

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, March 22, 2021/ 1 Chaitra, 1943 (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

Minority administered engineering institutions

271 Shri Rakesh Sinha:

Will the Minister of **Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of minority administered engineering colleges in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the total strength of students and faculty members, permanent and contractual in these colleges;
- (c) the number of students in these colleges who belong to non-minority groups or are not of the same minority group of which the college belongs to;
- (d) how many of them get subsidies or the State grants/aid;
- (e) the criterion for establishing an engineering college in minority category; and
- (f) whether some geographical distance or demographic factors are being taken into consideration to establish such colleges?

Damage to crops due to wild animals

272 # Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that wild animals roaming outside the forest are causing harm to farmers' crops;
- (b) whether Government has developed any mechanism to compensate for the loss caused by wild animals/livestocks, in view of their increasing population in forest;
- (c) the ex-gratia amount released under the schemes sponsored by Central Government for the compensation of the loss to the crops due to animal nuisance in last three years; and
- (d) whether Government is proposing to control the population of wild animals by applying birth control measures on them so that the crops destruction may be reduced?

Bio-safety research field trials of transgenic varieties

273 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

- (a) whether Government has allowed bio-safety research field trials of two new transgenic varieties of indigenously developed BT. Brinjal in eight States during 2020-21, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether some farmers' bodies have written to the concerned States not to give 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for bio-safety research field trials and if so, the details thereof and the Ministry's response thereto?

Portal to showcase sports talent

274 # Shri Deepak Prakash:

Will the Minister of ***Youth Affairs and Sports*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has launched any portal to showcase sports talent for the young population of the country, which will provide a transparent platform for young sportspersons of the country to exhibit their achievements in their sports; and
- (b) if so, whether any talented sportsperson has been selected through this portal from other parts of the country including Jharkhand and the level of awareness among the sportspersons about the portal?

Foreign investment in print and electronic media

275 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

Will the Minister of ***Information and Broadcasting*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total foreign investment in print and electronic media as on date; and
- (b) whether Government has evaluated the impact of such foreign investment on influencing the content of the media dissemination and communication?

Allocation of captive coal mines to steel plants

276 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of constraints faced by some PSU steel plants in view of non-availability of captive mines;
- (b) whether the Ministry is also aware that above steel plants are forced to buy coal from open market/import from other countries at an exorbitant cost, resulting in losses;
- (c) if so, efforts being made to allocate captive mines to such plants;
- (d) the details of captive mines allocated on nomination basis to various steel plants in the country, steel plant-wise; and
- (e) the manner in which present procedure of allocation of captive mines is different from earlier one?

Need for new DTH guidelines

277 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

Will the Minister of ***Information and Broadcasting*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the need for the New Direct-To-Home (DTH) guidelines;
- (b) the details of changes as compared to the previous guidelines and benefits thereof;
- (c) whether new guidelines will affect the pocket of the consumer adversely; and

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

Efforts made to promote sports and welfare of youth

278 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

Will the Minister of **Youth Affairs and Sports** be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made by Union Government to promote the welfare of youth and sports particularly, in Haryana during the last two years;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the assistance being provided by Central Government to various State Governments for welfare and development of the youth in various fields of sports and other activities?

Construction of dividers on NHs

279 # **Shri Ahmad Ashfaq Karim:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the National Highways (NHs) are prone to head-on collisions for want of dividers;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to widen the NHs and build dividers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Draft EIA Notification, 2020

280 **Shri P. Wilson:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the new draft of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2020 was strongly criticised across the country by environmentalists and climate change activists, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of proposal of amendments received from the environmentalists and climate change activists/ public on EIA, 2020, especially from Tamil Nadu and the response of Government thereto; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that according to the new EIA Notification, violations can only be reported by Government representatives or the project proponents and not by citizens if so, the reasons therefor?

Adverse impact of commercial coal mining

281 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has opened up commercial coal mining to private sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of mines being allowed for commercial mining particularly, in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether the above decision of Government is likely to have an adverse impact on the environment, put a strain on water resources and large scale displacement of people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to mitigate the issues especially large scale displacement of tribals?

Launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan-II

282 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

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

- (a) whether Government has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)-II recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives behind the move along with States to be covered under JSA-II;
- (c) whether the campaign has been able to bring together officers, groundwater experts and scientists from Central Government to work together with State and district officials in the country's water stressed districts and if so, the positive outcome of such interactions; and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to make water conservation a 'Jan Andolan' through asset creation and extensive communication?

Protection of forest and wildlife

283 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

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

- (a) whether Government is protecting forest and wildlife and if so, the measures taken therefor;
- (b) the technical and financial assistance provided for the purpose;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken by Government to manage and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts in the country and in Odisha;
- (d) whether Government has provided 47872.31 crore rupees under Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to various States, if so, the details of the achievements in Odisha till date; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for setting up 33KV transmission line in forest area?

Ban on deep sea trawling

284 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that deep sea trawling is an ecologically destructive practice that has been banned in various countries and jurisdictions such as European Union (EU), Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka;
- (b) whether Government plans to enact a policy to enforce a ban on the same; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for persisting with such environmentally backward and destructive practice?

Increase in illegal sand mining cases in Chhattisgarh

285 # **Shri Ram Vichar Netam:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in illegal sand mining cases in Chhattisgarh during the last two years, if so, the action taken by Government to prevent the same during the last two years;
- (b) the cases of illegal sand mining reported in Chhattisgarh during the last two years, district-wise along with the details of seized vehicles and amount recovered respectively in the recorded cases; and
- (c) the reasons for failure in curbing the illegal sand mining despite regular complaints and whether Government is considering on making a concrete action plan to prevent illegal sand-mining?

New Delhi
The 15th March, 2021
24 Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-Wise)

Coal	: 276, 281
Defence	: --
Environment, Forest and Climate Change	: 272, 273, 280, 283, 284
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	: --
Information and Broadcasting	: 275, 277
Jal Shakti	: 282
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	: --
Mines	: 285
Minority Affairs	: 271
Parliamentary Affairs	: --
Ports, Shipping and Waterways	: --
Road Transport and Highways	: 279
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 274, 278