

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018/Ashadha 27, 1940 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Commerce and Industry; Home Affairs; Labour and Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Steel; Textiles)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Air services from Darbhanga and Bhagalpur under UDAN Scheme**

†1. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to start flight services from Darbhanga and Bhagalpur of Bihar under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) — UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik);

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be implemented; and

(c) whether any plan would be prepared to provide air travel facility to other cities of Bihar as well under this Scheme?

#### **Privatisation of airports**

2. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to privatise some major airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

#### **Bringing new towns under new aviation scheme**

3. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many new towns have been brought on the civil aviation map under the new scheme announced by Government;

(b) what has been the response of the State Governments thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that some States are unwilling to invest on airport infrastructure as the expected returns are low;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how does the Centre propose to cope up with the problem and roll out air services to hitherto uncovered and remote areas?

#### **Disinvestment of Air India**

4. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that proposed sale of stake in Air India has failed to attract bidders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is rethinking of its decision of disinvestment of Air India, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Leasing out of Air India**

5. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is still determined to go ahead with stake sale in loss-making Air India;

(b) whether Government has examined the factors that had resulted in the market rebuff for Air India's sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider leasing out Air India to an Indian/foreign/joint venture operator instead of pumping in more money into the loss making national carrier?

#### **Plan to decommission airports in the country**

6. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to decommission airports in the country;

(b) the details and number of airports decommissioned in the country so far; and

(c) what is the current percentage of market share of each airline company operating in the country?

#### **Growth in passenger air traffic**

7. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial growth in passenger air traffic has been registered during the last few years and now air travel is not the sole domain of economically well-off people only;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of domestic flyers within different destinations of the country;

(c) whether the growth is commensurate with the international trend; and

(d) what is the projected growth rate in passenger air traffic within the country up to the year 2020?

#### **Grounding of fleet of aircrafts with neo engines**

8. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are still 1174 aircrafts with neo engines operating flights in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there were demands to ground the entire fleet of aircrafts with neo engines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Flight services from Gwalior under UDAN scheme**

†9. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme called UDAN has been introduced by the Central Government with a view to promoting regional connectivity and air travel facility to common citizens under the new Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) whether Gwalior airport has been prominently included in the scheme and if so, by when and to which cities flight

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

services are to be started from Gwalior under the scheme; and

(c) the names of airports to be developed under the scheme in Madhya Pradesh apart from Gwalior and the time by which this task is scheduled to be completed?

#### **Issuing licenses for in-flight connectivity**

10. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to issue licenses for the in-flight connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether foreign satellites and foreign gateways will also be permitted; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of airports in Andhra Pradesh**

11. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has embarked on development of smaller airports in the State of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the airports to be developed under this project;
- (c) the quantum of funds earmarked and released so far; and
- (d) the progress of the work made so far?

#### **Sale of Air India**

12. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were no takers for the proposal of Government to sell-off Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the next step/measures Government proposes in view of the present scenario?

#### **Stake sale of Air India**

13. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to sell major stake in Air India and privatize the organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government's bidding it has failed to attract the buyers and the reasons therefor?

#### **Disinvestment of Air India**

14. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the move of Government to disinvest Air India has failed due to unfavourable terms and conditions imposed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government proposes to take either to disinvest Air India or for its revival within a time-frame?

#### **Version of UDAN Scheme**

15. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that buoyed by the success of Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme, Government is working on another version of the scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the States will now have the option to subsidize international flights for regions that are underserved but have the latest demand to become sizeable markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Low occupancy rate in Air India International flights**

16. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air India International flights presently in operation;

(b) if so, the details of occupancy percentage of all flights during last one year;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of Air India International flights are flying with low occupancy and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of steps taken to improve occupancy rate of Air India International flights?

#### **Plan to make Air India profitable**

17. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since no bidder has turned up to acquire Air India, what Government plans next;

(b) how Government plans to make Air India profitable; and

(c) how much is the current loss of Air India and how Government is planning to make up for losses?

#### **Increasing connectivity between India and China**

18. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air connectivity between India and China will be increased shortly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

#### **Grounding of A320 neo aircrafts**

19. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Government's decision to ground A320 neo aircrafts was a unilateral decision;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to them, such a decision is not deemed necessary by it for the time being; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Formulation of Air Passenger Charter**

20. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to formulate Air Passenger Charter;

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

(c) whether Government has proposed any pro-passenger measures under the said Charter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Growth of air traffic at Bhubaneswar airport**

21. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much of growth Bhubaneswar

airport has registered during the 2017-18 fiscal;

(b) whether this growth is a record figure leading it to become one of the fastest growing airports in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Proposal for second airport at Bhubaneswar**

22. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has cleared the proposal of setting up of a second airport at Bhubaneswar in order to reduce air traffic congestion;

(b) if so, the details thereof mentioning the amount of fund allocated for this project and the time period stipulated to complete it;

(c) whether Government is planning to take more initiatives in order to improve passengers' convenience; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rising jet fuel prices**

23. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to contain the rise in jet fuel prices and its cascading impact on air ticket prices;

(b) the percentage of hike in the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) during 2017-18; and

(c) the percentage of hike in airfares in different airlines in different sectors?

