollution level despite the intervention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

(c) whether the Ministry would consider promoting the use of bicycles by the masses in order to bring down the pollution level and also to promote health benefits on using bicycles for commuting for at least short distances?

Funds for bridge over Mathred river

207. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation regarding sanctioning of sufficient funds for provision of wall, both side jali and support pillar of the bridge, constructed over Mathred river to link village Nandla and other villages in Chirgaon Tehsil in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Central Government would ask State Government of Himachal Pradesh to take up this project on priority basis for the safety of people and long life of the bridge; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when modification work would be completed?

Inter-State transport of bamboo

208. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bamboo botanically belongs to the grass family;

(b) which Ministry deals with issues relating to bamboo;

(c) which department deals with issues relating to bamboo in State Governments; and

(d) what steps Government has taken to ensure minimum hassle for the bamboo farmers in inter-State transport of the bamboo?

**Solid Waste Management Rules for
Swachh Bharat Programme**

209. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Swachh Bharat Programme does not fulfil Solid

Waste Management Rules, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Central Pollution Control Board monitors periodic preparedness of urban local bodies towards scientific management of waste, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government under the Solid Waste Management Rules, to use organic refuse for clean power generation, if so, the details thereof?

Use of Clean Coal Technology in thermal power generation to reduce carbon emission

210. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has made any commitment to use Clean Coal Technology for thermal power generation in accordance with Paris Climate Agreement, 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereon;

(c) whether Government has drawn any action plan to introduce Clean Coal Technology to reduce emission from thermal power plants to help check pollution and climate change; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of report on OROP

211. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of one-man Judicial Committee report on One Rank One Pension (OROP) for removal of anomalies in OROP submitted to Government in October, 2016;

(b) what are the anomalies highlighted by the report and the recommendations therefor;

(c) by when Government will implement recommendations made in the report;

(d) the total amount paid towards OROP till date; and

(e) the total number of ex-servicemen and widows who have received OROP benefits?

Consultation with affected States to curb environmental pollution

212. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has chalked out any final strategy to curb the environmental pollution in consultation with the affected States, keeping in view the alarming level of increase in pollution level in Delhi, NCR and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Disciplinary proceedings against IFSOs

213. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Forest Service Officers (IFSOs) currently facing disciplinary proceedings and investigations by Central and State investigating agencies;

(b) in how many cases in the above FIRs have been registered and after investigation, chargesheet have been filed;

(c) the number of IFSOs who have been

retired by Government by invoking Rule 16(3) of the AIS (DCRB) Rules, 1958 since 2014; and

(d) in respect of the above, the position with reference to IFSOs belonging to Jharkhand cadre?

Smog due to stubble burning

214. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to prevent the smog caused by stubble burning by farmers in all States of the country; and

(b) the number of cases and action taken against the farmers who are burning stubble illegally?

Environmental clearance to hydro power projects

215. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro power projects functioning presently in the country;

(b) how many projects have got environmental clearance, specially those which are located in Ganga and Brahmaputra river basin under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006;

(c) whether it is a fact that environmental clearance has been sought for building hydro power projects only, in the geologically and ecologically fragile, seismically active and culturally-sensitive Ganga and Brahmaputra river basin; and

(d) what is the report of the Expert Appraisal Committee on hydro projects which are still functioning without any clearance during the last five years?

Pollution emission standards

216. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified any pollution emission standards for various categories of industries using petroleum and furnace oil;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in the matter?

Rapidly increasing pollution in the country

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

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution in the country is increasing more rapidly, than that of any other country in the world;

(b) the measures being taken by Government to check pollution in the country and save the people from this deadly menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

Compliance of NGT orders by tanneries along Ganga river

218. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal has asked the tanneries to

follow the orders passed by it or face closure of units along river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Tribunal has felt that over ₹ 7,000 crore has been spent, but the river water quality has not improved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cow deaths due to eating plastic and other waste

219. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to save cows from death and diseases caused by eating plastic and other waste;

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

(c) the details of preventive measures taken for providing sheds in Gaushalas to save cows and buffaloes from extreme temperature, especially in Rajasthan?

