

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, December 21, 2021/ 30 Agrahayana, 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

Proposal for further reducing taxes on Petro Products

241 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to cut taxes on petro products to reduce their prices further;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tax on sin/demerit goods

242 **Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:**

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

- (a) whether there is any plan by the Ministry to increase taxes on sin/demerit goods including tobacco in view of the financial needs of the exchequer continuing to grow on the face of the vast resources needed for the vaccination drive and for the preparation of possible third wave of the pandemic; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Measures taken to control spread of AY.4.2 variant strain of COVID-19

243 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that COVID-19 AY.4.2 variant is found in Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in recent times; and
- (b) if so, the measures taken by Government to control/eradicate its further spreading in the country?

Export of COVID-19 vaccines

244 # **Dr. Anil Jain:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic, India exported life

saving drugs and medical equipments to more than 150 countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has exported more than 65 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to around 100 countries during the current years, if so, the countries to which India has exported vaccines; and

(c) the names of countries from which India has imported life saving drugs and medical equipments during COVID-19 pandemic?

Gold Smuggling

245 Shri John Brittas:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of gold smuggling have gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the gold seized in different airports during the last five years, year and airport-wise?

Selling medicines at higher prices

246 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information regarding the pharma companies which are selling medicines at prices higher than the price capped by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority(NPPA);

(b) if so, the detailed list thereof, State- wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken or notices been issued, so far, by NPPA to such companies; and

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

Conversion of Chennai Port as International Hub Port

247 Shri P. Wilson:

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

(a) the steps taken to convert Chennai Port as International Hub Port to increase efficiency in handling containers at Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port and to resolve the problem of the container traffic queing outside the Chennai Port upto 10 kms unable to enter Chennai Port within 48 hours, and to revive handling of coal, iron ore, dry cargo and bulk cargo;

(b) the details of dues to the Port from concessionaires from 2014-2021 and other port users and action taken to recover the same; and

(c) the status of Maduravoyal to Chennai elevated corridor project and details thereof?

Dependence on China for drug raw materials

248 Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is dependent on China for import of many raw materials or intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients of various essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details of such materials imported during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for the dependence on China for imports of raw materials for drugs; and

(d) whether Government has taken steps to reduce imports from China and empower local producers?

Status of Full Immunization Coverage (FIC)

249 Shri Suresh Gopi:

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

- (a) whether there is any improvement in Full Immunization Coverage(FIC) after several initiatives like Mission Indradhanush; and
- (b) what was Full Immunization Coverage in 2014 and in 2020?

Post-Disinvestment of Air India

250 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has completed the whole process of disinvestment of Air India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has obtained any assurance from the successful bidder regarding the job security and other service related matters of the pilots, crew etc. of Air India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Discrepancies in the import at IFFCO

251 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of foreign suppliers from whom Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) imports fertilisers and raw materials;
- (b) the total amount of subsidy provided by Government over imported fertilisers, in the past three years;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the discrepancies in the import of fertilisers of higher subsidy;
- (d) if so, the details of discrepancies and the corrective steps taken by Government; and
- (e) the details and number of such discrepancies that have been detected and are under investigation currently?

Privatisation of two Public Sector Banks

252 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

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

- (a) the specific gains from privatisation of two Public Sector Banks, with figures and latest data;
- (b) the methodologies adopted to value the assets and its real estate and other investments; and
- (c) the steps being taken to protect customers' interests, deposits, ongoing Government schemes, employees and rural branches?

Steps taken to fight Omicron variant of COVID-19

253 Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to tighten protocol and screening at airports in view of new variant of COVID-19, Omicron, spreading fast in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether the vaccinations that are given in the country are effective to develop immunity for this variant;
- (d) if so, to what extent, details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures taken including advisories issued to the States in public interest?

Concerns regarding Omicron variant of COVID-19

254 # Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government after the news of the spread of Omicron variant of COVID-19 in various countries, and the details thereof;
- (b) the efficiency of indigenous vaccine manufactured in India in preventing Omicron variant of COVID-19;
- (c) the number of cases of Omicron variant of COVID-19 and the number of deaths occurred due to it and the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to take strict steps like imposing lockdown for prevention of Omicron variant of COVID-19?

Kisan Credit Cards to be extended to all fishermen

255 Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

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

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to extend benefits of Kisan Credit Cards to all fishermen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the scheme would be modified to suit the specific requirements of fishermen; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

New Delhi
The 14th December, 2021
 23 Agraphayana, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
 Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-Wise)

Ayush	: --
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 246, 248, 251
Corporate Affairs	: --
Finance	: 241, 242, 245, 250, 252, 255
Health and Family Welfare	: 243, 244, 249, 253, 254
New and Renewable Energy	: --
Ports, Shipping and Waterways	: 247
Power	: --