**All women crew flights of Air India Express on International Women's Day**

24. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India Express operated eight all women crew flights on the occasion of International Women's Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the budget carrier had also organized functions at all its offices to felicitate the women workforce which is about 40 per cent of its total employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Review of cancellation charges for delayed flights**

25. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is reviewing the cancellation charges policy to ensure that the same is reasonable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had in August, 2016 asked airlines to pay fines of upto ₹ 20,000 to a flyer for denying boarding and fine upto ₹ 10,000 for delaying or cancelling a flight beyond two hours, if the delay is due to carrier's fault;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is reviewing this as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Charter for passengers**

26. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is reviewing issues like behind schedule operations and cancelling flight tickets, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is drawing up a charter for passengers which will spell out everything clearly in an intelligible manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Proposal for new airports**

27. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received feasibility report from consultants for many new airports proposed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on such proposals received as on date?

#### **Ombudsman for civil aviation sector**

28. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after Government enforced the first-ever set of guidelines imposing ban on flying, ranging from three months upto a lifetime, on passengers found guilty of misbehaviour while on board, the incidents involving unruly passengers have come down dramatically;

(b) whether at the same time, there have been incidents of airlines shortchanging passengers through deficient services on board and on ground with arrogant airline crew assaulting passengers; and

(c) whether Government would consider

setting up of a mechanism under an Ombudsman for the Civil Aviation sector on lines of other public utility sectors?

#### **VRS for facilitating Air India's disinvestment process**

29. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's efforts so far on disinvesting Air India have met with road blocks with no serious buyer coming forward with an acceptable bid;

(b) whether the stumbling block in Air India's disinvestment process has been its bloated employee strength which is much more than that of any other airline in the private sector; and

(c) whether Government would attempt pruning Air India's staff strength by offering attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) terms for its employees, to make the disinvestment offer more acceptable to prospective bidders?

#### **UDAN Scheme in Maharashtra**

†30. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed any project to make all the existing airports in the country completely operational and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of airports covered for implementation of Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme in Maharashtra;

(c) the provisions being made by Government to provide the benefits of these airports to more and more people; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the number of airports/airstrips of Maharashtra being considered under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)?

**Development of international airport in Visakhapatnam**

31. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) bagged the tender to develop an international airport at Bhogapuram in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has cancelled the tender stating reasons about its intention of not just development of the airport but also related to infrastructure like aviation academy, Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) facility for aircraft and aerotropolis;

(c) whether AAI has come forward to take up building integrated airport at Bhogapuram as sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Grounding of aircrafts due to safety considerations**

32. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Seventeen aircrafts have been grounded due to safety considerations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the airlines affected by the said decision have cancelled many domestic flights;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the

grounding of such large number of flights would hit services in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Calling off disinvestment of Air India**

33. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called-off the Air India disinvestment deal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) if Government is not certain of the situation of Air India in the aviation market, why has it floated and rushed the idea of disinvestment without giving proper thought into it; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Display of art collections of Air India in the National Gallery of Modern Art**

34. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Carrier Air India is in talks with the Ministry of Culture to hand over its priceless art collections to the Ministry for their display in the National Gallery of Modern Art in various metros; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Salaries to permanent employees of Air India**

35. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national carrier Air India recently failed to pay

salaries to its permanent employees in time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Identification of Air India routes making profits and losses**

36. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has identified routes which are making profits and losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, route-wise;

(c) the number of routes which are unable to make profit; and

(d) the reasons for incurring losses on a number of routes?

**Introducing internet and calling facilities on board domestic airlines**

37. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to introduce internet and calling facilities for the flyers on board in domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of implementation of the same; and

(c) the time by which these facilities will be made available?

**Low growth rate of FDI inflow**

38. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth rate of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India has been at a five-year low in 2017-18; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**WTO's panel to check compliance on solar power programme**

39. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:  
SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Trade Organisation had set up a panel to check India's compliance with last year's ruling on solar power programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to convince the world body about the action initiated by India with regard to last year's ruling?

**Hiking of duties on steel and aluminium imports by the US**

40. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has unilaterally hiked duties on Indian steel and aluminium imports;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government will consider dragging the US to the WTO since such unilateral action is against free global trade; and

(c) whether Government will opt for similar action, particularly on imports from the US, particularly agri products and motorcycles?



#### **Heavy demand of Indian coffee**

41. SHRI SANJAY SETH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a heavy demand of Indian coffee in the foreign market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum and value of coffee exported from the country during the last three years along with the revenue generated therefrom during the period;
- (d) whether export of coffee has drastically increased the price of coffee, domestically affecting consumers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Growth of e-commerce industry**

42. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether e-commerce has become one of the fastest growing trade channels facilitating cross-border trade of goods and services due to advanced technological innovations;
- (b) if so, the details of e-commerce industry's growth;
- (c) whether e-commerce industry and its consumers are facing various problems during transactions and post-transactions in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (e) whether Government is seriously considering to bring national e-commerce policy, if so, by when?

#### **Denial of financial assistance to startups**

43. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of startups under the 'Startup India' scheme have been denied financial assistance on one pretext or the other;
- (b) if so, year-wise number of startup proposals received and number of entrepreneurs to whom financial assistance has been granted since 2015;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the authority responsible for scrutinizing the proposals is a big hindrance in the success of the scheme; and
- (d) whether Government would review the procedure to help startups grow in the country?

#### **Anti-dumping investigations**

44. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 850 anti-dumping investigations have been initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping Duties (DGAG) against China, US, EU and other countries;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that out of 850, more than 200 investigations are against China alone; and
- (c) if so, in how many cases anti-dumping duty has been imposed?