Winding up of National Tiger Conservation Authority

220. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the winding up of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and replacing it with broader National Wildlife Conservation Authority by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that

Government has received a proposal in this regard from an evaluation committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of tiger reserves

221. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has 39 tiger reserves with a population of 2,226 tigers as per the 2014 census;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 43 years of project tiger, initiated in 1973, have successfully resulted in meeting the objectives and has utilized allocated financial resources; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no emphasis on major issues on those threatening ecosystems?

New Policy initiatives for protection of environment

222. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new policy initiative after June, 2014 to ensure further protection of environment in the country, if so, the details and 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 and if so, the details thereof and their impact?

Introduction of CNG vehicles to reduce atmospheric pollution

223. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in the country having CNG stations for vehicles;

(b) how far it has been helpful in reducing the atmospheric pollution as per the regulated measures in those cities;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering recommending the introduction of CNG for vehicles in all the major cities of the country to deal with the challenges of atmospheric pollution which is constantly deteriorating from bad to worse; and

(d) if so, how and by when it proposes to bring such plan into effect?

Government's stand on Gadgil or Kasturirangan reports

224. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adopted a final stand on the Gadgil or Kasturirangan reports on preservation of environment in the western ghats;

(b) what is the status at present;

(c) whether, in the backdrop of complaint of serious damage being inflicted on western ghats in various States, Government intends to adopt a stand and decision on these reports; and

(d) if so, by when and the approach to this issue?

Advisory for air pollution

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

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has notified an advisory for each category of air pollution and the action to be taken by the State Governments/Delhi Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is monitoring air quality of the national capital during the last three months and if so, whether any emergency measures have been suggested for meeting the alarming situation, especially after Diwali;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present air quality situation in NCT of Delhi and the measures suggested for the coming peak winter season?

Disappearance of lakes due to unregulated urbanisation

226. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of lakes across the country are either rapidly disappearing or their water becomes unfit for use due to unregulated urbanisation;

(b) whether Government, in consultation with the State Governments, proposes to bring in a mechanism to revive lakes especially in big cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to revive lakes across the country?

Revival of urban lakes

227. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that urban lakes across the country are rapidly vanishing or their water become unfit due to encroachment or any change of land use pattern by State Governments;

(b) whether the Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, proposes to bring in comprehensive mechanism to revive urban lakes across the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that as much as 85 per cent of Bengaluru city's water bodies are severely polluted and are in the lowest grade of quality; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government?

Environmental pollution by landfill sites of Delhi

†228. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) the scientific steps being taken in controlling and curbing environmental pollution caused by landfill sites in Delhi;

(b) the quantity of garbage being dumped per day at Gazipur, Bhalaswa and Okhla landfill sites in Delhi and the extent of damage being caused to the environment due to emission of harmful elements therefrom; and

(c) the extent of success being achieved by the mechanism in place for controlling emission of harmful elements from these places and the extent of pollution in the environment?

Compensation of crop loss damaged by wild animals

†229. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism in place for compensating the loss of farmers' crops damaged by wild animals;

(b) the quantity of farmers' crops damaged by wild animals per year and the arrangement being made by Government to prevent this;

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers themselves have to bear the loss of their crops damaged by wild animals due to which they are facing heavy losses per year; and

(d) whether Government would develop any mechanism for making up the loss of farmers' crops, damaged by wild animals?

Revision of guidelines for CA land having vegetation

230. SHRI DILIPKUMAR TIRKEY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Ministry regarding revision of guidelines for Compensatory

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Afforestation (CA) land having vegetation;
and

(b) if so, the views of the Ministry in this regard?

Polluted discharge by Industrial Units in Delhi

231. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per reports of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) more than 30 per cent water discharge from Industrial Units after treatment is actually polluted and poisonous;

(b) if so, the reasons for poisonous water despite a claim that it had been treated by Industrial Units; and

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

Assessment of water quality of Tamiraparani river

232. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made any assessment of the quality of the water of Tamiraparani river under its National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP) in the past;

(b) if so, the number of times it has been made in the past;

(c) the outcome of the assessment made by each time; and

(d) the decision arrived at by Government regarding categorizing the river as non-polluted, polluted, highly polluted etc.?

