

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, February 9, 2021/ 20 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

**(Ministries : Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy;
Corporate Affairs; Culture; Earth Sciences; Finance; Health and Family Welfare; New
and Renewable Energy; Power; Science and Technology; Tourism)**

Total number of questions -- 160

Surgery training to postgraduate students of Ayurveda

801 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Ayurvedic hospitals, that are attached with allopathic hospitals;
- (b) the duration of hands-on training in surgery imparted to postgraduate students of Ayurveda for each of the Shalaky Tantra procedure listed in the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Amendment Regulations, 2020; and
- (c) the duration of hands-on training in surgery imparted to postgraduate students of Ayurveda for each of the Shalya Tantra procedure listed in the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Amendment Regulations, 2020?

Promotion of Ayurvedic medicines in the country

802 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to promote Ayurvedic medicine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to open AYUSH dispensaries in every district and block across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of such dispensaries opened by Government in the country so far, district-wise and block-wise?

Ayurvedic Health clinics

803 # **Shri Narayan Rane:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to establish Ayurvedic health clinics throughout the country in order to promote rural health, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any time limit has been set for this and by when this scheme will be

implemented; and

(c) the details of other facilities provided in the primary healthcare centres at present?

Promotion of AYUSH in rural and urban areas

804 # **Shri Narayan Rane:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether people living in rural and urban areas are still inclined towards getting allopathy treatment despite the promotion of AYUSH among people done by Government in recent years;

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

(c) whether the urban male population is taking AYUSH treatment more than the rural male population whereas rural female population is taking AYUSH treatment more than the urban female population, if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in this regard?

Grant-in-Aid to Maharashtra under NAM

805 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to Maharashtra as grant-in-aid under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) along with the details of the amount of the funds allocated under various activities;

(b) the details of the activities in respect of providing mass health facilities organised in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(c) the number of consolidated AYUSH hospitals being proposed to be opened in Maharashtra along with the amount of the fund allocated and disbursed in this regard, if any; and

(d) the number of villages in Maharashtra which have been selected under AYUSH Gram and the details thereof?

Conversion of Pandit Khushilal Sharma Ayurveda College, Bhopal into centre of excellence

806 # **Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make budget provision for converting Pandit Khushilal Sharma Government Ayurveda College, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh into centre of excellence; and

(b) if so, by when?

Funds allocated to Government of NCT Delhi under AYUSH schemes

807 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated under various schemes of the Ministry to Government of NCT Delhi;

(b) the time-frame by when these funds would be released; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to set up new Ayurveda institutes in Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of funds for promotion of AYUSH

808 # Smt. Kanta Kardam:

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated and utilised for each system of AYUSH namely Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy during 2019 to 2020;
- (b) whether some States/ Union Territories have requested to release additional grants for improvement in infrastructural facilities and services under different streams of AYUSH, if so, the details thereof and the details of proposed action or proposal made by Government for the same;
- (c) the current status of establishing separate AYUSH Directorates under the proposal, the details thereof, State/ Union Territory-wise; and
- (d) the status of training being provided to Anganwadi workers for AYUSH treatment, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise?

Harmonising AYUSH and modern medicine

809 Shri K.P. Munusamy:

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the status gap between modern medicine and AYUSH has been done away with to harmonise both sectors and expanding the framework will increase the present problems;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any strong framework to narrow this gap; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken in this regard?

Promoting AYUSH practice in the international sphere

810 Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any step has been taken to recognise AYUSH in the international practice of medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government recognises AYUSH medicines and practices at par with allopathic medicines practice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of AYUSH medicines in foreign countries

811 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

Will the Minister of ***Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to promote AYUSH medicines in foreign countries;
- (b) the number of countries which import AYUSH medicines;
- (c) whether there are stiff stands by Allopathic doctors not to allow AYUSH doctors to perform surgery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Use of CSR Funds in Tamil Nadu

812 Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) whether Government has proposed to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to fund COVID-19 vaccination programmes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of CSR fund sanctioned to the State of Tamil Nadu during COVID-19; and
- (c) the names of the corporate companies and the amount spent and the sectors for which the amount has been spent by them during each of the last three years in Tamil Nadu?