#### **War room to monitor investments**

45. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up a war room to help monitor investments across the country, track progress of projects and ascertain issues faced in their implementation on a real time basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many countries are looking at India for investment opportunities after simplification of Foreign Direct Investment norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Impact of non-settlement of GST refunds on exports**

46. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters were not able to execute the orders for exports for want of settlement of GST refunds;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from the export organisations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Promotion of products on the basis of geographical origin**

47. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch a mega campaign for promoting products closely associated with their geographical origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government is considering to

involve all State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor**

48. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status and progress of the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC);

(b) the details of the funds released so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is giving a step motherly treatment to Andhra Pradesh in release of funds by giving insufficient funds to Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and releasing more funds to other projects in the country, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for early release of sufficient funds to Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor for its early completion?

#### **Decline in export of leather products**

49. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of leather products from the country is consistently on the decline and leather industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra is facing acute shortage of raw material that is leather;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons behind this scenario; and

(c) what action Government proposes to take to revive the leather industry in the country including Maharashtra and

improve the export of leather products from the country?

**Bilateral trade with neighbouring countries**

50. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the country's bilateral trade with neighbouring countries, country-wise details thereof; and

(b) what action Government has taken/ proposes to take to substantially increase bilateral trade with neighbouring countries?

**Formulation of new Industrial Policy**

51. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating new Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of steps taken to set up more industries in rural areas; and

(d) what is the policy of Government to provide assistance to educated rural youths for setting up industry under the 'Make in India' programme?

**Blocking of WTO ministerial declaration agreement**

52. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has alleged that India blocked the ministerial declaration agreement of World Trade Organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Marrakesh Agreement was not in India's interest; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Interest Equalisation Scheme**

53. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Interest Equalisation Scheme;

(b) whether Government has raised budget allocation for the scheme in the recent budget;

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

(d) the details regarding subsidy given under the scheme for promotion of labour intensive sectors which promote employment;

(e) whether Government has State-wise details of subsidy given under the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details in respect of Rajasthan and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Failure of WTO meeting**

54. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time in more than two decades in the history of the World Trade Organization, India was not blamed for the failure of a meeting of the global organization's apex decision making body as witnessed in the Argentine capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is more important as India was pilloried for earlier failure;

(c) whether India gained goodwill of the rest of the world due to its firm stand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Startup India Virtual Hub**

55. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Startup India Virtual Hub' launched by Government has developed an entrepreneurial eco-system in the country in all sectors including agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and

(c) the details of benefits that can be accrued to common man by 'Startup India Virtual Hub'?

#### **Invitation to Commerce Ministers for meeting on WTO issues**

56. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India invited Commerce Ministers from various nations to attend an informal meeting concerning issues of World Trade Organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government extended an invitation to Commerce Minister of Pakistan as well; and

(d) whether Government received confirmation from all those countries whose

Ministers were invited for the said purpose?

#### **Impact of increasing import tariff on steel by the US**

57. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will be severely impacted by US Government's plans to impose hefty import tariff on steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that US imports only 2 per cent of steel from India; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the said move will certainly affect some exports of steel to the US?

#### **Renewal of 'Make in India' programme**

58. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to renew 'Make in India' programme of 2014 as 'Make in India 2.0' with a focus on ten champion sectors;

(b) the reasons for the ambit of the scheme being reduced to ten sectors from earlier twenty five;

(c) on what basis were the ten sectors selected out of the earlier twenty five;

(d) the list of ten champion sectors and all twenty five in total; and

(e) whether this step is being taken due to lukewarm response to a majority of sectors?

**Outcome of US-India Bilateral Trade Policy Forum meet**

59. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the recent US-India Bilateral Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meet;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the new regime, Indian IT professionals working in the US on H-1B Visa do not get back their contribution to social security which runs into US 1 billion dollars annually;

(c) whether it means that there is a mismatch between US Visa and US Social Security regimes; and

(d) how the Ministry is planning to address this problem?

**New strategy on trade competitiveness**

60. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government wishes Indian Industry to be more open to competition from overseas goods;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering a new strategy where trade will form 40 per cent of the economy in the coming years;

(c) whether the strategy will look at how to have bilateral and multilateral deals to move to a US 5 trillion dollars economy with exports being US 1 trillion dollars as part of the strategy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Registration of patents**

61. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many patents have been registered during the last three years, the State-wise/sector-wise details thereof, in Jharkhand and Gujarat in particular;

(b) the number and details of patents registered in different countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(c) the steps Government is planning to make patent registration easier and hassle-free; and

(d) whether Government is planning to set up innovation centers across the country on the line of iCreate in Gujarat?

**Lynching in the name of child lifting**

†62. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents involving the lynching of people based on rumours of them being child-lifters are being reported continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any conspiracy behind such incidents; and

(d) the States where the incidents of lynching in the name of child lifting have been reported during the last three years and the total number of deaths caused thereby?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Crimes against women and girls**

†63. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken to prevent crimes against women and girls in the context of an image of India presented in an international report with regard to growing crimes against women in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expected decrease in the crimes against women is not being achieved even after the implementation of criminal law (Amendment) Act, 2013 after Nirbhaya Case in the year 2012;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of various crimes committed against women during the last three years?

**AFSPA in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh**

64. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to revoke the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Meghalaya and reduce its ambit in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to revisit the B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee report of 2005, which had recommended the repeal of the AFSPA altogether; and

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

**Exodus of Hindu families in Uttar Pradesh**

†65. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Hindu families are forced to flee Banhera Khas village of Deoband, Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the information regarding the incidents of such forced exodus and the steps being taken by Government to prevent such type of exodus; and

(c) the details thereof?