Expenditure on advertisements in print media

233. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on advertisements in various print media by the Central Government during 2014-15 to 2016-17;

(b) the expenditure incurred on advertisements in radio, FM radio and TV channels during the above period;

(c) the expenditure incurred on advertisements in social media during the above period;

(d) how many advertising agencies are empanelled for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the names of such agencies and the details of payments made during 2014-15 to 2016-17 by the Central Government?

Status of TRAI's recommendations

234. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on multiple issues have been pending with the Ministry since 2013;

(b) if so, the action taken on these recommendations particularly on media ownership rules across TV, radio and print media;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any communication from TRAI in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

**Clearance by CBFC for release of film
Padmavati**

235. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has still not given permission for the release of the film 'Padmavati' in the country; and

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

**Grant of upgraded pay scales in
Prasar Bharati**

236. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of categories of posts in Prasar Bharati as on 25th February, 1999;

(b) the details of eleven categories of posts/staff who were granted upgraded pay scales *vide* letter No. 310/173/97-B(P) dated 25 February, 1999 and left out categories of posts who were deprived of upgraded pay scale;

(c) whether the eleven categories of upgraded posts and the deprived categories enjoy the same status or otherwise; and

(d) whether the Ministry is contemplating to grant upgraded pay scale to left out categories since recommendation of Committee of Joint Secretaries has not yet been implemented, even after lapse of six years?

**Closed mines operating after MMDR
Amendment Act, 2015**

237. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closed mines allowed

to operate after the enactment of The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated under National Mineral Exploration Trust, so far, and the actual utilization during the last two years and the current year?

**Allocation of funds to Chhattisgarh for
e-Panchayat MMP**

†238. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) and the present status thereof;

(b) the details of the funds allocated to Chhattisgarh and utilized under this project;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from Chhattisgarh Government regarding increase in the funds allocation under this project and if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government proposes to start a new scheme for computerisation and networking of all panchayats in the country including those in Chhattisgarh and if so, the details thereof?

**Manpower requirements in
Panchayats**

239. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has identified manpower requirements in Panchayats such as Engineers and Chief Executive Officers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether a roadmap is under consideration for reintroducing functional Panchayati Raj; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Central schemes implemented through PRIs

240. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of Central schemes are now being implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for associating people with Panchayats who have appropriate training and knowledge; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of work on National Highways

241. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways works being undertaken by the Ministry along with the details of length and cost in Hyderabad, Karnataka (Article 371(J) region in Karnataka;

(b) the details of works which have commenced and by when they will be completed; and

(c) the status of remaining works?

Funds for bus terminals

242. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is contemplating provision of funds for bus terminals in States with a view to improve the transport system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has already received any proposals from any State Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of funds being provided by the Ministry under this scheme?

Target for construction of National Highways

243. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for construction of National Highways during the year 2017-18;

(b) the percentage of the targets that have been achieved, till date;

(c) the targets fixed for construction of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region during 2017-18 and how much progress has been achieved; and

(d) the steps taken for expediting the achievement of the targets?

Payment of compensation for land acquired for NH-57

†244. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-57 has been operational for about ten years, yet its construction work has still not been completed;

(b) whether the compensation has not been given to the people for acquiring their land situated by the road;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of land owners between Sakari to Forbesganj who have not yet received compensation due to which the road remains incomplete; and

(d) by when this road would be completed and people would receive compensation for their land?

Four lane roads in Himachal Pradesh

245. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of four lane roads have been approved in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, road-wise and whether the work for the aforesaid roads have been sanctioned/awarded;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the work is likely to be completed?

Construction of roads in Kerala

246. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the roads, including those under PMGSY, built in Kerala during each of the last three years; and

(b) the status of roads under construction?

