

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, December 20, 2017/Agrahayana 29, 1939 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Commerce and Industry; Culture; Home Affairs; Labour and
Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and
Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Steel;
Tourism; Youth Affairs and Sports)**

Total number of questions — 160

Increase in trade deficit

481. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports have drastically come down due to which the foreign trade deficit has reached at an alarming level;

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

(c) the names of countries with which India has registered favourable trade balance during the last three years, sector-wise and year-wise?

India - Canada CEPA talks

482. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the 10th round of the India-Canada

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) talks held in August, 2017 both sides are still looking for a breakthrough in long-pending negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has agreed to accept clauses like Ratchet and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) in services and investment, if so, the list of sectors India has agreed to?

Dumping of Chinese steel

483. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel industry in the country has been facing innumerable problems due to dumping of Chinese steel and downward trend of international steel markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/being

taken by Government to safeguard the indigenous steel industry?

Fall in growth of manufacturing sector

†484. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that growth of manufacturing sector has witnessed unprecedented decline;

(b) if so, the details of growth in manufacturing sector, including leather, textiles, steel, etc. during the last two years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has assessed the impact of this decline on Indian industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures Government has taken in this regard?

Impact of 'Make in India' programme on industries

485. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Make in India' programme has become a total failure;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are adverse impacts on Indian industries resulting in several youths becoming jobless, if so, the reasons therefor, including the number of people

who have lost their job, sector-wise and State/UT-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard especially with regard to the possible impact on Indian industries?

Trade between India and European countries

486. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of trade carried out between India and European countries during the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) whether there is adequate potential for Indian exports to these countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to increase the exports to these countries and to explore the new markets; and

(d) the success achieved by Government in this regard?

Protection against cheap and sub-standard imports

487. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any measures to protect the interest of Indian manufacturers against cheap and sub-standard imports;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any step is being taken to promote that the goods imported into India have some local sourcing connection; and

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

the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to arrest this fall of Indian brand in the international market?

Expenditure on 'Startup India' programme

488. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Startups have been benefited under the 'Startup India' scheme;

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred by Government over the 'Startup India' programme; and

(c) what is the estimated number of people employed in these 'Startups'?

Pending FDI proposals

489. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending FDI proposals and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of FDI proposals that have been cleared since 2014, till date; and

(c) the details of FDI proposals that have been rejected since 2014 till date, the reasons therefor?

Fall in Indian brand value

490. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian brand value has fallen in the international market,

Increase in imports

491. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India imported goods worth 19 billion US dollars in 2017 as compared to 13.5 billion US dollars in the previous year;

(b) whether the appreciation of the rupee allowed Indian importers to purchase larger quantities of goods at lower prices; and

(c) if so, what right steps are being taken by Government to encourage domestic industry so that it could generate income and jobs and reduce India's dependence on imports, giving boost to 'Make in India'?

Decline in trade

†492. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import and export from India in terms of both rupee and US dollar during the last three financial years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively and the current financial year; and

(b) the details of the items showing declining trend in both these sectors and the main reasons for slow down therein?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shift in manufacturing and export strategy

493. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a shift in India's manufacturing and export strategy with a focus on new emerging sectors such as genomics, while giving a thrust to export of goods that are not currently among the top 10 items shipped out of the country;

(b) whether India has to put in place its own model as it seeks to increase the share of manufacturing in GDP from the current level of under 30 per cent to increase employment and also help agriculture in segments such as food processing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on CSR by PSUs

494. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by each Maharatna PSU of the Ministry during the years 2014-15 to 2016-17; and

(b) the total expenditure on CSR for SCs/STs by each Maharatna PSU during the years 2014-15 to 2016-17?

Implementation of GST under the Ministry

495. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of GST in various sectors under the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that ₹ 65,000 crores are to be refunded to exporters during July-October, 2017;

(c) if so, details of steps taken to quicken the process to return their dues in a time-bound manner;

(d) whether it is also a fact that seven export promotion councils represented this matter to the Ministry; and

(e) if so, what action has so far been taken in this regard?

India's ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business'

496. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) India's rank in the 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings;

(b) to what extent the easing of procedures to get construction permit helps India to climb its 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the World Bank officials travelled to Delhi and Mumbai to assess the procedures eased by the country to take a final call on rankings; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

New Industrial Policy

497. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Industrial Policy of Government has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the overall reforms made in this policy; and

(c) if not, when is it going to be finalised and implemented?

Results achieved by 'Make in India' and 'Startup India' schemes

498. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that various initiatives launched by Government like 'Make in India' and Startup India' did not fructify desired results in both urban and rural areas;

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

(c) what action plan Government considers to give employment to highly educated youth of urban and rural areas?

Impact of antibiotics on shrimp exports

499. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of detection of antibiotics such as nitrofurantoin and chloramphenicol in shrimp exported from India have adversely affected its export to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative to prevent the use of antibiotics in aquaculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Measures to boost exports

500. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to prepare a new strategy to make country's exports a major source of economic growth;

(b) if so, what are the measures that are proposed to be taken to boost the exports; and

(c) what has been the contribution of exports to country's GDP during the last three years?

Transfer of salt pan land in Mumbai to Maharashtra

501. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending for transferring salt pan land in Mumbai Metropolitan Region to State Government of Maharashtra for construction of 'Affordable Housing' to achieve the objective of 'Housing for All by 2022'; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and by when it will transfer the land to the State Government?