Sanction for prosecution under Companies Act

813 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) the number of persons/companies against whom sanction has been granted by Government or an authority appointed by it for offences committed under the Companies Act; and
- (b) the number of such sanctions currently pending with Government with the duration of their pendency, the details thereof, categorised based on months pending?

Loss before tax to Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Limited

814 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited has reported to the Registrar of Companies loss before tax for financial year 2018-19 and financial year 2019-20 as ₹ 142 crore and ₹ 249 crore, respectively;
- (b) whether Mother Dairy's loss before tax for financial year 2018-19 was due to provisioning of ₹ 190.85 crore against deposits made in Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS);
- (c) whether Mother Dairy wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister a letter dated February 13, 2019 stating that ₹ 190.85 crore invested in IL&FS was payable to farmers; and
- (d) whether an enquiry has been ordered?

Mechanism for utilisation of unspent CSR fund

815 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

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

- (a) whether Government has any record of CSR funds spent by Companies in last two financial years and the current financial year till now and, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government is thinking to set up a mechanism for utilising unspent CSR fund of several private companies;
- (c) whether a District Collector, MLA/MLC or MP can request a private entity to spend their CSR fund for development of their constituency or State, if so, the details and procedure thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/will be taken by Government?

Pre-packaged insolvency resolution process

816 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to introduce Pre-Packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PPIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) with necessary checks and balances, as an option for resolving insolvency, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government till date has undertaken any evaluation of the efficiency of IBC, 2016 and, if so, the details thereof?

Companies Fresh Start Scheme

817 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched a 'Companies Fresh Start Scheme' in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the break-up of the companies that have availed the benefits under this scheme, State-wise?

CSR spending of corporate sector infrastructure companies

818 Shri K.K. Ragesh:

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

- (a) whether report of money payable under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by each corporate sector companies, which are into infrastructure development, of the last three years are available;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) the details of the projects for which each of such companies have spent their CSR money;
- (d) if so, the location details of each of such CSR projects; and
- (e) whether any rules are in existence, regarding the location of the CSR projects, applicable to corporate sector infrastructure companies, if so, the details thereof?

Incorporation of companies during the current fiscal year

819 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

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

- (a) whether COVID-19 pandemic had a telling effect on the incorporation of companies in comparison to 2019-20 despite encouragement extended to the MSME sector in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government extends help and support to the companies incorporated in the planning and commissioning and, if so, the details thereof?

Curbing the cases of fraud and theft by companies

820 Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that fraud cases involving companies went up by the year 2020, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is planning to take any step to curb the cases of fraud and theft; and

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

Amendments to Companies Act, 2013

821 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any amendment to the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules framed thereunder in view of the threat posed by COVID-19; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Changes in Society Registration Act

822 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the present Society Registration Act is very old i.e. it is dated to 1860;
- (b) whether Government is considering to undertake changes in the Society Registration Act; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Exempting CSR from tax net

823 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) the details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by private and public sector companies during the last four years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the amount spent as CSR has come down drastically in 2018-2019;
- (c) whether this is a direct result of falling profits of companies over the past two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the status in 2019-20; and
- (e) whether Government will consider exempting CSR from tax net and giving additional incentives for CSR fund in view of COVID-19 and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Protecting cultural heritage of Tirupati

824 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) the initiatives that have been taken up by Government to protect cultural heritage of the pilgrim city of Tirupati;
- (b) the list of institutions and projects developed for protecting cultural heritage of Tirupati; and
- (c) the areas which Government sees as scope for protecting Tirupati's cultural heritage?

Grievances received on CPGRAMS portal

825 # Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:

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

- (a) the number of grievances received by the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal of the Ministry of Culture during the last two years; and
- (b) the number of grievances that have been dealt with and those still pending?

Preservation of historical monuments in Chhattisgarh

826 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

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

- (a) the number of dilapidated historical buildings in Chhattisgarh and the number of historical buildings repaired during the last two years, year-wise;
- (b) the quantum of funds allocated and spent for the maintenance of said buildings during last two years;
- (c) the number of tourists who visited these historical buildings and monuments along with the revenue collected from these buildings and monuments during the last two years;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any survey in regard to historical importance of these buildings during the current year; and
- (e) if so, the number of these buildings that need repairing?