**Kidnapping of young women and children**

66. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of kidnapping of young women and children have increased in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to formulate new guidelines/ standard operating procedures and setting up of a unified command for tracking kidnapped/missing young women and children; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to develop mechanism for regular monitoring and supervision in this regard?

**Security forces personnel killed in  
LWE hit States**

67. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of security forces personnel who were killed in nine Left Wing Extremism hit States during the last three years;

(b) whether the security personnel are being targeted by the extremists in the country due to glaring lack of preparedness and technical faults;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to control extremism in the country and lift the morale of security forces?

**Procurement of weapons for civilian  
purposes**

68. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any strategy to procure and use guns compatible to use of rubber bullets for effective control of riots in the country, minimising the loss of deaths due to firing;

(b) whether Government has devised any new initiatives and policies to decide on procurement of weapons for civilian purposes;

(c) if so, details thereof and State-wise total number of license holders for

possession of weapons, the requirements, State-wise, till date; and

(d) the MoU signed by Government with foreign companies in the last three years and its impact on supply and demand of civilian weapons in India?

**Fake Aadhaar cards in Delhi**

69. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards producing fake Aadhaar cards and arrest of two culprits, who were allegedly producing fake Aadhaar cards in Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such unlawful activities in the country?

**Plan to increase number of jails for  
women**

70. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of women prisoners is increasing in the country at a fast pace;

(b) if so, the details of the women prisoners, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are only 18 jails exclusively for women;

(d) if so, whether there is any plan to increase the number of jails for women in the country in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Lynching cases in the country**

71. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lynching has become a regular issue in the country;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of lynching cases registered during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by Government for safeguarding the law and order from deadly spectre of vigilantism therefor?

### **Access of Aadhaar data for police identification**

72. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that NCRB has asked UIDAI for limited access of Aadhaar data for police identification;

(b) if so, the report from UIDAI in this regard;

(c) whether access of data will breach the law of UIDAI or not; and

(d) if so, the proposal of Government to trace the facts and scene of crime cases and the use of biometric data therein?

### **Damage due to Ockhi cyclone in Tamil Nadu**

73. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final assessment has been made regarding damages to huts, pucca/kutchha homes caused by cyclone Ockhi in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has arrived at final figure for compensation to people affected by Ockhi cyclone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Long term plan to construct prisons**

74. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conceived any long term plan to construct prisons to accommodate prisoners in a reasonable ratio to avoid congestion/overcrowding in prisons across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Inadequate facilities to paramilitary forces deployed in troubled and sensitive areas**

75. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether paramilitary forces deployed in troubled and sensitive areas do not get adequate training, facilities and service benefits at par with Indian Army:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) how far it is a fact that despite recommendations of the concerned authorities, financial approvals are not forthcoming for upgradation of facilities; and

(d) the major proposals pending for financial approval and how much further time it will take for their approval?



### **Occupancy rate in jails**

76. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether occupancy rate in various jails is 115 per cent at the end of December, 2015 and in terms of numbers it was more than 60,000 additional inmates;

(b) what is the status between year 2015 and June, 2018, State-wise and jail-wise;

(c) how Government is supplementing efforts of States in constructing new jails, infrastructure and providing facilities to inmates since States have limited finances in this regard;

(d) whether Government will consider new scheme on lines of Modernisation of Police Force to have a scheme like Modernisation and Expansion of Jails as one-time intervention; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Proposal to change sedition law**

77. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the growing incidents of anti-nationalism in the country in the name of freedom of expression;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to change sedition law to crack down on such incidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons tried under sedition law during the last three years?

### **Human rights violations in J&K**

78. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent report of

United Nations, there are excessive human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir since 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of civilians killed and injured since 2016, till date in Jammu and Kashmir and the number of inquiries initiated for human rights violation since 2016, till date; and

(d) the details of persons found guilty and punished in this regard, case-wise?

### **Youths involved in stone pelting in J&K**

†79. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in terror incidents in the State of Jammu and Kashmir after terror funding to separatist organisations being probed by National Investigation Agency (NIA) and a clampdown on separatists leaders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the case of involvement of youths from other States of the country in stone pelting on army jawans in Jammu and Kashmir has come to the light in recent times; and

(d) if so, whether it is being investigated?

### **Report of Sheela Bhide Committee on APMEI**

80. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report of the Sheela Bhide Committee on allotment of Singareni Subsidiary Company Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Engineering Ltd. (APMEL) to Andhra Pradesh as part of the AP Reorganisation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any objection from Government of Telangana on the irrational allotment of APMEL to Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

#### **Standing Committee on Inter-State Council**

81. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Twelfth Inter-State Council Standing Committee meeting has been held at Delhi recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has demanded in the Committee to include 'environment' in the Concurrent List which is now in the Central List, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government to such request?

#### **Violation of human rights in jails**

82. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the human rights violations taking place in the jails across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on this issue;

(c) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has pointed out and expressed its concern on the various incidents of violation of human rights taking place in the jails;

(d) the causes of the violation; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Division of 9th and 10th Schedule Institutions between AP and Telangana**

83. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the matter of division of 9th and 10th Schedule Institutions between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as per the AP Reorganisation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the contentions of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the steps being taken by Government of India to resolve the matters without any further delay?

#### **Heavy firing by Pakistan**

84. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of the villages in Jammu and Kashmir along Indo-Pakistan border had to flee their villages because of heavy firing by Pakistan from across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken to provide relief to such people and to ensure their safety from firing by Pakistani forces?