Import of mobile handsets

502. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mobile handsets imported during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 along with the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the value of mobile handsets produced in the country during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has taken any step to encourage multinational companies to set up manufacturing units in the country pursuant to the announcement made by Prime Minister in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof along with the details of such units set up so far in the country?

Trade fairs/exhibitions at Pragati Maidan

503. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various exhibitions/ international trade fairs organized at Pragati Maidan, Delhi and the expenditure incurred thereon/the revenue earned by Government during the last three years;

(b) the main theme of the recently held India International Trade Fair and how many visitors attended the fair; and

(c) the details of participation of foreign companies and countries, the number of MoUs signed and quantum of foreign exchange earned?

Economic sanctions against North Korea

†504. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of those countries of the world which have imposed economic sanctions against North Korea;

(b) if so, the names of those countries which have imposed economic sanctions against North Korea;

(c) if so, on what basis North Korea is exporting commodities to India, the details thereof; and

(d) whether trade relations with North Korea exist despite sanctions?

Use of trade policy for employment generation

505. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to use trade policy as an effective instrument of growth by giving a thrust to employment generation, especially in semi-urban and rural areas; and

(b) if so, what steps are to be taken to implement the schemes seriously?

Fall in pharmaceutical exports

506. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the falling pharmaceutical exports from the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline and the percentage of exports by pharmaceutical sector in the financial years 2014, 2015 and 2016;

(c) whether Government is planning to come out with a report that will study the impact of fall in pharmaceutical exports on domestic growth in the country; and

(d) if so, the likely time by when the report will be made available?

Salient features of Project 'Mausam'

507. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Project 'Mausam' along with its present status;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised under this project, since its inception, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of States/countries involved under this project at present;

(d) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made so far and its response with the other countries?

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received complaints for modification, additional construction by some residents on Panchsheel-Gitanjali Road which falls within the jurisdiction of protected monuments viz. Begumpuri Masjid and Sarai Shahji; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken to demolish additional construction carried out by residents without permission of ASI?

Survey by ASI in the holy places of Karnataka

508. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last survey undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of the ancient buildings and religious sites in the holy places of Karnataka;

(b) what was the recommendation of the ASI; and

(c) whether Government proposes to ensure proper preservation of the heritage sites in the holy cities of Karnataka?

Declaration of Begumpuri Masjid and Sarai Shahji monuments in Delhi as protected monuments

509. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared Begumpuri Masjid and Sarai Shahji monuments in South Delhi as protected monuments and no construction or alteration/modifications in existing properties within a specific radius of these monuments is permitted without the permission of ASI;

Financial assistance under the Scheme of Building Grants

510. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance under the Scheme of Building Grants, including Studio Theatre to support voluntary cultural organisations and Government-aided cultural organisations, has been granted by Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance under the scheme granted during the last three years and the current year, organisation-wise;

(c) whether Government has conducted any inspection so as to ensure proper utilisation of grants; and

(d) if so, the details of irregularities found and the action taken against such organisations by Government, organisation-wise?

Funds to protected monuments in Maharashtra

†511. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government makes the budgetary allocation for the development of centrally protected monuments;

(b) if so, the financial assistance allocated and utilized by the Ministry during the last three years, for the various protected monuments in the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) the specific achievements made through these protected monuments?

Cultural mapping of India project

512. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of artists State-wise which have been recorded in the database of cultural mapping of India project, so far; and

(b) what fiscal and other support is being extended to them?

Promotion of cultural traditions, arts, literature, etc. of rural and tribal areas

†513. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to promote the cultural traditions, arts, literature, folk arts and songs of rural and tribal areas of the country that are becoming extinct, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made any study in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(c) the amount allocated/spent in this regard, the details thereof, State-wise including that of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government proposes to

establish regional offices, cultural centres/museums for the promotion and protection of various cultural fold arts, literature and traditions in the country?

NMMA 3D Project

514. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken by Government to digitally record and preserve the findings and archaeological evidences through National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) 3D Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same, circle-wise;

(c) the measures taken by Government to create *in situ* Archaeological Open Museum at Keezhadi and other important archaeological sites;

(d) whether Government has approved and sanctioned adequate funds for carrying out further archaeological excavations at Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this?

Price of photocopies at National Archives of India

515. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of photocopies at National Archives of India is way beyond the market price, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of photocopies is more expensive for foreign scholars;

(c) what steps have been taken by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to improve the outdated photocopiers and poor staff attitude, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any step has been taken by Government to improve restrooms, fresh water and canteen availability, the details thereof?

Digitisation of record and uploading on website by NAI

516. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Archives of India (NAI) has completed the digitisation of its records and its uploading on its website; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by when digitisation of records and its uploading on website are likely to be completed by NAI?

Vacant posts in ASI

517. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) a large number of Group A, B and C posts, to be filled through direct recruitment and promotion basis, are vacant for a number of years affecting the overall functioning;

(b) if so, details of sanctioned and vacant Group A, B and C posts in each of last three years;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the matter with SSC and UPSC to expedite filling up the vacant posts on urgent basis; and

(d) reasons for not filling the vacant posts as and when they fall vacant to be filled through promotion mode?

Drug syndicate operating from J & K

518. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is now contemplating to invoke stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 against those involved in a drug syndicate operating from Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the drug law enforcement agencies across the western region flagged off their concerns at a recent security review; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on freedom fighters' pension

519. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons are receiving pension under freedom fighters pension scheme;

(b) the State-wise figures thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this account?