Easy access to cultural heritage for Persons with Disability (PwDs)

827 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to make cultural heritage sites across the country more accessible to Persons with Disability as India is home to 38 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which 30 are cultural sites, seven are natural sites and one a mixed site while also establishing the country as a leading model of accessibility planning and implementation in South Asian region; and
- (b) steps taken by Government to upgrade the existing infrastructure instead of building new separate sections, at museums and art galleries to make them adaptable to meet the needs so as to develop a more inclusive cultural spaces?

Preservation of historical monuments

828 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared a database of monuments of national and international importance in the country, if so, details of monuments under protection of Government, State-wise;
- (b) details of budget allocated for the maintenance of these monuments;
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal seeking the inclusion of more monuments to the list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (e) whether Government is aware of the fact that many such monuments have been encroached upon and a few have been completely ruined, if so, the measures taken for their restoration?

Committee to re-identify heritages

829 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) whether Government has constituted a Committee to re-identify heritages in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Committee has prepared a new list of such heritages;
- (c) if so, the names contained in the list; and
- (d) if not, whether such a Committee would be constituted?

Cap on number of visitors to monuments under Archaeological Survey of India

830 **Shri Rajeev Satav:**

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

- (a) whether Government has removed the cap on number of visitors to the Centrally protected monuments maintained by the ASI across the country that were introduced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has fixed any entry fee to see the Taj Mahal and other Centrally protected monuments in the country and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to introduce a single entry pass for all the monuments in the country to encourage tourists to visit different monuments and, if so, the details thereof?

Regional Centres of IGNCA

831 **Shri Rajeev Satav:**

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

- (a) the number of regional centres of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) functioning at present;
- (b) whether there is an urgent need for internal changes to make IGNCA a vibrant national institution for art and culture and, if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and
- (c) whether Government has received any complaint regarding misappropriation of funds in IGNCA during the last three years and, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Status of national monuments

832 **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe:**

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

- (a) the number of national monuments in the country and the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the quantum of fund being spent on their maintenance per annum;
- (c) the details of income generated from visitors visiting these monuments;
- (d) the procedure for listing and de-listing of such monuments; and
- (e) whether there has been any new addition or deletion to this list during 2014-19, if so, the details thereof?

National Ocean Development Authority

833 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

whether Government has taken steps to set up a National Ocean Development Authority in accordance with the Economic Advisory Council's Report On Coastal Marine Spatial Planning and Tourism, and if not, reasons therefor?

Landslide situations in Tamil Nadu

834 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey on increasing cases of landslides

across the country due to cyclones and floods , especially in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Cyclone Warning Centres (CWSs) functioning in different parts of the State;

(c) whether Government has proposed to establish more CWCs in view of increasing number of cyclones in the State and if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to develop the regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) in different parts of the State, if so, the details thereof?

National Monsoon Mission

835 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Monsoon Mission was successful in its predictions during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the targets fixed and achievements made under the mission during last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from International institutes in this regard and, if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the status of various ongoing research projects undertaken by Earth System Science Organization which would help us to improve our forecasting capability of various weather and climate related phenomena and natural hazards, project-wise?

Earthquake Early Warning System

836 Dr. Ameet Jainik:

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

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake early warning system of the country is capable of predicting earthquakes of any magnitude; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it can accurately predict an earthquake and send an alert, if not, the reasons therefor?

Changing rainfall pattern in the country

837 # Smt. Kanta Kadam:

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been done about the changing rainfall pattern in the country, including the change in monsoon pattern;

(b) if so, the details of notable changes recorded in the country's monsoon pattern, including the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether Government has launched any program to assess the impact of climate change including change in monsoon pattern on major sectors of the economy such as water resources, agriculture, forests, energy, coastal areas and human health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of schemes and Projects in West Bengal

838 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and projects of the Ministry implemented or being implemented

in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether Government has evaluated the performances of various schemes and programmes under implementation by the Ministry, if so, the details thereof and action being taken thereon; and

(c) the funds allocated to such schemes and programmes and the details thereof?

Collection of indirect taxes

839 Shri K.J. Alphons:

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

(a) the collection of indirect taxes during the first three quarters of the current year; and

(b) how does it compare with the collection made during the previous year?