#### **Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010**

85. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken

cognizance of the 273rd Law Commission report on Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has studied the previous Torture Bill and the Rajya Sabha Select Committee report on the same, if so, Government's stand on the same;

(c) why India has not ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment after signing it in 1997; and

(d) whether Government plans to hold a multi-stakeholder consultative process to draft the Prevention of Torture Bill, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **CRPF camps in naxal hotbeds**

86. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last one month, the CRPF has opened four to five permanent camps in three naxal hotbeds in the 1,200 sq.km. long Bastar-Sukma region, 2000 sq.km. Andhra-Odisha border and the 4,500 sq.km. Abjumaad forest area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the purpose for the new camps was that the force did not want its troops to travel several kilometers back to headquarters after operation or area domination exercise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Jawans of paramilitary forces martyred in border areas**

87. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many jawans of paramilitary

forces, deployed in the border areas have been martyred from January, 2018 till date;

(b) whether the number of jawans who have been martyred has increased during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's stern action in this regard?

#### **Overcrowding in district level prisons**

88. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Prison Occupancy Rate (POR) is more alarming at district level prisons across the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to reduce overcrowding of district level prisons across the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Clashes on Assam-Mizoram border**

89. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had to intervene after clashes on Assam - Mizoram border between police forces and Mizo protestors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments have been asked to ensure maintaining law and order, prevent the situation from escalating and bring the situation under control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Deaths of CRPF personnel in naxal attacks**

90. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 45 CRPF personnel died in Chhattisgarh alone from March, 2017 to March, 2018 in various naxal attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much bigger attacks happened in Chhattisgarh during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Incidents of lynching by mob**

91. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government keeps record of incidents of lynching by mobs which are increasing across several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such incidents reported, year-wise during last three years along with number of victims injured/killed, number of people arrested, number of people prosecuted, number of people convicted and under what sections of law;

(c) State-wise and year-wise details of victims of such incidents of lynching and in how many cases, victims belonged to minority communities, how many were dalits and how many were women; and

(d) if Government doesn't maintain this data, the reasons therefor?

**Incentives to industrial sector**

92. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend incentives, concessions to industrial sector in the country for generation of employment opportunities on a large scale; and

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

**Putting final draft of NRC in public domain**

93. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second and final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam is scheduled to be put in public domain by 30 June, 2018 and whether the NRC Secretariat has sought extra time because of time lost in recent floods;

(b) whether Government expects that the post-NRC scenario would be violence-free with all Indian citizens included in the list; and

(c) whether there have been apprehensions in the North-East about the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016, now under the examination in Parliament that will change the demographic balance in the region?

### **Creation of special battalion in J&K**

†94. SHRI LAL SINGH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to create a special battalion by means of recruiting youths belonging to ten kilometer radius of Jammu and Kashmir border with Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and

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

### **Safety of women**

95. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards a poll of global experts released recently that India is world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and women being forced into slave labour;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate a new law to focus on all aspects of women safety after holding discussion with all stakeholders including National Commission for Women thereby prescribing stringent penalties for those who are involved in harassment and atrocities against women in the country?

### **Rohingyas and other illegal immigrants in the country**

96. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal Rohingyas and other illegal immigrants in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to trace and repatriate these illegal immigrants and the results of such steps;

(c) the steps taken by Government to identify and isolate criminal immigrants/ Rohingyas in the country; and

(d) how many Rohingyas alleged to have been involved in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir have been caught so far?

### **Promotion of Hindi language in official work**

97. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindi is not the language of majority of the Indians; and

(b) if so, the reasons for promoting Hindi in all official works?

### **Crime and rape incidents against women**

98. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime and rape incidents against women in the country are on the rise;

(b) the details of such incidents, State-wise, during the last six months; and

(c) whether any survey has been done to identify which strata of the society are behind such crimes and what action Government proposes to take to build confidence amongst women in the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**People killed due to dust and thunderstorms**

99. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:  
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of people got killed in the dust and thunderstorms in the country in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of people killed/injured, State-wise;

(c) whether Government announced compensation to the victims/kins of the victims;

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

(e) whether Government had made any preparedness to minimise losses due to storms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Services of ESIC and EPFO under PPP mode**

100. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on extending the services of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode to benefit up to 50 crores more people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Cess collected under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996**

101. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the value of construction work, cess collected, the total number of male and female workers involved in construction activity and the number of construction workers registered as beneficiaries under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 during the years 2014 to 2018; and

(b) how many workers have been issued identification cards by Construction Workers Welfare Boards (CWWBs), the State/UT-wise and year-wise details thereof?

**Crisis in employment sector**

102. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge scarcity of Government jobs, retrenchment in private sectors and non-availability of handsome salary to capable employees in the private sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private employees and job seekers are getting underpaid jobs which is the burning issue in the unemployment sector; and

(c) the status of the promise made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of giving one crore good jobs?

**Investment of EPF in shares and equities**

103. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invested Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) amount in various Public Limited companies and in shares and equities of various private limited companies as well as blue chip shares of some private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount invested and the details of top ten companies, company-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of EPF subscribers;

(d) whether Government has taken any efforts to bring in more employees in both organised and unorganised sectors under the ambit of EPF; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand thereon?