Steps taken for protection of journalists

520. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the number of cases of violence against journalists and

the details of the number of convictions that have taken place in such cases:

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to provide protection to journalists, facing work related threats since 2014; and

(c) whether Government is considering setting up of an investigation unit to look into the cases of violence and threats to journalists with special emphasis on the cases of Gauri Lankesh, Dabholkar and Pansare?

Communal violence and tension in the country

†521. SHRI P. L. Punia: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of communal violence and tension in the country, the State-wise details thereof for the years 2014-15 and 2016;

(b) the extent of loss of life and property during such incidents, the State-wise details for the last three years;

(c) the names of organisations having role behind communal violence and tension and incidents of atrocities in the name of ghar wapsi (religious conversion), love jihad and cow vigilantism and the details of action taken against them; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued by Government to prevent far increasing incidents of communal violence and tension?

Setting up of new ICPs

522. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is considering to set up 13 new Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) to encourage India's engagements with its neighbours belonging to SAARC region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that putting in place systems that are able to interdict such elements while facilitating legitimate trade and commerce are among the principle objectives behind setting up the new ICPs; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that at the same time, the borders need to be secured against interests hostile to the country?

Repatriation of Chakmas from North-East States

523. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether presence of Chakma populations in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram creates perennial problems for two States;

(b) whether there is any plan to soon resume two failed Indo-Bangladesh dialogues (1992 and 1995) on repatriating Chakmas from North-East States and if so, the particulars thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) Government's detailed plan to solve the problems;

(d) whether Government is pondering granting citizenship to foreigners based on religion, if so, particulars thereof;

(e) whether it is constitutionally right to grant citizenship to foreigners purely on basis of religion; and

(f) whether all stakeholders in North-East States have been consulted regarding granting citizenship to foreigners?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Immigrants in different States

524. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any lists of immigrants from different States of the country;

(b) if so, the number of families reported as migrants since 1990 therefor;

(c) the details of action taken by Government on the settlement of the immigrants thereof; and

(d) the report of the North-Eastern States on the immigration issue therein?

Cases of murder, rape and fraud

525. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases regarding murder, attempt to murder, rape and fraud have been increasing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government to check such incidents in future?

Status of MPF in States

526. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme being formulated to equip the security system

with state-of-the-art technology in view of the increasing crimes in the country;

(b) whether Government has received requests from various States to provide more funds for Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) in their respective States and if so, the reaction of Government in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the current status of modernization of police forces in these States along with the other measures taken for modernization of State police forces in the country to tackle the prevailing situation of security and other cases?

Suicide cases in the country

527. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of suicide cases reported in the country during each of the last three years and the current year male, female, urban-rural, SC/ST and State-wise;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study to identify the reasons behind such cases; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Migrant smugglers and refugees

528. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government keeps record of migrant smugglers and refugees that enter India through the international borders of the country, if so, the details thereof with respect to the countries thereof;

(b) the borders that have the highest migrants smuggling into the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) which mode of smuggling into the country has been recorded as the highest in the last three years, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the measures taken by Border Security Force (BSF) and other forces at the borders to curb these activities, the details thereof?

Atrocities on Dalits/Mahadalits

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atrocities on Dalits/Mahadalits have increased in Bihar and other parts of the country;

(b) the reasons why incidents of negligence of local administration in curbing the incidents of atrocities on Dalits in the country keep coming to the fore; and

(c) the details thereof?

Violence in the name of checking cow smuggling

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the name of checking cow-smuggling, continuous

increase in violence has been registered in various parts of the country;

(b) the details of such violence in the country during the last three years where people have been beaten in the name of checking cow smuggling and the number of people who lost their lives in such cases, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government believes that the so called cow vigilantes are involved in spreading violence; and

(d) the details thereof?

Cooperation amongst BIMSTEC countries in disaster management

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government called for greater regional cooperation among BIMSTEC Nations—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand in disaster management and sharing of hydrological data among them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures suggested to share data to reduce human and material losses, in view of climate change, the details thereof?

Fake currency notes smuggled from Bangladesh

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fake currency notes seized in the country recently, with details like seizures, quantum of notes and number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of persons arrested, from January to end of October, 2017;

(b) whether Bangladesh is emerging as the main source of production and smuggling of fake 2000 rupee notes;

(c) if so, the measures taken to tighten the borders and to keep a vigil on the movement; and

(d) the efforts taken to bust the various racketeers in cooperation with the neighbouring countries including Nepal and Bangladesh?

Crimes in Delhi

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that on an average about twenty four snatching incidents and eight cases of robbery are reported in Delhi every day;

(b) what is the reported crime data in respect of snatchings, robberies, burglaries in the National Capital, in the last three years, year-wise and in how many cases, snatchers and robbers have been nabbed and prosecuted, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Delhi Police to prevent and control the situation including providing and monitoring CCTV cameras and to increase police patrolling to deter the miscreants, the details thereof?

Stand of Government on Rohingyas

534. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 40000 Rohingyas are staying in India;

(b) if so, the details of States and the number of Rohingyas staying there;

(c) in view of the recent crisis in Myanmar, why Government is not allowing deserving Rohingyas for taking shelter in the country on humanitarian grounds as was done earlier;

(d) the basis on which Government is saying that those who are seeking refuge are all insurgents or illegal migrants; and

(e) the final decision taken by Government on Rohingyas as of now?