Release of 11th installment to States to meet GST compensation shortfall

840 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has released the 11th installment of ₹6,000 crore to States and UTs to meet the GST compensation shortfall; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard during 2020, State-wise/UT-wise?

Loss to economy due to NPAs

841 # Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

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

(a) the amount having been rendered as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) out of loans disbursed by various banks, during last five years;

(b) the extent of loss likely to happen to the country's economy due to said NPAs;

(c) the quantum of loan amount waived off which was provided to many industrialists during the last five years, the details thereof, year-wise and company-wise; and

(d) the loan amount disbursed to the farmers across the country along with the amount waived off during the said period and the details thereof?

Abolition of taxes on shares

842 Shri Prashanta Nanda:

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to abolish Dividend Distribution Tax, Securities Transaction Tax and Long-term Capital Gains Tax on shares; and

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

Production-linked incentive package

843 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

(a) the details of ₹ 1.45 lakh production-linked incentive package announced by Government;

(b) the anticipated boost in manufacturing and extent of employment opportunities being

created through above package; and

(c) the details of sectors that are going to be benefited from the package?

Plans for another fiscal stimulus

844 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

(a) the details of proposal or plans that Government has for another fiscal stimulus of about 3.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to push infrastructure spending, wage subsidy, etc.;

(b) whether the stimulus will also cover units which are not registered under Goods and Service Tax (GST) regime;

(c) to what extent this will help in reviving the demand and pushing growth; and

(d) the anticipated employment opportunities going to be created through this proposed stimulus?

Issuance of Kisan Credit Cards

845 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued and the number of beneficiaries in the last three years, year- wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of new cards issued to the left-out farmers in the last year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to cover all farmers for issuing KCC and time by which it would be completed?

Financial Packages announced during COVID-19 pandemic

846 Shri Elamaram Kareem:

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

(a) the details of financial packages announced by Government during COVID-19 pandemic time;

(b) whether most of programmes announced in these packages were already part of the Union Budget or already announced schemes of Government, if so, the details of newly introduced schemes in each packages;

(c) actual expenditure incurred directly from State exchequer for funding these packages, and the details of the size of each announcements and the status of implementation and allocation as on 01-01-2021; and

(d) whether any of programmes in these packages were supported or funded through PM CARES fund, if so, details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

GST Compensation to States

847 Shri Elamaram Kareem:

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

(a) quantum of total GST compensation fund pending to be disbursed to States in current financial year, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Union Government on the request of State Government of Kerala to disburse the pending GST compensation fund;

(c) the reasons for delaying payment of GST Compensation before pandemic and lockdown;

- (d) whether Government is planning to review the GST Act as Government is continuously failing to compensate or delaying the compensation to be disbursed to States most of the time after its introduction; and
- (e) when the current dues are expected to be paid to States?

Proposal to waive off farmers' loans

848 **Shri P. Bhattacharya:**

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

- (a) the details of the total and average loans disbursed to farmers during the last two years and as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to waive off the loans of farmers up to rupees ten thousand and action taken to remove the distress among farmers community in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Foreign debt on the country

849 # **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) the quantum of current debt of foreign banks/institutions on the country;
- (b) the increase in country's debt during the last decade, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the amount of interest currently being repaid for the total debt; and
- (d) the details of the loan taken from foreign countries year-wise during the last five years?

Meeting the target of disinvestment

850 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has proposal to sell various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to meet the target of Rs. 1,200 crore by disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government will come forward not to pursue such sale of PSUs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Beneficiaries from Stand Up India Scheme

851 **Shri Shwait Malik:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of people have been benefited since the launch of 'Stand up India' scheme under which beneficiaries can get a loan of ₹ 10 lakh to rupees one crore to start or increase their business; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such beneficiaries in Punjab since its implementation, District-wise?

NPAs in public sector banks

852 **Shri Vaiko:**

Ms. Saroj Pandey:

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

- (a) whether the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to higher Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) or bad loans in the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and private banks in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any recapitalisation plan for these banks to make them buffer in loan distribution to various sectors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, other measures taken to help banks to overcome the capital requirements and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)?

