

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, November 30, 2021/ 9 Agraphayana, 1943 (Saka)

(Ministries : Ayush; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Corporate Affairs; Finance; Health and Family Welfare; New and Renewable Energy; Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Power)

Total number of questions -- 15

Spread of dengue in the country

16 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the alarming situation of spread of Dengue disease in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the reports submitted by the study teams;
- (d) whether there is any related effect of this disease with COVID-19 virus disease; and
- (e) the precautionary and remedial measures being taken by Government to control further spread of the disease?

Decrease in detection of TB cases during pandemic

17 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the number of reported Tuberculosis (TB) cases have reduced by a big margin in the pandemic years;
- (b) whether lack of access to diagnostic facilities during the pandemic has resulted in a decrease in the detection of TB cases, leading to increased deaths, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country has missed its 2020-21 targets under the TB Elimination Programme;
- (d) if so, the measures adopted to tackle this; and
- (e) the amount spent and allocated for TB Elimination Programme during the last three years?

Double rate of interest on Home loans by NBFCs

18 # Shri Deepak Prakash:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are charging approximately double rate of interest on Home loans as compared to

Nationalized banks from the people residing in tier 1, 2 and 3 cities; and
(b) if so, the response of Government thereon?

Regulation of cryptocurrency in India

19 **Dr. K. Keshava Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study for regulating cryptocurrency in India;
- (b) the kind of overhaul that will be required to monitor cryptocurrency transactions;
- (c) whether Indian banks have the requisite technological system and training to regulate cryptocurrency transactions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

GST compensation after 2022

20 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the projected growth rate of revenue subsumed for the States during the transition date, which is 14%, is not attained by any State;
- (b) if so, whether Government intends to provide the GST compensation after 2022; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of medical devices, surgical supplies and equipments

21 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the demand of medical devices, surgical supplies and equipments are imported from abroad;
- (b) if so, the details of items imported during the last two years;
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up Medical Device Park in the States especially in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Amount deposited in dormant accounts

22 # **Shri Brijlal:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of dormant accounts in the financial institutions of the country that have remained inactive for more than a certain period;
- (b) whether the account holders are being informed after checking those accounts;
- (c) the total amount deposited in such dormant accounts, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action being taken on the amount deposited in these accounts in the absence of the account holders or the person nominated by them?

Volume of transactions in cryptocurrency

23 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has an estimate about the volume of transactions in cryptocurrency in India during 2020 and 2021 so far;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government proposes to regulate cryptocurrency in India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh

24 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released to Andhra Pradesh during the last three financial years under various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes;
- (b) the details of the above assistance, scheme-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the total assistance to Andhra Pradesh in the form of financial grants to the State during the last three years, grant-wise and year-wise;
- (d) the details of assistance to Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package; and
- (e) the details of assistance to Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana?

Allocation of eco-sensitive areas in Gujarat for energy projects

25 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the unsuitable conditions of the ecosystem in Kutch and whether that has been taken into consideration before allocating energy projects;
- (b) whether the Ministry has policy interventions for rehabilitation of this area;
- (c) if so, the steps that are being taken, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware that Reliance Corporation's solar project in Jamnagar, Gujarat and its existing refinery has caused damage to marine ecosystems; and
- (e) what policy interventions is the Ministry taking to prevent deterioration of the area?

Release of GST compensation on a monthly basis

26 Dr. Santanu Sen:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the GST compensation pending from the Union Government, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether Government is planning to release the compensation on a monthly basis to the States and UTs;
- (c) if so, the details with timeline for doing the same; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the same as major development work in various States are getting delayed due to delay in payments by the Union Government?

Status of implementation of the National Waterways Act, 2016

27 Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe:

Will the Minister of **Ports, Shipping and Waterways** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of implementation of the National Waterways Act 2016, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of budgetary allocations and expenditure incurred for development of Inland Waterways post 2014;

(c) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has undertaken any Capacity building initiatives for waterways, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the IWAI has undertaken any special region specific initiatives in North-Eastern States, if so, the details thereof?

Steps taken against NBFCs

28 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that financial institutions which are under Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are charging almost double the rate of interest on Home loans as compared to Nationalized banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken against such exploitative institutions; and

(c) whether Government has received any representation pertaining to charging of double the rate of interest by the financial institutions and if so, the action taken by Government to remove this malpractice?

Increase in Central excise on cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco

29 Shri P. Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to increase Central excise on cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco;

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

(c) the total amount of tax collected from cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco from Central excise and cess during the last three years;

(d) whether the tax collected from tobacco is being used to fund the health programmes/schemes; and

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

Cryptocurrency and NFT regulation

30 Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current legal stance on trading of Non Fungible Tokens (NFT) on cryptocurrency exchanges;
- (b) whether Government is seeking to make a separate legal framework for Non Fungible Tokens;
- (c) the number of instances of cryptocurrency related frauds and value of such scams booked;
- (d) the tax rate currently applicable to crypto-exchanges and other crypto service providing platforms; and
- (e) the details of how the tax will be applicable and collected?

New Delhi
The 25th November, 2021
4 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
Secretary-General.

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