Measures taken to substitute regional official language

†535. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the justification behind the compulsion of knowledge of English language in recruitment rules for grade 'C' and 'D' posts of Central Government in 'A' and 'B' regions of official language and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the measures taken to substitute the regional official language to build the equality of opportunity provided in Articles 14 of 16 of the Constitution with reference to 'a' above?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Compliance of annual programmes
issued by Department of Official
Language**

‡536. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken to ensure the compliance of annual programmes which are issued every year by the Department of Official Language in A, B and C regions; and

(b) the details of action to be taken in case of non-compliance of work as per the progressive review and set-up targets under official language?

**Conduct of National Anthem and
National Song**

537. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the decision taken by certain local administration on the singing of the National Anthem and National Song Vande Mataram;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the local administration has any authority on the conduct of National Anthem and National Song;

(d) whether the Central Government proposes any measures restricting the local administration on the conduct of National Anthem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Increasing the strength of paramilitary
forces**

538. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the strength of paramilitary forces in the country;

(b) if so, the paramilitary force-wise increase proposed; and

(c) the target fixed to recruit proposed increase in strength of forces?

Complaints of stalking

539. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints of stalking have been registered by women in last three years;

(b) how many of such complaints have been solved and the perpetrator has been identified by the police; and

(c) in how many cases the investigation is still going on?

Safe city plan for women

540. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has mooted 'safe city' plan for women in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features of these plans and the current status of the plan?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foreign funding received by NGOs

541. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foreign funding received by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in India in the last three years;

(b) whether certain NGOs have ceased to operate due to cancellation of licences for violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Rules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Strict law on road rage

542. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court has recently observed that a strict law on road rage is required to deal with the increasing incidents of road rage in the national capital and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to bring forward a legislation as desired by the Court; and

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

Snatching cases in the capital

543. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gangs of snatchers are operating fearlessly in the National Capital and even the ambassador of Ukraine was a victim recently when his phone was snatched near Red Fort;

(b) whether this fearlessness is because there is no stringent law to deal with the crime as Indian Penal Code only provides for two years jail term for snatching;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to bring forward more stringent law against snatching; and

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

Release of SRE fund to Odisha

544. SHRI DILIPKUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount under the SRE (Security Related Expenditure) of Odisha is lying unreleased with the Centre at present;

(b) the reasons for the delay in release of the SRE fund to Odisha; and

(c) by what time these funds will be released?

Proposal for marine police station in Odisha

545. SHRI DILIPKUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Odisha has sent a proposal to the Union Government regarding setting up of two marine police stations for Odisha Coast; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

Rise in cases of rape against children

546. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current edition (2016) of the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has compiled city-wise data on atrocities against dalits, involving crime against women;

(b) whether the NCRB data also reveals a sharp rise in cases of rape against children with an increase over 82 per cent as compared to 2015; and

(c) whether the NRCB figures reflect the number of crimes registered by the police and may or may not reflect the actual situation on the ground as well-policed States generally have a high crime rate as it ensures the registration of all reported cases?

Frame work agreement with NSCN(IM)

547. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported historic framework agreement between NSCN(IM) and Government for the formation of a greater Nagalim is likely to be signed soon;

(b) whether the representatives of six Naga National Political Groups have met the Government interlocutor in the run up to the signing of final accord; and

(c) whether Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have expressed apprehensions over the reported agreement with large chunks of their territories having been included in the proposed greater Nagalim?

Prevention of Torture Bill

548. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Revised Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 as recommended by a Select Committee on the Bill; and

(b) whether Government proposes to table the Revised Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 in Parliament?

Number of inmates with health issues

549. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of inmates who fall under various categories as on 30th June, 2017, State-wise, gender-wise and period of detention-wise viz. the number of inmates who are mentally ill; the number of inmates who are HIV positive; the number of inmates who have been diagnosed with TB and the number of inmates who have been diagnosed with cancer?

Special recruitment in BSF/CRPF

550. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to conduct special recruitment for various posts in BSF/CRPF to tide over the acute shortage;

(b) if so, whether any reservation has been made for persons belonging to the largest minority of the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Terrorist incidents in Kashmir valley

†551. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of security personnel who got martyred while combating terrorists in the Kashmir valley has increased considerably after the new Government came to power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of terrorist incidents that took place in the Kashmir valley during the last three years and the number of security personnel martyred in the above incidents, the details thereof?

Community policing for students

552. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of the Scheme of Community Policing for students in various States;

(b) whether Government has received requests from the States to provide Central aid for implementation of the Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance provided to the States so far, State-wise?

Cases of missing children

†553. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of missing children have come to notice from the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes

to formulate any plan to trace the missing children; and

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

State Governments asked to be vigilant during festive seasons

554. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the State Governments to be extra vigilant during the festive seasons against attempts by terrorists and subversive elements to disrupt peace and ignite communal tension;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments were also asked to be alert during the festivals against provocative sloganeering, especially near religious places by subversive elements; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was no specific input about any plan by terrorists to disrupt peace anywhere in the country?

Steps to prevent youths joining ISIS

555. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 100 persons from Kerala may have joined Islamic State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that youths from other parts of the country have also joined the IS; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent youths joining ISIS?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Drugs and narcotic substances
network in Telangana**

556. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large drugs and narcotic substances network was unearthed by Telangana Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the drugs and narcotic substances are easily available even to school and college students despite stringent laws and safeguards; and

(d) whether Government is considering to revise its policy and ensure safety of school and college children from the menace?

**Implementation of Andhra Pradesh
Reorganization Act**

557. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 recently;

(b) whether it is in the notice of Government that several issues are pending for resolution between both the successor States including division of Schedule IX and X institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Funding of terrorist activities

558. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illicit funds generated from the sale of drugs are being used for funding terrorist activities and illegal arms trade;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to tackle this menace; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that our young generation does not fall prey to drug mafias?