Rural housing schemes sponsored by nationalised banks

853 **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy on the amount of interest accrued on housing loans to weaker sections and low income groups of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of rural housing schemes sponsored by nationalised banks in the country; and
- (d) the number of people benefited/likely to be benefited including in rural areas under the said scheme?

Disinvestment of LIC

854 **Shri Ripun Bora:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to disinvest Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC);
- (b) if so, the reasons to allow privatisation of shares thereof; and
- (c) protection and guarantee of Government on the protection of policy holders thereof?

Financial aid to States to meet the GST compensation

855 # **Ms. Saroj Pandey:**

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

the details of financial aid given to States by the Union Government to meet the demand of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation, State-wise?

Reforms to reduce bad loans of PSBs

856 **Smt. Ambika Soni:**

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

- (a) the total quantum of bad loans of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) at present;
- (b) whether Government has taken any measure to improve financial health of PSBs, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to institute comprehensive reforms in PSBs to improve governance, under writing, monitoring and recovery to reduce the NPAs?

GST collection during lockdown

857 Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a rapid shortfall in the tax revenue of various States and Union Governments' due to COVID-19 and lockdown;
- (b) if so, the progress of Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection during the lockdown period; and
- (c) whether GST collection system needs further simplification, if so, the suggestions received from various stake holders?

Instructions for quicker resolution of NPAs

858 Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

- (a) the amount of loans provided by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to individuals, industries, corporate houses, including the details of outstanding loans/Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and its share and percentage, during each of the last three years and the current financial year, year-wise and bank-wise;
- (b) the progress of the recovery of such loans during the said period;
- (c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed PSBs for quicker resolution and management of NPAs and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the NPAs of banks?

Including Bidi under demerit list of GST

859 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to include Bidi under the demerit list of Goods and Services Tax (GST), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether there is any proposal or representation received by Government to include bidi under the list of demerit goods, if so, the details thereof?

Cess on tobacco products

860 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to increase compensation cess or central excise on cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount of tax collected from cigarettes, bidis and smokeless tobacco from central excise and cess during the last three years;
- (d) whether the tax collected from tobacco is being used to fund the health programmes/schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes implemented for relief during COVID-19 lockdown

861 Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

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

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government to provide relief to various sectors during the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic in the country, Scheme-wise and Sector-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated under the said schemes along with its utilisation so far, Scheme-wise;
- (c) the number of beneficiaries of the said schemes across the country so far, Scheme-wise and Sector-wise;
- (d) the details of the irregularities reported in implementation of the said schemes across the country along with action taken thereon so far; and
- (e) the other steps taken/or being taken by Government in this direction?

Extension of reimbursement of GST compensation fund

862 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

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

- (a) whether any demand has been received from some State Governments particularly from the State Government of Karnataka for the extension of reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of States and the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Constitution of an expert committee for revival of economy

863 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that except agriculture, all sectors of the country's economy posted its sharpest contraction in the April-June, 2020, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is considering to constitute an expert committee consisting of leading economists to suggest ways and means for revival of country's economy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

GST refund to State of Chhattisgarh

864 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

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

- (a) whether there is GST refund due to the State of Chhattisgarh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Relaxation in rules to facilitate Kisan Credit Cards

865 **Dr. Amee Yajnik:**

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

- (a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) holders in the country, State/UT wise;
- (b) the details of loan sanctioned/ interest rate charged and the target set and achievements made by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in issuing KCCs to the farmers during each of the last two years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to relax the rules to facilitate KCCs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Slowdown in the economy

866 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether the country is expected to experience a GDP contraction of over 7.7 per cent in the current fiscal year as per National Statistical Office (NSO's) latest figures;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the private consumption expenditure is expected to contract 9.5 per cent, and gross fixed capital formation is expected to contract 14.5 per cent in financial year 2021; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to revive the economy?

Privatisation/ disinvestment of profit and loss making PSUs

867 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

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

- (a) whether Government has privatised, disinvested or strategically disinvested the profit making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the last five years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the names of the PSUs which have been privatised, disinvested or strategically disinvested by Government during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has also privatised loss making PSUs during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for which the private firms have purchased these loss making undertakings, the details thereof?