**Details of employment opportunities**

104. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the employment opportunities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any statistical report on State-wise employment generation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Employment generation**

105. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to know the total employment generation in the period from April, 2017 to March, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is covering each and every district of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Creating credible data on inter-State migrants**

106. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is still facing great difficulty in creating credible data on inter-State migrants, which poses serious constraint in framing an effective policy;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to form/formulate robust mechanism to monitor inter-State labour migrants and create a credible data in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shram Suvidha Portal**

107. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Shram Suvidha Portal;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives for launching the portal;

(c) whether the portal will reduce compliance under various labour laws by entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Eradication of child labour**

108. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eradication of child labour will create jobs for the youth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite having adequate law to prevent child labour, there has been no end to child labour in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked the State Governments and Union Territories to comply with the norms existing to prevent engagement of child labour in various activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Amended Maternity Benefit Act**

109. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States that have drafted Rules under the amended Maternity Benefit Act, 1961;

(b) the details of States where the Rules have been notified; and

(c) the details of the monitoring mechanism and the authorities responsible for effective implementation of the Act at ground level?

#### **Creation of employment opportunities in unorganised sector**

†110. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to create one crore employment opportunities in unorganised sectors in the next three years;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step so far in this regard; and

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

#### **Simplification of Labour Laws**

111. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has repeatedly claimed to have simplified labour laws but not a single bill, from minimum wage, industrial relations, social security and safety to others, has been passed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that Government is taking to address labour distress considering so many bills have not yet been introduced?

#### **Vulnerable employment as per ILO report**

112. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the recent report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that has estimated over 77 per cent of India's active workforce to be in vulnerable employment by 2020;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken to tackle this issue;

(c) whether special provisions have been instituted for creation of quality jobs in different sectors such as manufacturing sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Workers/labourers rendered jobless due to closure of industries/factories**

113. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers/labourers in the country have got affected or become jobless due to closure of industries/factories;

(b) if so, details thereof along with number of industries/factories closed and workers affected thereby during last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government provides/proposes to provide short-term skill development training to such workers to make them capable of starting self-employment activities and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other remedial steps taken by Government to provide employment to the workers who have become jobless due to closure of industrial units in the country?

**Unemployment rate**

114. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the unemployment rate in the country during the last four years;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to address this issue; and

(c) the quantum of employment created in different sectors in the country during the last four years?

**Maternity Benefit Act**

115. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post-amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, entitling working women to 26 week paid leave, the women employees'/labourers' participation rate dwindled considerably during the current year in comparison to previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken by the Ministry for compliance of the said Act in the country?

**Modification in withdrawal process in EPF**

116. SHRIMATI SARAJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any modification in the withdrawal process of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for the employees in the existing rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to further simplify the process of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the withdrawal, for the convenience of employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**MSME units registered in the country**

117. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) how many MSME units are registered in the country so far;
- (b) the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) how many MSME units are working in Kerala; and
- (d) the details of loan sanctioned to MSME units by the banks in Kerala during 2014-15 to 2017-18 and bank-wise details thereof?

**MSME units shut down after GST**

118. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several thousands of MSME units were shut down after the announcement of GST last year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total MSME units registered in the country, State-wise, as on date;
- (c) whether Government has taken effective steps to support and develop MSME units in Tamil Nadu, particularly under GST regime;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the total funds allocated in this regard; and
- (e) the various steps taken by Government to provide incentives and other encouragements to best performing MSME units in the country?

**Job loss in MSME sector**

119. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector that have shut down since November 8, 2016 till date, State/UT-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any data regarding MSME units that have shut down since the implementation of GST, till date, State/UT-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the data regarding job loss in the MSME sector since November 8, 2016, till date along with the loss to the nation?

**Reopening of closed Khadi Gramodyog centres**

120. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to reopen the closed Khadi Gramodyog centres situated amongst different panchayats of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the schemes implemented and progressive works done for the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the details of increase in sales through KVIC, if any?

**Loss of jobs due to model charkhas**

121. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the model charkhas have made khadi artisans lose their jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that nearly 1.2 lakh jobs were lost in the east zone alone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Efforts to increase MSME registrations**

122. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been registered with the Department in last five years, State/UT-wise details especially in Gujarat and Jharkhand;

(b) how many MSME registrations have been cancelled in the same period in the country, especially in Gujarat and Jharkhand;

(c) what are the benefits of MSME registration; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to increase MSME registrations?

**Increase in petroleum prices**

123. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM

AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of petrol and diesel have reached a historic high during May-June, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of increase in price of petrol, diesel and LPG since 15th April 2018, till date?

**Tax recovered from per litre petrol and diesel**

†124. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA

VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR

PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax being recovered on per litre petrol and diesel at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rise in the prices of petrol-diesel leads to increase in tax also;

(c) the State-wise retail rate of fluctuation in prices of petrol and diesel during the last three years;

(d) amount of profit-loss earned by petroleum companies during this period;

(e) rate of fluctuation in the prices of raw petroleum products in the international market during the last three years; and

(f) amount being spent at present to refine per litre petrol and diesel in order to make crude oil usable?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Supply of PNG to Bihar by GAIL**

†125. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been formulated by GAIL for supply of natural gas through pipelines in Patna and some other cities in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and city-wise time-frame for its commencement;

(c) whether concerned basic structure has been prepared for it;

(d) if not, the present status thereof and by when the consumers will get connections; and

(e) whether Government is formulating any plan for the supply of PNG in some other cities of Bihar?