**Progress made in sending back
Rohingyas**

559. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made in sending back the Rohingyas who have crossed over to India illegally?

Article 35A and Article 370

560. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the status of abolishing Article 35A and Article 370 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir?

**Policy initiatives for effective
protection of borders**

561. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new policy initiatives after June, 2014 to ensure effective protection of country's borders; and

(b) if so, the details of these initiatives and what is the overall impact of these initiatives?

Cases of terror funding in J&K

562. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons so far investigated by National Investigation

Agency (NIA) in Jammu and Kashmir for cases relating to terror funding;

(b) the names of persons booked by the Agency for their involvement; and

(c) what is the status of the trial of such arrested people?

Increase of Legislative Assembly seats in Telangana

563. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh request from the Government of Telangana regarding increase of Legislative Assembly seats in Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no need to go for Constitution amendment for this purpose which can alternatively be done by amending the Section 26(1) of the AP Reorganisation Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is considering the matter by adopting this suggestion and if so, the details thereof?

Illegal phone exchanges

564. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of illegal phone exchanges thriving on SIM boxes using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) for criminal activities;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to

strengthen human intelligence in order to bust such large scale criminal activities?

Increasing the strength of Rapid Action Force

565. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to increase the strength of Rapid Action Force by adding five new battalions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move;

(c) whether Rapid Action Force battalions of CRPF have been located in several States;

(d) if so, the number of States that have submitted proposal for establishment of a Rapid Action Force battalion of CRPF in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such battalion is likely to be established in Rajasthan?

Cancellation of licence of NGOs

566. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has cancelled the licence of 4842 NGOs and organisations under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA);

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

(c) whether earlier also many NGOs failed to adhere to FCRA norms;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government therefor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with

the list of NGOs which got permission from the Ministry during the last two years?

(d) the remedial actions taken by Government?

Cyber crime in Jharkhand

567. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that three districts of Jharkhand viz. Giridih, Jamtara and Deoghar have earned notoriety in the field of cyber crime;

(b) whether it is a fact that these activities are taking place with the active collusion of certain sections of the local police;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on account of the above collusion, a large number of innocent village folk are being put to harassment by methods akin to identity theft; and

(d) what steps are being taken to address this menace?

Foreign citizens illegally residing in the country

568. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Rohingyas repatriated to their respective countries after due process of identification during the last three years;

(b) whether lakhs of citizens of Bangladesh and other countries are illegally residing in India and are involved in criminal/terrorist activities in the country;

(c) the details thereof and particulars of such cases reported during the said period, State-wise; and

Preparedness for disaster in Delhi

569. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken adequate measures to deal with adverse situation due to vulnerable profile and high seismic activities in Delhi;

(b) whether the elite forces have been kept in preparedness 24x7 and the response time is almost close to zero; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in violence and terror attacks

570. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violence and terror attacks across the country have increased in recent times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has lost nearly 500 lives of civilians and 300 jawans in maoist violence during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that we have also lost nearly 100 civilians and 200 soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the huge loss of lives and violence in the country?

Loss of paramilitary personnel

571. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past the country has lost many of its paramilitary personnel from CRPF, BSF, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to increase the compensation to personnel who sacrifice their life while in service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Multi speciality hospital in
Doddaballapura**

572. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ESIC has accorded permission to commission 100 bedded Multi Speciality Hospital in Doddaballapura Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) industrial area; and

(b) if so, when will the project be commissioned?

**Silicosis disease among labourers in
Chhattisgarh**

†573. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Silicosis' cases which come to light throughout the country in the last three years and concrete steps taken to protect labourers from dust released by mines and factories;

(b) the names of welfare schemes for the labourers working in the mines and factories which cause silicosis disease among them and the aid provided to such labourers in the last three years under such schemes;

(c) the number of deaths caused by this disease in Bemetara District of Chhattisgarh in the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

**Employment generated in public and
private sectors**

574. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment generated during 2017, till 15th December, in public and private sectors, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of employment generated during 2013, 2014 and 2015, sector-wise;

(c) whether task force set by Government on declining employment in the country has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the salient findings thereof?

**Proposal for postal ballot or e-ballot
for migrant labour**

575. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any records of the number of people who are unable to cast their vote in elections in their home State due to migration as labour;

(b) whether Government has taken any step for political inclusion of migrant labour; and

(c) whether postal ballot or e-ballot have been considered as options for making voting rights available to migrant labour?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Providing jobs for women in Gujarat

576. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2013 Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) report ranks Gujarat at 14th in a list of 22 States as far as providing jobs for women is concerned with about 33,456 females; and

(b) whether Gujarat had a higher level of gender-based wage disparity in most of the occupations and low paying employment opportunities?

Non-availability of permanent jobs

†577. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are not getting permanent jobs due to contractual/outsourcing process which is discouraging them;

(b) whether the Ministry proposes to issue such guidelines whereby people are not employed on contract/outsource for a long time and departments provide permanent employment to willing people;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to issue any guideline to curb bribing of middlemen for contract/outsourcing of employees; and

(d) the number of jobs given on permanent basis and those on contract, outsourcing in the last three years?