Construction of bypasses

247. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked

to prepare an action plan to build bypasses for the 10 top cities across the country;

(b) whether NHAI has been asked to prepare an action plan to integrate systems on State Highways and entry points for seamless payment of toll charges through RFID tags;

(c) whether Government is considering to chalk out a plan for measuring and publishing the congestion data of entire network of Golden Quadrilateral and East-West Corridor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of highways

248. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to build 83,677 km. of highways by March, 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bharatmala Pariyojana is also included therein; and

(d) if so, the details of remaining road projects and the value of these projects?

Shortage of truck drivers

249. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that lakhs of trucks in the country are not plying on roads due to shortage of drivers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country has a shortage of 22 lakh drivers;

(c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to train drivers with the help of States; and

(d) the reasons for not making driving, an important skill development initiative?

Distance-based toll charge

250. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce the distance-based toll charge system in place of open toll charge policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this new policy would be implemented?

Pace of road construction

251. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of road construction rose to 22.5 km. per day in 2016-17, up from 16.6 km. per day in 2015-16;

(b) whether in 2016-17, 16,271 km. of road projects were awarded as against 10,000 km. awarded in 2015-16;

(c) whether the pace of road construction rose 36 per cent to 8,231 km. in 2016-17 as compared to the previous financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Deaths in road accidents

252. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least 410 people lost their lives daily in road accidents across the country during the last year as compared to 400 lives in 2015;

(b) whether the rate of rise in fatalities came down in 2016 as compared to the previous year;

(c) whether nearly 1.5 lakh people were killed in accidents last year as compared to 1.46 lakh in 2015; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Modern bus terminals in States

253. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is willing to bear a percentage of cost of modern bus terminals being set up in States;

(b) whether the proposed help is only relating to bus terminals being set up with international standards;

(c) whether there are any plans to replicate London Transport Authority model in the country; and

(d) to what extent the proposed international standard bus terminals would help in reducing automobile growth in the country which now stands at 22 per cent?

Widening of Katni-Gumla NH-43

†254. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of widening of NH-43 from Katni to Gumla is in progress;

(b) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed therefor and whether the work

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

is being done as per the fixed time-limit;

(c) whether soil is being dumped on the road in haphazard manner while undertaking this work due to which people are facing problems in commuting; and

(d) whether, due to widening of highways drivers face problems of poor visibility caused by dust and slackness is being noticed in adhering to the rules for sprinkling water and taking other precautionary steps?

Rise in road accidents

255. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether big cities of the country have reported big rise in road accidents in 2016 as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the number of road accidents and the number of people who died in such accidents during the last two years, National Highway-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government has assessed the major reasons for road accidents, if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to prevent the road accidents and spread awareness in this regard?

Status of BBIN MVA

256. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bhutan has backed out and more recently Bangladesh is also expressing its reluctance to BBIN MVA;

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

(e) whether India has made a fresh pitch to fast track the BBIN MVA?

Rehabilitation of old bridges

257. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are about 1.6 lakh structures, including culverts, minor and major bridges and flyovers on National Highways network;

(b) whether Government has asked the National Highways Authority of India and the State Public Works Departments to undertake immediate repair or rehabilitation work on structures that require immediate attention;

(c) whether Government has also instructed for rehabilitation of the bridges, if the cost of repair or strengthening is more than 30 per cent of the cost of the bridge; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Highway projects in Tamil Nadu

258. DR. V. MAITREYAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accorded in-principle sanction to various proposals from Tamil Nadu Government for the National Highway projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of projects approved or yet to be approved and the amount earmarked therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to introduce state-of-the-art technology in carrying out widening of National

Highways and construction of bridges and Road over Bridges (RoBs) with PPP mode; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the list of those projects approved and carried out and the total amount earmarked therefor?

Women taxi drivers

259. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide taxi driving permit to women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special initiatives have been undertaken for increasing women taxi drivers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Financial package for improvement of highways in Tamil Nadu

260. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced a financial package for improvement of highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for each project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of first Bharatmala highway project

261. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of first Bharatmala highway project and by when it is likely to be launched;

(b) the details of the projects to be covered in various States including their cost;

(c) whether NHAI is empowered to appraise, approve and bid-out projects to cut down delay;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared and approved by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, by when DPR will be cleared for launching the project?