Fixation of pay of Government officials

868 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

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

- (a) whether the benefit of fixation of pay to officials at ₹ 18,460/- under 6th Central Pay Commission who were promoted from pre-revised Grade Pay of ₹ 4,200/- to ₹ 4600/- between 01/01/2006 and 29/08/2008 have been extended to officials in the Central Government other than assistants of CSS cadre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the benefit of the above fixation of pay has been given to employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, President's Secretariat, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, and Hon'ble Supreme Court, CAG etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Receipts from disinvestment

869 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

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

- (a) whether receipts from disinvestment as a proportion of the total budget have declined since 2014, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the budgeted disinvestment target for 2020-21 will be met as per Government's assessment;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;

- (d) the proportion of the disinvestment target for 2020-21 which has been achieved as on January 15, 2021, in percentage terms; and
 (e) the total disinvestment receipts as a proportion of total receipts for each financial year since 2014?

Economic depreciation

870 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rupee has been the worst performing among all Asian currencies in the year 2020;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (c) the reasons why India's economy is suffering the worst among all neighbouring countries with similar COVID death patterns also given that the pandemic had hit all countries;
 (d) whether among all Asian countries, India has the worst COVID impact both in terms of deaths per million population and economic depreciation; and
 (e) if so, the reasons why Government did not avoid this crisis?

Stimulus to revive demand and consumption

871 Shri Anand Sharma:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reports, Indian economy slipped into a consumption shock due to COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdown of economic and industrial activity;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the steps taken and any proposed stimulus by Government to revive demand and consumption?

Companies unable to service their debt

872 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) the division of the number of companies unable to service their debt in the past three years, sector-wise;
 (b) whether Government has taken any step to support companies dealing with insolvency on the pretext of unserviceable debt; and
 (c) if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of risk based internal audit for large UCBs and NBFCs

873 Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

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

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is proposing introduction of risk-based internal audit norms for large urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), as part of measures aimed at improving governance and assurance functions at supervised entities; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof and results yielded so far?

Looking at fiscal management from a three year perspective

874 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes and also various industry associations have urged Government to look at fiscal management from a three year perspective, as complete recovery was expected only in financial year 2022; and
- (b) whether it has also been suggested for aggressive disinvestment, including bringing down of majority stake in public sector banks to below 50 per cent, as well as monetisation of assets?

RuPay card to beneficiaries of PMJDY

875 # **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a total of 3.82 crore beneficiaries have been added under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) from December 2019 to December 2020;
- (b) whether it is a fact that each beneficiary has to be provided with RuPay Card while only 89 lakh persons were given the card during the said period;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) has been discontinued for Rupay cardholders; and
- (d) if so, by when Government is planning to restart the MDR and provide RuPay card to 100 per cent beneficiaries?

Non-availing of credit facility by companies due to their NPAs

876 **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several companies including MSMEs are currently not able to avail credit because their loans have become non-performing assets (NPAs);
- (b) whether Government or RBI has commissioned any study to evaluate as to how many of these companies are viable, have good management and have defaulted only due to normal business issues and not malfeasance;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether Government would consider such a study?

Outstanding share of GST compensation to States

877 # **Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) the details of outstanding share of compensation of GST for the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether various developmental works in the States are being affected due to non release of compensation of GST on time; and
- (c) the reasons responsible for non release of GST compensation to States on time?

Kisan credit cards (KCCs)

878 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether Government has issued Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to the farmers across the country;
- (b) if so, the main features of Kisan Credit Card scheme;
- (c) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued to the farmers across the country including Rajasthan;
- (d) whether Government has made any assessment regarding this scheme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cases of banking frauds

879 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

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

- (a) the details of the cases of banking fraud detected during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 till 1 March, 2020 along with the amount involved therein, year-wise and bank-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a huge increase in the cases of banking fraud in the recent years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of FIRs registered from 2016-17 till date against the persons and bank employees involved in banking frauds along with the bank-wise details of the cases where fraudsters have either been charge-sheeted or convicted?

Release of GST compensation dues

880 Shri K.P. Munusamy:

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

- (a) whether Government has released GST compensation dues for the months between November 2019 to February 2020 to the various States, Tamil Nadu in particular since the announcement of the lockdown from 24th March 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken in this regard?