Requirement of skilled labour force

578. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the likely requirement of skilled labour force in the country including health services, industries, industrial units, e-services, etc. in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise particularly in the infrastructure sector;

(c) the measures taken by Government to provide the required skilled labour force in the country particularly in these sectors;

(d) whether any special scheme is being initiated in this regard; and

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

Creation of separate wing for overseas employment

579. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a separate wing for overseas employment of unskilled labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if such a wing is existing, the number of unskilled labour who were sent for overseas employment during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in unemployment rate

†580. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether rate of unemployment has expectedly come down during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rate of employment creation has remained on higher side during the last three years in comparison to the past;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a large part of workforce of the country is employed in unorganized sector for which the Central Government has taken several special steps during the last three years with the aim of providing maximum social security; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Same wages for same work

581. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of law that same job or service is supposed to get same wage/salary is violated everywhere in the country; and

(b) what action is being taken by the Ministry to maintain the law of the land so that no one can be discriminated further in this regard?

Increase in rate of unemployment after demonetisation

†582. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of unemployment has increased after demonetisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the rate of skilled and

unskilled unemployment in the country and the changes in it after demonetisation?

Minimum wages to domestic workers in the country

583. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to give legal status to domestic workers in the country to ensure minimum wages to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many domestic workers (men and women) of our country will be benefited through this step?

Creating employment opportunities

†584. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating creating employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard so far; and

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

Package for closed tea garden workers of West Bengal

585. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has provided any special financial package for the closed tea garden workers of West Bengal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment in Maternity Benefit Act

586. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees already on maternity leave will be eligible for enhanced paid leave under the amended Maternity Benefit Act which came into force on April, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there was confusion if employees already on maternity leave would get the benefit; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amended Act requires establishments with over 50 employees to provide creche facilities within a prescribed distance?

Covering of Indians working abroad under EPFO

587. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians working abroad can now exempt themselves from their host country's social security scheme and get covered by retirement fund body EPFO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an online facility to avail the benefit has been made functional;

(d) whether it is also a fact that EPFO has entered into an agreement with 18 countries in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Abolition of Child labour

588. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that child labour problem is still persisting in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is considering to take in order to abolish child labour from the country?

Unemployment amongst youth

589. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recognizes that unemployment amongst youths is an acute problem in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategies adopted/proposed by Government to address it in an effective way; and

(d) the schemes/programmes in the country launched by Government for eradication of unemployment during the last three years and the current year?

Legislation to regulate placement agencies/employment agencies

590. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to bring a legislation to regulate the placement agencies/employment agencies on pan India basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, such proposal is pending with Government, the reasons therefor?

Severe problem of under-employment in the country

591. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is facing severe problem of under-employment;

(b) what are the outcomes/suggestions of Niti Aayog;

(c) if so, then what are developmental measures Government is taking in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is thinking on boosting manufacturing and production industries to create more jobs with competitive workforce?

New policy initiatives for protection of interests of labourers

592. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new policy initiative after June, 2014 to ensure effective protection of the interests of labourers;

(b) if so, what are the details of these initiatives; and

(c) what is the overall impact of these initiatives?

Survey regarding employment and unemployment

†593. DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the employment in the

country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding employment and unemployment during 2016-17;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of this survey;

(d) whether the level of unemployment is lower among illiterates as compared to graduates; and

(e) if so, the preventive measures taken to address this problem?

Ratification of ILO's convention

594. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO's) convention ensuring decent working conditions for domestic workers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not getting the ILO's convention ratified;

(c) whether Government is considering opening of training institutes for the domestic workers so that they are brought under the skilled labour category; and

(d) whether the female domestic workers are provided with paid maternity leave by their employers?

Establishment of ESI hospital at Kurnool and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh

595. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

received any representation regarding establishment of ESI hospital at Kurnool and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken on the matter; if so, the details thereof?

Statistics about employment in organized and unorganized sector

596. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains statistics about employment in private sector, organized and unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details of employment provided in organized and unorganized sectors in the last three years and the current year, year-wise, sector-wise and State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and efforts made by Government to collect statistics of employment in organized and unorganized sectors; and

(d) how many people have gone abroad for employment during the above period, State-wise and year-wise, details thereof?

Awareness campaign for construction workers

597. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to launch an awareness creation campaign so that construction workers are aware of their rights under the Building and Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998 and the Building and

Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996;

(b) whether it is planning to create a grievance redressal mechanism for construction workers covered under the two Acts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Number of daily wagers working in private and public sector

†598. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total number of daily wagers working in private and public sectors in the country;

(b) whether there was a decline in employment opportunities in the unorganised sector in the country during last three years particularly due to demonetization, if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has carried out any study to assess the impact of demonetization on the employment market and if so, the details of such assessment carried out?

Concerns raised by MSMEs due to GST

599. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of GST on the apparel sector consisting primarily of micro, small and medium enterprises has led to decline in textile exports for the period from July to October, 2017 by 6 per cent, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the concerns raised by MSMEs;

(c) whether Government is introducing incentives like access to loans at discounted rates for MSMEs that comply with GST rules, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken to support MSMEs in transition to GST by addressing their concerns and building necessary capabilities?

achieved under PMEGP during the last three financial years;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to overcome these problems; and

(d) how much loans have been sanctioned for North-East India and how much employment has been created in North-East India under PMEGP during the last three financial years?

MSME units closed down/turned into sick units

600. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units closed down/turned into sick units;

(b) what are the factors contributing to the sickness;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to revive them; and

(d) the number of units revived during the last three years?

Sanctioning of loans under PMEGP

601. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is plagued by delay in the process of sanctioning loans and that job growth under the PMEGP has been steadily declining over the years;

(b) the number of jobs created/growth

Units assisted under PMEGP

602. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of units assisted under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is coming down over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units assisted and margin money utilized and employment generated during the last three years; and

(d) whether there is any proposal with Government to extend the assistance under this programme to the existing units?