Rehabilitation of old bridges

262. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 23 bridges and tunnels on National Highways are over 100 years old of which 17 require rehabilitation or major maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as many as 123 other bridges in the country require immediate attention and 6000 are structurally distressed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of highways network

263. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 40,000 km. of highways will be expanded till 2022, which includes about 24,000 km. covered under Bharatmala Pariyojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of 10,000 km. of highways annually has the potential of generating four crore mandays; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Unfit truck drivers

264. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey has found that majority of truck drivers in the country have weak eyesight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

Measures to make NHAI more efficient

265. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Committee set up by Government to suggest measures to make National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) more efficient, has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the action is likely to be taken thereon?

Skill development of rural youth

266. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unskilled rural youth, both men and women, in the country;

(b) what are the schemes available to impart skill development for rural youth and the amount allocated therefor during 2014-17; and

(c) how many rural youth, both men and women, were skilled and given jobs during 2014-17?

Performance of DILRMP in Karnataka

267. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) which has been revamped into the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP);

(b) the details of districts identified in Karnataka under DILRMP and the status of digitization of land records in these districts, district-wise;

(c) whether there are any plans to take up the remaining districts in the State under DILRMP;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Underutilisation of MGNREGA funds

†268. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual expenditure incurred by Government on providing 100 days employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is far below the budgetary provision;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government balances it; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the number of people who should have been provided employment under MGNREGA and the number of people who actually got employment under the same during the last three years, year-wise?

Review of SAGY

269. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to review the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) in the near future and address the problems faced by MPs at ground level;

(b) the details of measures taken for better implementation of SAGY during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) whether Government intends specific fund allocation for the programme and if so, the details thereof?

Women employment in rural areas

270. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of women employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has decreased over the years in rural areas;

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

(c) the number of women workers who were provided employment under MGNREGA during the last three years, year-wise and State/UT-wise?

Survey of wastelands

271. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not maintaining centralized data regarding extent of wastelands across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will now come forward to make efforts to assess the extent of wastelands spread across the country so that they can be reclaimed in a scientific and holistic manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of barren land into arable land

†272. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new plan to convert barren land in the country into arable land and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has directed the State Government to maintain statistics of barren land situated in their States under this scheme and if so, details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has been implementing any plan to convert barren land into arable land in previous years also and if so, the details of converted arable land during the last three years, State-wise?

Loan from IDA for implementing NRLM

273. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a huge sum of loan from the International Development Association (IDA) for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of those districts and blocks in the identified States where this loan has been utilised including in Haryana;

(c) the extent to which the States have benefited therefrom;

(d) whether Government proposes to cover the remaining districts under any other loan scheme in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Performance of rural development schemes

274. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural development schemes with employment potential which are under implementation in the country at present; and

(b) how have these schemes performed, so far, especially in the context of assets creation and employment generation?

Release of MGNREGA funds to Andhra Pradesh

275. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds to the tune of ₹ 1,100 crore are yet to be released to Andhra Pradesh under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), so far;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any

steps to release these funds to the State at the earliest and if so, the details thereof?

Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban Mission

276. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched the Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) for the development of basic infrastructure in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh proposed to be linked to the scheme;

(d) whether any villages of Kurnool are also included in the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantum of funds earmarked and released, so far, under this scheme to Andhra Pradesh?

Implementation of SAGY

277. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the first Adarsh Gram under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY);

(b) whether any progress has been made so far, on development of the second phase of SAGY to be completed by 2019; and

(c) if so, the details of developed villages adopted by MPs under SAGY, so far, State/Union Territory-wise?

Impact assessment of development in Gram Panchayats under SAGY

278. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted an impact assessment in Gram Panchayats that have been adopted under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana to measure the development of the Gram Panchayats;

(b) whether schemes like National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and National Health Mission (NHM) have been utilised and has proved to be successful in improving the health conditions of the people and if so, the details of impact assessment reports, State-wise; and

(c) the number of people benefited therefrom, State/UT-wise including in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan?