#### **Private partnership to build underground crude oil storage**

126. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given in principle approval to the proposal to build two more underground crude oil storages to raise emergency stockpile cover by 12 days to 22 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of crude oil expected to be stored in such strategic underground oil storages;

(c) whether Government is considering private partnership to build these underground crude oil storage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Acquisition of State run oil PSUs by ONGC**

127. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given nod for the acquisition of certain State run oil PSUs and allied companies ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to make such projects economically viable and profit making and the Union Government's stand on this; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the smooth execution of mergers and acquisitions of companies by ONGC in near future?

#### **Impact of stopping oil imports from Iran**

128. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has told all countries, including India to stop their oil imports from Iran by November or face sanctions;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has asked refiners to prepare for a drastic reduction or zero imports of Iranian oil from November;

(d) if so, the details/reasons thereof indicating how it will impact the country's oil import bill due to such decision; and

(e) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for safeguarding the national interests in importing oil from other countries'?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Inability of Ujjawala beneficiaries in refilling cylinders**

†129. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large section of beneficiaries of Ujjawala Scheme are not using LPG gas due to their inability to refill their cylinder because of economic reasons and they are once again depending upon traditional harmful fossil fuel, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering to provide support/grant/subsidy for refilling the cylinder to the beneficiaries of free gas connection under the Ujjawala Scheme; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to make small cylinders available to homemakers keeping in view of their poor economic conditions, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Fall in domestic crude oil and natural gas production**

130. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic crude oil and natural gas production has been falling for last six years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that dependence on crude oil imports has increased by nearly 83 per cent in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to cut reliance on energy imports by 10 per cent by 2022?

**Exploration of natural gas in Jharkhand**

131. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil PSUs are exploring natural gas sources in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of the current findings and the development work on those blocks;

(c) the details of ONGC work on Coal-Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in Jharkhand; and

(d) the current and future plans to drill all proposed CBM blocks in the financial year 2018-19?

**Proposal of PNGRB to allow all entities to lay pipelines**

132. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the proposal of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, Government is allowing all entities to lay pipelines including GAIL for open access of the country's gas pipeline infrastructure;

(b) if so, the present status of gas pipeline network for integrating the gas/crude network through capacity expansion and adding new pipelines thereof; and

(c) the reasons behind the plan to split state run gas utility organisation GAIL therefor?

**Receipt of gas supplies from Gazprom**

133. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has started receiving gas supplies from Russia's Gazprom;

(b) if so, whether import price per unit is less than other countries and is cheaper on port delivery thereof;

(c) if so, the details of rate and the import contracts with other countries thereon; and

(d) the technical feasibility to stock and distribution of imported gas in the present scenario therefor?

#### **Advantages of daily pricing of petrol and diesel**

134. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the advantages of daily pricing of petrol and diesel in major cities in the country;

(b) the details of Central taxes, State taxes, VAT, BS IV premium, marketing cost, margins, cess, etc. that are imposed on petrol and diesel;

(c) the final price of petrol in various major cities of the country and how they can be compared with neighbouring countries; and

(d) what are the advantages, as per the Ministry, if petrol and diesel are brought under the GST?

#### **Daily revision of price of petroleum products**

135. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prices of petroleum products have been increasing since the daily price revision

policy of Indian oil companies;

(b) if so, whether Government will take necessary steps to control the prices of petroleum products in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Subsidy on cylinders under PMUY**

†136. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas connections released under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) till date;

(b) the number of beneficiaries getting their cylinders refilled on regular basis;

(c) the reasons for not granting a subsidy on cylinders under PMUY; and

(d) whether Government proposes to grant a subsidy on cylinders under PMUY?

#### **Plan to bring petroleum products under GST**

†137. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products had reached their highest in recent times in a period of last four years on account of continuous increase in prices in international market and whether the prices of petroleum products have now got normalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal from the Central Government to bring petroleum products under indirect tax system/GST but various States are not giving their consent to this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Availing of refills under PMUY**

138. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of the total number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY);

(b) the State/UT/scheme-wise amount spent on the beneficiaries under the PMUY;

(c) the State/UT-wise list of PMUY beneficiaries who have availed second and third refills; and

(d) whether it is a fact that due to high price of LPG many PMUY beneficiaries are not able to afford refills, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to curb this problem?

#### **Language diversity of employees in Ministry**

139. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees/staff strength sanctioned for the Ministry's headquarters in Delhi; how many of these positions have been filled in as of 30 June, 2018; the problems being faced in early filling up of the vacancies and what action is the Ministry taking in overcoming these problems; and

(b) what is the mother tongue-wise break-up of the employees currently working in the Ministry headquarters in Delhi and what efforts, if any, are being taken to ensure adequate language diversity?

#### **Steps to control rising petroleum prices**

140. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products in the country including petrol and diesel have increased manifold in comparison to previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years including the current year, year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken by the Central Government to contain the rising prices of petroleum products?

#### **GAIL to buy 5 million tonnes of LNG from the US**

141. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the GAIL India Limited will be buying about 5 million tonnes of LNG from the US in the current fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the GAIL has decided to stop spot purchase of LNG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Augmenting strategic reserves of oil**

142. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether towards augmenting the capacity for strategic reserves of petroleum products, Government has finalised details of two facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka with an aggregate holding capacity of 6.5 million metric tonnes which works out to an additional 12 days' reserves;

(b) whether Government owned Special Purpose Vehicle mandated with building strategic caverns has already completed storage facilities at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka with a total storage capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes of crude oil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Long term policy to fix prices of petroleum products**

†143. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is formulating a long-term policy to fix the prices of petroleum;

(b) if so, whether Government has so far taken any step in this regard; and

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

#### **Beneficiaries under PMUY**

144. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and year-wise number of beneficiaries who received free LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) since inception of scheme;

(b) the State-wise and year-wise funds released under PMUY;

(c) whether Oil Marketing Companies offer loans to beneficiaries to cover for first refill, if so, number of beneficiaries who availed such loan and amount disbursed;

(d) what assistance is offered to beneficiaries for subsequent refills when

they are forced to buy from open market at high rates; and

(e) what steps Government has taken to increase distributors in rural areas, details of State-wise, year-wise increase in distribution of LPG since 2014?