Cases of bank fraud registered

881 Shri K. Somaprasad:

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

- (a) the details of bank fraud cases registered during the last three years, the details thereof, year-wise, amount-wise and agency-wise;
- (b) the names and details of companies and the functionaries who are accused in the bank fraud during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of top banks officials involved in the bank fraud cases during the last three years and the details of action taken against them?

Seat creation for PG courses in medical colleges

882 Shri K.J. Alphonso:

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

- (a) the number of seats created for PG courses in medical colleges in the country during

the past five years;

(b) the number of posts that are proposed to be created over the next five years; and

(c) the number of super specialty seats that are proposed to be created over the next five years?

Capping the price of COVID-19 tests

883 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that capping the price of COVID-19 tests has forced several labs to use relatively inexpensive kits raising the risk of false negative and compromising data coming out of India; and

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to ensure that the capping of price of COVID-19 test kits do not affect the diagnosis in this regard?

CGHS dispensaries functioning in rented buildings

884 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries currently functioning in rented buildings across the country, particularly in Delhi-NCR;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study of such rented building in terms of footfall and expenditure burden in view of the increasing number of the beneficiaries, particularly the outbreak of infectious diseases; and

(c) by when Government proposes to shift such CGHS dispensaries particularly of Delhi-NCR to larger buildings?

Strengthening infrastructure of Public health system

885 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

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

(a) the details of steps taken to strengthen the public health system and infrastructure in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide financial incentives and grants to the States for increasing the allocation in such sectors, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any committee constituted by Government has given interim or final report on this aspect, if so, the details thereof?

Thalassemia patients in the country

886 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Thalassemia is a fatal disease and its patients are increasing;

(b) the number of people who are suffering from Thalassemia minor and Thalassemia major in the country, respectively, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government for prevention of the said disease;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to make pre natal screening for the aforesaid disease mandatory; and

(e) the number of hospitals that have specialised units of Thalassemia?

Free inoculation of people below poverty line

887 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to vaccinate people below poverty line for free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether necessary budget allocation has been made for it;
- (d) if so, the details of the amount allocated for the same; and
- (e) the details of the timeline for the vaccination of people below poverty line?

Vaccine hesitancy among healthcare and front line workers

888 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many healthcare and front line workers are hesitant to get COVID-19 vaccine;
- (b) if so, the details of total number of healthcare and front line workers in the country and the total number of workers who have been vaccinated till 31st January, 2021;
- (c) the reasons for such low percentage of healthcare and front line workers being vaccinated till 31st January, 2021;
- (d) whether the healthcare and front Line workers are not confident of the vaccine available for them; and
- (e) if so, the details and steps being taken to bring out more knowledge in public domain regarding the vaccines?

Anaemia Mukh Bharat

889 **Shri Dinesh Trivedi:**

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

- (a) whether the set target of anaemia reduction by 3 per cent per year has been achieved since the implementation of Anaemia Mukh Bharat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the data on prevalency of Anaemia among the six identified population groups since its implementation, State-wise and group-wise?

Janani Suraksha Yojana

890 **Shri Dinesh Trivedi:**

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

- (a) the details of number of beneficiaries of Janani Suraksha Yojana in the last two years, State-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a reduction in institutional deliveries since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (c) if so, the steps undertaken by Government to tackle this?

Periodic initiative to promote organ donation

891 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is taking any periodic initiative to promote organ donation in the country;

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

Mandatory PG course for medical college

892 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has made it mandatory for all the medical colleges to start Post Graduate (PG) courses within three years from the date of the MBBS recognition, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of PG medical seats available in the country;
- (c) the details for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) whether Government has taken necessary measures to ensure that adequate seats are available in MBBS and PG medical colleges in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Impact of COVID-19 on AIDS patients

893 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

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

- (a) the details of the HIV/AIDS cases reported in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is an adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on HIV/AIDS patients due to lack of transportation and reduced mobility in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken adequate measures to ensure proper medical treatment of HIV/AIDS patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof?