Delay in payment of MGNREGA wages in Andhra Pradesh

279. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed that ₹ 11.37 crore of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages of 39 mandals in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh are pending for disbursal with Postal Department;

(b) what are the reasons that the Postal Department is not disbursing even after passing of more than 90 days; and

(c) what monitoring mechanism the Postal Department has to ensure that wages are paid to workers in time and what action the Ministry is taking against errant officials who fail to perform their duty of regular payment of wages to workers?

Utilisation of MGNREGA funds

280. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) utilised by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Gujarat during the financial years 2009-10 to 2017-18;

(b) the details of the 'man labour' employment provided under MGNREGA by the various States; and

(c) whether any State Government has requisitioned more funds in 2017-18 under MGNREGA in light of recent drought conditions and if so, the Central Government's response thereto?

Delay in payment of wages under MGNREGA

281. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Supreme Court's earlier directives for timely payment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages and compensation for delay in payments, 72 per cent of payments due since September, 2017 are pending with 3.6 lakh workforce facing payment delays of over a month;

(b) whether the delay in payment of wages has become more complicated with the introduction of Central Public Fund Management System maintained by the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) whether the MGNREGA Sangharsh Morcha's study over delay in payment of wages reveals that Government wants to

curtain the outgo of allocations by delaying payments?

Pay revision under MGNREGA

282. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last revision of pay of labourers undertaken for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the pay keeping the view of rising prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Payment due for West Bengal Government

283. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money due from the Central Government to the Panchayat and Rural Development Department of the West Bengal Government; and

(b) by when this payment will be made by the Central Government?

Situation of basic science research

284. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic science research in the country is in dire straits with the advent of the Information Technology (IT) era;

(b) whether Government realizes the fact that without strong and continuing R & D, progress relying on technologies such as IT will be like building a grand superstructure on a feeble foundation; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government is taking to step up its spending from 0.8 per cent of the GDP?

Upgradation/development of new harbours/ports

285. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed a plan to upgrade/modernize ports and develop new harbours in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected cost of the modernisation plan and the anticipated time by which Government is planning to complete and implement the project?

Road map for development of waterways

286. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any study regarding potential available for development of waterways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any blue-print has been drawn to have a road map for development of waterways to boost passenger and freight traffic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increasing efficiency of major ports

287. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the cargo traffic handled by each port during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any step has been taken to

construct additional berths/terminals in any port in Tenth Plan period;

(c) if so, the present situation in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase efficiency of major ports?

Dredging works in rivers of Bangladesh

288. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will undertake dredging works in the rivers of neighbouring country Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for ignoring Indian rivers for dredging where enormous silt deposition is one of the major causes of floods?

Defunct textile mills

†289. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of defunct textile mills during the past few years; and

(b) the details of amount not paid under various heads to the labourers working in those mills and updated information on measures taken for their payment?

Assessment of small and medium industries

†290. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government possesses the social-economic profile and geographical

distribution data of the handloom artisans, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made an assessment of such small and medium industries which have been either closed or badly affected due to the adverse impact of GSP, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the proposed measures for such loss making and closed industries, the details thereof?

Extension of TUFS schemes

291. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which was existing earlier has been extended;

(b) if so, the details of the major beneficiaries of TUFS;

(c) the details of the source of TUFS;

(d) the total amount utilized under TUFS so far; and

(e) the total amount of subsidy sanctioned under TUFS?

Setting up of textile parks by A.P. Government

292. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed textile parks in Andhra Pradesh, park-wise;

(b) the status of each park;

(c) whether due to non-setting up of textile parks by Andhra Pradesh Government more than 30,000 people are deprived of potential employment opportunities;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of money sanctioned, approved, released and spent on each of the above park, park-wise;

(e) what is the time and cost escalation; and

(f) whether the Ministry can call a meeting with all the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and find the reasons for delay and issue directions to quicken the process of setting up of parks?