Outlets of coir and coir products

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

(a) whether the domestic market for the coir and coir products is large enough to consume the entire coir production on an annual basis;

(b) how many outlets Government has throughout the country for selling the coir products; and

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the outlets are in a miserable condition and need immediate renovation and whether there is any proposal to increase the number of outlets, if so, the details thereof?

Panel to study problems of MSMEs

604. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly five lakh MSMEs have been closed down in various States of the country and nearly 2500 have been closed down in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the reasons for such closure and how the Ministry is addressing the reasons for closure and helping them to revive;

(c) why no specific panel was set up to study the problem being faced by MSMEs in the country; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up one such panel to study MSME problems and if not, the reasons therefor?

MSME projects in Andhra Pradesh

605. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is committed to encourage development of MSME projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the schemes being undertaken in the States in this direction;

(c) whether the Ministry has convened a meeting with State representatives at Delhi recently to discuss for Cluster

Development Programmes, if so, the details of the proposals received and considered for implementation under this programme;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose and quantum of funds released so far to each State, particularly to Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the details of ideas exchanged by the States in this regard?

Non-credit of LPG subsidy into bank accounts

606. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of LPG consumers have complained about non-credit of LPG subsidy amounts into their bank accounts since last few months;

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

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

Renegotiation with ExxonMobil for supply of gas

607. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been able to successfully renegotiate with ExxonMobil of Australia for supply of gas;

(b) if so, the details of the original deal and to what extent India is going to gain through the renegotiation;

(c) what are the reasons that GAIL is not able to renegotiate with Cheniere Energy from which it is going to get 3.5 million tonnes of LNG annually and 2.3 million tonnes from Dominion Energy; and

(d) how the Ministry is planning to renegotiate with US firms or will GAIL cancel those contracts?

In-principle approval for acquisition of HPCL by ONGC

608. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved in-principle a proposal of ONGC to acquire HPCL;

(b) if so, the status of this proposal;

(c) what has been the stand of the HPCL management and its employees on this acquisition; and

(d) whether Government has considered this?

Surrender of petroleum dealership license

609. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many petrol pump dealers have surrendered their dealership license during last one year;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of such surrendered license; and

(c) the reasons for which these pumps have surrendered/stopped selling petroleum products?

Merger of BPCL with GAIL/Oil India Limited

610. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BPCL is planning to merge with GAIL or Oil India Limited;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BPCL has also written to the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals and options that the BPCL has given for merger; and

(d) the reasons why a larger BPCL company with ₹ 2.42 crores of revenue generation and ₹ 8000 crores of profit earning will merge with less revenue generating GAIL at ₹ 48,800 crores with a little over ₹ 3000 crores as profit in the last fiscal year?

Gas connections under PMUY in Maharashtra

611. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise/Union Territory-wise number of gas connections distributed, including in Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the districts covered in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) what is the criteria to provide gas under Ujjwala Yojana in hilly areas;

(c) the number of gas connections distributed as per this criteria in Maharashtra, particularly in Pune district;

(d) whether Government has followed the necessary security measures to provide LPG connections to economically backward families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Opening of gas agency at Jangla,
Himachal Pradesh**

612. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation regarding opening of gas agency with godown facility at Jangla in Chirgaon Tehsil under Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government will open gas agency with godown facility at Jangla on priority basis as a special case for the benefit of people of six panchayats of Ransar Valley; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be opened?

**Shell company to provide technology
to oil PSUs**

613. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shell company is providing technology to Indian Oil PSUs to produce gas from coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Allotment procedure for petrol outlets/
LPG agencies**

614. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for allotment of petrol outlets and LPG agencies;

(b) whether any reservation has been made for minorities;

(c) the outlets/LPG agencies likely to be allotted in the State of Kerala;

(d) whether the sites have been identified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Employees in Indian Oil Corporation

615. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in Indian Oil Corporation in the category-top and bottom level;

(b) the total number of SC employees in Indian Oil Corporation in all categories;

(c) the total number of ST employees in IOC in all categories;

(d) the total number of vacancies for SCs/STs vacant at present;

(e) the total number of SCs/STs recruited by IOC during 2014-15 to 2016-17; and

(f) whether any SC/ST representation were provided in the Board of Directors of IOC so far, if so, the details thereof?

**Handing over majority equity stake in
ONGC to private companies**

616. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to allow private companies majority equity stake in some ONGC oil fields for augmenting production of oil and gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Auction of oil fields of ONGC and OIL

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

(a) whether Government plans to auction nominated fields of ONGC and OIL to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ONGC has sought level playing field to take part in such auctions; and

(d) whether ONGC and OIL employees' associations are opposed to the move maintaining that such a sale would demotivate the employees?

Toll free number of OMCs

†618. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether each Oil Marketing Company is having a separate helpline number but they are not toll free, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has issued instructions to these companies to make these numbers toll free at the earliest and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has started a 24 x 7 single toll free number 1906 for complaints regarding leakage of LPG in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of complaints received by companies on this helpline number and company-wise details of remedial action taken by these OMCs?

Exploration approval to ONGC and Oil India Limited

619. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has authorised Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to approve exploration and development activities of ONGC and Oil India Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of oil produced and explored in the financial years 2015, 2016 and 2017?

Training under PMKVY

620. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of people who were given training under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) till date; and

(b) the State-wise number of people who were given employment after training under PMKVY?

