

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, February 8, 2021/ 19 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

(Ministries : Coal; Defence; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Information and Broadcasting; Jal Shakti; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Mines; Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Road Transport and Highways; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions -- 15

Iron and Arsenic contamination in drinking water

61 Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

Will the Minister of ***Jal Shakti*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge amounts of iron and arsenic which is injurious to human life are found in drinking water of Northeastern States;
- (b) if so, by when clean drinking water would be provided to the people in the North-Eastern region particularly, Tripura;
- (c) whether Government has any schemes or initiative in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Best practices for maintaining Air Quality Index

62 Shri Rajmani Patel:

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State of Punjab recorded a moderate Air Quality Index (AQI) in September-October 2020 despite 11,000 stubble burning cases, whereas Delhi's AQI was poor during the same period;
- (b) whether Government has identified causes for this difference between the two region's AQI;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has identified good practices of the State Government of Punjab to reduce air pollution; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Prevention of wildlife trafficking of Red Pandas and Indian Pangolins

63 Shri Dinesh Trivedi:

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of red pandas and Indian pangolins in Singalila National Park and Neora Valley National Park in West Bengal over the last three years;
- (b) whether their population has been decreasing, if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether Government is aware of this decrease and has taken note of their cross-border poaching;
- (d) if so, targeted steps Government has undertaken to deal with this problem;
- (e) whether Government plans to develop a cross-border anti-trafficking network of bureaucrats, local stakeholders, environmentalists, NGOs and communities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Induction ceremony of Rafale Jets

64 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

the details of expenditure incurred in the ceremony organised for the formal induction of Rafale jets in Indian Air Force with all necessary break ups?

Ceasefire violations by Pakistan

65 Shri P. Bhattacharya:

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

- (a) the details of cases of ceasefire violations by Pakistan during the last one year, till date;
- (b) the number of persons who died due to ceasefire violations by Pakistan along with the details of loss of property; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to strengthen the border security in view of recent violation of ceasefire by Pakistan?

Human-animal conflict in the country

66 Dr. Banda Prakash:

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the population of various wild species have multiplied during the last few years and that they are posing danger by encroaching into agriculture fields and nearby human habitations, near forest borders due to insufficient food and water; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken by Government to control the human-animal conflict in the country?

Jaipur-Ajmer Expressway

67 # Shri Neeraj Dangl:

Will the Minister of **Road Transport and Highways** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of concessional period and rate of toll determined according to the traffic census and construction cost which was done prior to commencement of constructing Jaipur-Ajmer Expressway;
- (b) whether concessional period and toll rate have been increased from time to time even after starting toll on the Jaipur-Ajmer Expressway toll road, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether traffic census has been conducted every year after starting toll on the Jaipur-Ajmer Expressway toll road, if so, the details thereof?

Releasing funds to Polavaram project

68 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has given a plan for flow of funds to Polavaram Irrigation Project to ramp up works and avoid delays;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a lengthy process in releasing funds to Polavaram Project, right from proposal receiving from AP Government to sending money into Polavaram Project Authority;
- (c) whether any serious thought has been given to the CM's proposal; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Providing arms to forest guards and rangers

69 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of States which are providing arms to forest guards and rangers;
- (b) whether according to a report more than thirty per cent of world's fatal attacks on rangers took place in India;
- (c) whether the Ministry, as suggested by Supreme Court, proposes to create a separate wing in the Enforcement Directorate to check wildlife trafficking, timber mafia, poachers and forest encroachers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of traditional arts

70 # Shri Brijlal:

Will the Minister of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes in place for development of traditional arts of the country;
- (b) whether any scheme is under consideration to identify and develop local arts of other States on the lines of 'One District One Product' scheme popularly known as ODOP being run by Government of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of funds under JJM

71 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in budget 2020-21, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised till 31st January, 2021 for provision of safe drinking water in Arsenic affected States of the country for the year 2020-21, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised under JJM during 2019-20, State-wise?

Shortage of domestic coal

72 Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) whether the demand of domestic coal has exceeded its supply in the country, if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor, State-wise and sector-wise; and
- (b) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal in the country from the indigenous production of coal?

Auction of mines in Chhattisgarh

73 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

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

- (a) the number of mines auctioned in Chhattisgarh during last two years along with the details of revenue earned by Central and State Governments through such auctions;
- (b) whether any survey was conducted by Central Government about the mines proposed to be auctioned in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof, along with the number of such mines identified especially in Sarguja division; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government is facing some hurdles in auctioning of these mines in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to remove these hurdles?

Status of ASPIRE Scheme

74 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of "A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship" (ASPIRE) which aimed at setting up eighty Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) and twenty Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in 2019-20 to develop 75,000 skilled entrepreneurs in agro-rural industry sectors; and
- (b) whether there are specific number of targets to be achieved in Odisha?

Combating air pollution

75 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that air pollution has become a serious threat to the human kind;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to put in place a comprehensive plan to combat air pollution and provide clean air to the people of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

New Delhi
The 2nd February, 2021
 13 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
 Secretary-General.

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