#### **Acquisition of stake in offshore oilfield in Abu Dhabi**

145. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh Limited and its partners have acquired a 10 per cent stake in a large offshore oilfield in Abu Dhabi for US 600 million dollars;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time that any Indian company has set foot in the oil rich UAE;

(c) whether the field is to achieve plateau target of 4,50,000 barrels of oil per day by 2025; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Agreements with UAE to strengthen energy security**

146. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two agreements that India had signed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) will strengthen India's energy security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that oil company from UAE is expected to invest US 400 million dollars in storage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Increase in prices of petrol and diesel**

147. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of petrol and diesel have increased the highest number of times in the last one year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Formulation of New Textile Policy**

148. SHRI A. VIJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held any meeting with State Ministers to revise Textile Policy in the country recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for formulation of New Textile Policy, if so, the details thereof?

**Locations identified for new petrol pumps**

149. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to add about thousands of new petrol pumps in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government oil companies have not appointed new dealers during the last four years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of places which are underserved in the country identified for setting up of new petrol pumps, State-wise including Karnataka?

**Investment by Saudi Arabia in oil refineries**

150. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world's largest oil company from Saudi Arabia is looking to buy a stake in existing Indian refineries and expansion projects as well as in the planned giant refinery on the west coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the west coast refinery and the planned ₹ 33,000 crore petrochemical complex had figured in the discussions with the Saudi Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Skill development programmes in Karnataka**

151. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of skill programmes being implemented in the State of Karnataka during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of accredited and affiliated training centres in Karnataka, district-wise and performance of each of such accredited and affiliated centres;

(c) the details of youth so far trained in various centres during last three years and

current year, year-wise and district-wise and how many youth have got employment opportunities; and

(d) the objective to establish model aspirational skill centre in every district of the country, including Karnataka and whether the objective has been achieved?

#### **Training under Short Term Training Programme**

152. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise, State-wise, skill-wise number of candidates that have been trained and certified under the Short Term Training Programme and number of certified candidates that have been successfully employed since 2015 under PMKVY;

(b) the State-wise details of number of operational training centres and training partners;

(c) the year-wise, State-wise, skill-wise details of the number of women and persons with disabilities who have been certified and employed since 2015; and

(d) the details of the monitoring strategy used under the Skill Development Management System (SDMS) to ensure that high quality is maintained for the Short Term Training Programme?

#### **Training target under Skill India Mission**

153. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Skill India Mission was supposed to train over 40 crore people by 2022;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a target of training 52 lakh people by 2019 was adopted;

(c) if so, the details of individuals that have been trained till now, year-wise; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the rate of job placements under the scheme being meagre 18 per cent?

#### **Target of production of crude steel**

154. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has fixed a target of production of 300 MT of crude steel by 2030-31 in its National Steel Policy, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of aspects which are to be given adequate and special attention in order to achieve this noble task; and

(d) the details of the role that will be assigned/have been assigned to Salem Steel Plant in this regard?

#### **CBI investigation regarding payment of HHEC**

155. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating cases against various bullion parties regarding payment by Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the outcome of the case investigated by CBI; and

(d) the status of case as on date?

**Protection and promotion of  
traditional textile-making  
skills**

156. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to establish well-equipped centres for ensuring the survival of traditional textile making in different regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what special measures have been taken to document the traditional textile-making skills in different parts of the country and to promote them commercially?

**Appropriate remuneration to artists of  
Mithila paintings**

†157. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the artists of Mithila paintings are compelled to sell their paintings to middlemen at a very low price due to unavailability of regularised market system inspite of heavy demand of these paintings worldwide and middlemen are profiteering from it;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed by Central Government with Amazon with the aim of ensuring simultaneous branding and sale of Mithila paintings in many countries including India, in order to put a check on middlemen and to provide appropriate remuneration to artists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Funds released and utilised for  
Cluster Development Projects  
for Jabalpur**

158. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ₹ 51.50 crore were released for the development of 17 Cluster Development Projects under the Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP);

(b) whether it is believed that these funds were to be utilised between years 2015 to 2017; if so, whether these have been so utilised and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much funds have been utilized for development of the cluster in Jabalpur?

**Impact of demonetization and GST on  
textile industry**

159. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of demonetization and GST on the textile industry particularly powerloom units;

(b) how many workers lost jobs due to adverse and faulty implementation of GST in textile industry;

(c) how many units shutdown particularly powerlooms due to cash crunch, State-wise; and

(d) what steps Government has taken to revive the industry?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Welfare scheme for handloom weavers**

160. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased  
to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated,  
released and spent under various welfare  
schemes for handloom weavers during the  
last three years, State-wise;

(b) the success achieved so far in  
providing marketing facilities to the weavers  
and the total number of weavers benefited  
during the said period, State-wise;

(c) how many handloom weavers/  
members of their families have committed  
suicides due to financial crisis; and

(d) the steps taken to help them?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 12th July, 2018*  
*Ashadha 21, 1940 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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**(Ministry-wise)**

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