

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, December 20, 2021/ 29 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

(Ministries : Civil Aviation; Coal; Defence; Housing and Urban Affairs; Jal Shakti;
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Mines; Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs;
Petroleum and Natural Gas; Planning; Statistics and Programme Implementation;
Steel)

Total number of questions -- 15

Strengthening Research and Development capabilities of the Indian Army

226 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the research and development (R&D) capabilities of the Indian Army; and
- (b) at a time when major world powers are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) - ushered advancements to boost their defence capabilities, the steps taken by Government to boost AI in the Defence sector in order to achieve our much-needed defence modernisation?

Coal deposits in North Eastern States

227 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

- (a) the total estimated coal deposits in the North Eastern States of the country;
- (b) the State-wise distribution and which State in the North East has the highest deposit of coal;
- (c) the number of coal mines in the North Eastern States and their distribution thereof, State-wise;
- (d) how much coal deposit has decreased since 2011 to 2021;
- (e) which are the coal rich areas in these States that are legally prohibited by Government from mining;
- (f) whether coal mining is affecting the ecology of these States, particularly Meghalaya; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken to preserve the ecology of Meghalaya?

Status of open defecation and sanitation in urban areas

228 **Shri Anil Baluni:**

Will the Minister of **Housing and Urban Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any parameters to assess the open defecation and sanitation status in the urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) what has been the impact of such assessment; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken for supporting the laggard States/cities and, if so, the details thereof?

Inter-State air connectivity under RCS-UDAN

229 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

Will the Minister of **Civil Aviation** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to include additional routes under RCS-UDAN to provide inter-State air-connectivity from Veer Surendra Sai (VSS) Airport, Jharsuguda, Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will issue a No Objection Certificate for future development of Rasgovindpur Airstrip in Mayurbhanj District for civilian use and it may be considered for the next round bidding of RCS-UDAN; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of affordable houses under PMAY

230 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of **Housing and Urban Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed a target of constructing two crore affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any plan for the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of houses likely to be constructed, State-wise; and
- (e) the amount likely to be spent on this project and the manner in which it would be generated?

Waste and water management through SBM-2.0

231 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether Government is now emphasizing on waste and water management through Swachh Bharat Mission-2.0; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Steps for "Coal Phasedown"

232 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) the exact steps to be adopted by Government to effect a "Coal Phasedown" as pledged at the COP26;
- (b) whether a phasedown plan will be consistent with increased coal imports;
- (c) whether such a plan will affect various Government schemes such as SAUBHAGYA scheme, DDUGJY, UDAY etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the ways in which the coal phasedown will affect other coal-dependent industries such as cement, steel, paper, fertilisers, etc?

Reducing import dependency on petroleum products

233 Shri M. Shanmugam:

Will the Minister of ***Petroleum and Natural Gas*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working to reduce import dependence by exploration of oil wells in the country both offshore and onshore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, with the detailed plan;
- (c) in view of the sharp rise in prices of petroleum products in the international market, whether there is any plan to find alternate resource and making the fuel green fuel and bio-fuel; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

People skilled and trained by SDI, Bhubaneswar

234 Shri Subhash Chandra Singh:

Will the Minister of ***Petroleum and Natural Gas*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people skilled and trained by the Skill Development Institute (SDI), Bhubaneswar under the Hydrocarbon Sector Skill Council (HSSC) as on date; and
- (b) the total number of people placed from the Skill Development Institute (SDI), Bhubaneswar as on date?

Proposal for airport for North Gujarat

235 # Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbhai Anavadiya:

Will the Minister of ***Civil Aviation*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any airport project is proposed for North Gujarat under the project UDAN, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is no facility of airlines available in North Gujarat except in Ahmedabad, due to which passengers over there have to travel long distances; and
- (c) whether Deesa Airport would be made operational so that passengers of North Gujarat can get airline facility?

Status of Namami Ganga Programme

236 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

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

- (a) whether Government will provide points of interest and status of Namami Ganga Programme;
- (b) if so, the details of amount spent and actions taken since the inception of the project till date; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of ethanol mixed petrol to reduce carbon emission

237 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

Will the Minister of ***Petroleum and Natural Gas*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has embarked on blending of ethanol with petrol with a view to reduce the carbon emission produced by vehicles in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of ethanol blending adopted in this process and the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the blending has provided any positive result in the carbon emission of the

vehicles and if so, the details thereof?

Self-reliance in defence production

238 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

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

- (a) Government's policy to achieve self-reliance in the production of ordnance and other equipments in the Defence sector;
- (b) whether any measures have been taken to increase the share of arms manufacturing in public and private sectors; and
- (c) if so, the details of the contracts entered into by Government with Indian companies?

Ex gratia payment to martyred soldier of the Army

239 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) the details of ex gratia payment made to widow/family of martyred soldier of the Army;
- (b) the details of the last revision made in the ex gratia payment and the amount increased;
- (c) whether the ex gratia payment made to Army soldiers is less than that of CAPFs;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government is considering the revision of ex gratia for the Army in immediate future; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Storm Water Drainage Project

240 Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:

Will the Minister of **Housing and Urban Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposals of Storm Water Drainage Project and Government has already sanctioned the said project;
- (b) the specific details of the project;
- (c) whether Government has received a revised project due to escalating implementation costs; and
- (d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to consider them at an early date so that the project is not delayed?

New Delhi
The 13th December, 2021
 22 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
 Secretary-General.

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