Implementation of new Weavers' Insurance Scheme

293. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented a new Weavers' Insurance Scheme after scrapping the earlier Insurance Scheme meant for weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new Weavers' Insurance Scheme has been fully implemented across the nation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dilution of Mandatory Packaging Materials Act, 1987 on Textile

294. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mandatory Packaging Materials Act, 1987 on textiles specially jute bags used in food packaging by Food Corporation of India is being diluted; and

(b) whether it would be restored to earlier levels by Ministry and if so, by when the Ministry will restore it?

Rehabilitation of closed textile mills' workers

295. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills in the country and the number of those closed down during the past three years, particularly post demonetization;

(b) the number of closed mills in the State of Karnataka;

(c) the number of employees of such mills in the State who have been rendered jobless; and

(d) whether Government proposes to rehabilitate mill workers who have been rendered jobless in the State?

Export of Textile Goods

296. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge resources, the country is far behind in export of textile goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the main reasons for India not being able to compete with China in export of textiles goods; and

(d) whether Government has taken adequate steps to tide over the problems of textiles industry to increase its export share in global perspectives?

Incentives for exporters of garments under MEIS

297. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has doubled or is planning to double the incentives for exporters of garments and made-ups under the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) to support declining textile exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is planning to make such more initiatives to support and encourage textile exports?

Subsidy for weavers' education enrolled in NIOS

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to provide subsidy for weavers' education enrolled in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the courses would be related to their profession along with marketing, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether adequate publicity of the scheme has been given in weaver clusters in the country; and

(e) if so, the response of the weavers and how many of them have been enrolled during this year, with details, State-wise?

Setting up of facilitation centres for textiles and handloom industry

299. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up facilitation centres for textiles and handloom industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such centres would have state-of-the-art facilities including a laboratory;

(c) whether such centres would be opened at numerous locations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Provisions for recruitment to post of Technical Superintendent (Weaving and Processing)

300. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the candidatures of the Diploma holders from the Assam Textile Institute for the post of Technical Superintendent (Weaving and Processing), have been rejected by the Ministry on the ground that the diploma course offered by the Institute is named only as Diploma in Textile Technology and not as Handloom and Textile Technology;

(b) if so, the reasons for absence of any provision in statutory rules for recruitment to the post of Technical Superintendent (Weaving) in Weavers' Service Centre; and

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

Inter-linking of rivers in Odisha

301. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to inter-link any river of Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering

to connect Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput region of Odisha by water linking; and

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

Rainwater harvesting

‡302. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rainwater harvesting may prove to be the most effective measure to do away with water crisis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rainwater harvesting in the country is less than expected;

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

(e) whether several steps have been taken during the last three years for rainwater harvesting which have yielded positive results; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Floods in North Eastern and Eastern rivers

303. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has investigated the causes for floods in north-eastern and eastern India in 2017;

(b) if so, the causes thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the desilting activities undertaken by the Centre, since 2014, with

special emphasis on dams that fall under Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), river-wise, dam-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to augment the storage capacity of dams with special emphasis on the dams which fall under DVC, since 2014, river-wise, dam-wise?

Task force for implementation of Namami Gange Programme

304. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a task force for speedy implementation of Namami Gange Programme;

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

(c) the time by which the said project would be completed in all respects; and

(d) the effective measures proposed to be taken by Government for keeping Ganga river clean?

Availability and demand for fresh water

305. SHRI K. K. RAGESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing fresh water scarcity; and

(b) if so, the details about gap in availability and demand for fresh water State-wise?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Plantation programme for Ganga rejuvenation and cleaning

306. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized a massive plantation programme along the river as part of the Ganga rejuvenation and cleaning programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the cost likely to be incurred?

Inter-linking of rivers

†307. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court had issued directions for inter-linking of rivers on 27th February, 2012; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Special Committee was constituted by Government in the light of the said direction and if so, then the details of the relevant scheme and the current status thereof?

Revised estimates of Polavaram Irrigation Project

308. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sent proposals to Central Government revising the estimates of Polavaram Irrigation Project as per rates prevailing on 2013-14 in the month of August, 2017, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has approved the revised estimates and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons for delay in approving the estimates?