Opening of Regional Directorate for Apprenticeship Training Office in Odisha

621. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal for opening of Regional Directorate for Apprenticeship Training Office from the State Government of Odisha;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has approved the said proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far thereon; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when, a Regional Directorate for Apprenticeship Training Office is likely to be set up in Odisha?

Training of 2.4 million youth

622. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to train 2.4 million youth at 2500 training centres in the first phase;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the NSDC disbursed a sum of ₹ 1,099 crore out of the total budget of ₹ 1500 crore till March, 2017;
- (c) whether many State Governments had demanded inclusion of various skills under the training programme being conducted by NSDC; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Skill development training to unemployed youth

623. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) how many youths between 18 to 35 years of age group are unemployed in the country;
- (b) out of these, how many are imparted with skill development training;

(c) whether the training imparting Vocational Training Providers' (VTPs') registration has been stopped in the States; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to expedite skill development programme by increasing training institutes?

Achievements of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

624. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) how many people have been provided training under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), during the last two years;
- (b) out of the total number of people provided training, what is the number of youths given training under PMKVY from North-East India; and
- (c) how many people have gained placement/employment after getting training under PMKVY?

Skill development programmes for disabled

†625. DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the programmes being run by Government for the skill development of disabled in the country;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries of such programmes during the last two years, the year-wise details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated with regard to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

such programmes during the last two years, the year-wise details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to ensure jobs for people trained under such programmes; and

(e) the number of disabled employed after taking part in such programmes, the details thereof?

Proactive skill development programmes

626. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make skill development programmes more proactive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons in Haryana who have availed the benefits of the said programmes so far, district-wise?

Appointment of employees for works in Ministry, NSDC and NSDA

627. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed adequate number of employees for carrying out the works in the Ministry, NSDC and NSDA during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the detailed list of employees appointed so far and the total annual expenditure incurred under various heads including salaries and travel allowances;

(c) whether Government has taken any effective steps to increase the total number

of persons to be imparted skill training in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and total amount earmarked, allocated and spent so far during the last three years, year-wise and State/UT-wise?

Review of Ministry's performance

628. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made review of performance of the new Ministry looking into last three years; and

(b) whether any corrections have been made and its impact on improvement in livelihood of younger generation, the details thereof?

Integrated steel plant in YSR district

629. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13th Schedule to Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act mandates the Ministry to establish integrated steel plant in YSR district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for dragging it for years when infrastructure, land, etc. are readily available;

(c) whether a Committee was appointed to look into the feasibility and if so, what were the recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) whether it is a fact that when the Minister visited Andhra Pradesh recently, it was announced that a positive decision to set up the steel plant would be taken in one month; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Modernisation of SAIL plants

630. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken modernisation of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plants including the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of modernisation activities undertaken so far including the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu during the current fiscal; and

(c) the details of the amount spent in modernisation activities, plant-wise?

Establishment of Steel Plant at Bayyaram

631. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh request from Government of Telangana requesting to expedite setting up of steel plant at Bayyaram in Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay;

(d) the hindrances being faced by Government in its establishment, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in augmenting the execution of the work at the earliest?

Foreign and domestic tourists

632. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign and domestic tourists were there during 2015-16, 2016-17 and this year so far;

(b) whether there are any reasons for their increase or decrease that have occurred;

(c) whether Government has intended to improve the quantum of tourism; and

(d) what are the number of tourists from neighbouring countries during the period in part (a) above?

Study conducted on potential of tourism in the country

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the joint study conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Yes Bank has reported that Indian tourism has tremendous potential to grow if budgetary allocation is enhanced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereon;

(c) the efforts made by Government to enhance the arrival of foreign tourists in the coming years, upto twelve million; and

(d) the details of policy initiatives taken to develop medical and wellness tourism as India is known for superior quality health service and low treatment cost?

Increase in foreign tourist arrivals

634. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) has gone up;

(b) if so, the rate of FTA during last three years; and

(c) the main reasons therefor?

Development of Ramayana and Krishna circuits

†635. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has been developing a Ramayana circuit related to pilgrimage places of Lord Rama under tourism development;

(b) if so, by when the work of Ramayana circuit is to be completed;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to develop Krishna circuit also under tourism development;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a proposal has come to Government for developing other specific circuits including Sita circuit to connect the pilgrimage places under tourism development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Job creation along with development of tourism

636. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of new jobs can be created with the development of tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government for development of tourist places in the country; and

(c) the details of the new major tourism projects taken up by Government for tourism development in Karnataka?

Facilities for pilgrims in Chardham of Uttarakhand

637. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to facilitate ease of travel and stay for pilgrims in the Chardham of Uttarakhand;

(b) whether Government is aware of the abject lack of basic facilities for pilgrims travelling to Panch Kedars, other than to Kedarnath, in Uttarakhand; and

(c) what steps are being taken to facilitate pilgrims travelling to the Panch Kedars and ensuring availability of basic facilities?

Funds allocated to Bihar to promote tourism

†638. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prepared a number of programmes to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by Government in the budget for the year 2017-18 to promote tourism; and

(d) the amount allocated to Bihar out of the same, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Complaints from female sportspersons

639. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a
high-powered committee to examine
grievances and complaints of harassment
from female sportspersons;

(b) if so, the number of complaints
received till date; and

(c) the number and details of complaints
resolved till date?

**Plan to merge the Indian Super League
and I-league**

640. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to merge
the Indian Super League (ISL) and the
I-league in the next season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th December, 2017

Agrahayana 23, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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