Maintenance and preservation of water bodies

309. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in possession of land records which includes details about water bodies which is *sine qua non* for the maintenance and preservation of water bodies in the backdrop of increasing water stress in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Objectives of inter-linking rivers

310. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has put river linking projects on fast track, but at least four States have raised objections to the project(s) falling in their area;

(b) if so, the details of the project selected for development;

(c) the names of States and the objections raised by them, State-wise and the steps taken to resolve their objections;

(d) whether there is any likelihood to start work on any of the projects during the current financial year; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Per capita availability of water

311. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans/schemes formulated and implemented to conserve water together with the present status of those plans/schemes;

(b) whether India has 18 per cent of the world's population but has only 4 per cent of total usable water resources;

(c) whether annual per capita availability of water is decreasing drastically and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether 90 per cent of waste water discharged in rivers fails to meet environmental norms and 65 per cent rainwater runoff goes into the sea and if so, the steps taken to check wastage of water?

Norms for bore water usage

312. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce certain norms and guidelines for usage of bore water in the country keeping in view the reckless usage of underground water through borings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) time by which these guidelines would be enforced and the details thereof?

Irrigation project under PMKSY in Rajasthan

313. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY);

(b) the number of irrigation projects identified and completed under scheme;

(c) the details of irrigation projects identified/undertaken in Rajasthan under the scheme;

(d) the details of the advanced technologies and methods adopted/likely to be adopted under scheme along with the funds provided therein, especially for Rajasthan; and

(e) other steps taken/being taken by Government for effective implementation of the PMKSY and to achieve its targets within the stipulated time envisaged therein?

Completion of irrigation projects in A.P. and Telangana

314. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in completion of the irrigation projects listed under Point ten in the Eleventh Schedule of A.P. Reorganisation Act in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) why the projects were not completed as per notified plan; and

(d) when would the projects be completed and put to use?

Financial irregularities in relief to Polavaram affected people

315. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that financial irregularities worth crores of rupees have taken place in relief being provided to Polavaram affected people;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that minors are being shown as majors by tampering records and giving them relief in order to get bribes;

(c) will the Ministry constitute a CBI inquiry into financial irregularities in giving financial relief to Polavaram affected people;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) amount of money so far spent on Polavaram by Andhra Pradesh Government and the Central Government as on 01.12.2017?

Status of Sardar Sarovar Dam

316. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sardar Sarovar Dam has started operation of power generation, irrigation and supply of drinking water in the nearby villages;

(b) if so, the present status of hydro generation (in megawatts), irrigation of farming areas and supply of water for domestic and commercial purposes therein;

(c) the details of achievement in rehabilitation of displaced families for the project therefor; and

(d) the time by which the project benefits will be fully available and entire socio-economic will be disposed thereof?

Plan to save dying rivers

317. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that country has been facing severe water crisis, as around 54 per cent of the country has turned into water stressed dust bowl with many rivers rapidly drying up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has chalked out any plan to save the dying rivers in the country and if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

River restoration projects in Tamil Nadu

318. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Tamil Nadu Government for Rivers Restoration Projects (RRPs), to restore river systems and water bodies in and around Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts;

(b) if so, details thereof and list of projects which were approved or to be approved and amount earmarked therefor;

(c) whether Government has any plans to introduce state-of-the-art technology in carrying out rivers cleaning and desilting under PPP mode; and

(d) if so, details thereof and list of projects which were approved and are operational during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Campaign to clean Ganga river

†319. DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a campaign to clean the Ganga river;

(b) if so, the details of the works being undertaken to clean the Ganga river;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines/notification to punish/penalise the offenders for throwing filth into the Ganga river; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and number

of people penalised as on date in this regard during the current five year plan?

Villages selected under Jal Kranti Abhiyan

†320. DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan and State-wise details of the number of villages selected/to be selected under this scheme;

(b) factors which determine the priority list of Jalgrams;

(c) amount that would be provided to supply pure drinking water to the Jalgrams, facing scarcity of drinking water; and

(d) by when the problems of all identified Jalgrams would be addressed?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th December, 2017
Agrahayana 21, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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