Health care infrastructure in rural areas

894 Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) whether any review has been made by Government for the healthcare infrastructure, especially hospital beds with oxygen meters and ventilators in the hinterland which will see a spike in the coming months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any projection is made for the doctors and para-medical staff that might be required to handle the rising cases in the rural areas in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Ingredient related marking on products

895 # Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) whether marking red symbol for identification of non-vegetarian ingredients and green symbol for identification of vegetarian ingredients on soaps, shampoo, toothpaste and other types of beauty and cosmetic products is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether consensus of making it mandatory was reached during the 79th meeting of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB); and
- (d) if so, the time when this meeting was held and reasons for non-implementation of the

consensus reached in the said meeting?

National policy on health

896 Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) whether Government contemplates to formulate a national policy on health with special focus on providing quality health care to the economically weaker sections of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government also proposes to make it mandatory for specialist doctors to serve in rural areas for a specified period?

Free distribution of COVID-19 vaccine

897 Shri Ripun Bora:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to distribute COVID-19 vaccine free of cost to any sections of the people of the country;
- (b) if so, criteria adopted by Government to select for vaccines and the detail of time bound planned phases therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that recently a stage trial vaccine has been procured by Government and it has been used for vaccination thereof; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and total supply of under trial vaccines supplied by the producer as on date 26th January, 2021 and have vaccinated so far thereto?

Expenditure of constructing AIIMS in Rajkot, Gujarat

898 # Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:

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

- (a) the amount to be spent on AIIMS being built in Rajkot city of Gujarat; and
- (b) the estimated amount to be spent in financial year 201-2022 for the same?

Death of healthcare workers during COVID-19 pandemic

899 Shri Kapil Sibal:

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

- (a) the number of healthcare workers who have contracted COVID-19 virus till date, State-wise, job-wise and public-private hospital wise;
- (b) the number of healthcare workers who have lost their life due to COVID-19, State-wise, job-wise and public-private hospital-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is providing compensation for those who have died, if so, the amount of compensation that is being provided?

Payment to healthcare workers

900 Shri Kapil Sibal:

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

- (a) whether healthcare workers across the country have been paid fully for their services;
- (b) whether Government is providing assistance to the States which are unable to clear the dues; and
- (c) whether there are any additional incentives being offered to hire more healthcare

workers?

Security measures for ASHA workers during COVID-19

901 **Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:**

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

- (a) the details of the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker deployed for containing local transmission of COVID-19, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the personal protective equipment (PPE) kits that were made available to them for containment activities;
- (c) the details of the salaries provided to these ASHA workers, State-wise; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any measure to empower and secure the working of ASHA workers?

Shortage of doctors in rural India

902 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) the details of measures taken to make up the shortage of doctors and to correct this ratio in Government healthcare centres in the country, particularly in rural areas during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether Government has identified such areas in the country including Maharashtra where there is acute shortage of doctors and medical facilities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any step is being taken by Government to ensure better availability of specialist doctors in rural and remote areas of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Special benefits for ASHA workers

903 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to provide any special benefit for the ASHA workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the schemes for ASHA workers fighting COVID-19 in the country; and
- (d) the details of beneficiaries of such schemes, as on date, State/UT-wise?

Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Uttar Pradesh

904 **Shri Syed Zafar Islam:**

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing the Ayushman Bharat Yojana covering nearly half the population of the country, if so, the salient features and targets of the scheme; and
- (b) the amount for which applications have been received under the said Yojana till date and the quantum of amount released to beneficiaries for Uttar Pradesh?

Affordable COVID-19 vaccine for all

905 **Smt. Ambika Soni:**

Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine free of cost to any section of the population in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of intended beneficiaries and expected expenditure thereon; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to make the vaccine affordable for the people Below Poverty Line and the Economically Weaker Sections of the society?

Vaccine development and its export

906 Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has successfully developed two vaccines for COVID-19 and also started a mammoth vaccination drive across the country;
- (b) whether there is any report of its serious side effect after vaccination; and
- (c) whether it is welcomed by other countries and whether Government is going to respond to the request from some other countries for supply of vaccine?

Shortage of doctors in rural areas of Chhattisgarh

907 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

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

- (a) the details of measures adopted to cater to the shortage of doctors and to bring about an appropriate doctor-patient ratio in Government Health Centres running in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh during last two years and current year, region-wise;
- (b) whether Government has identified the areas with acute shortage of doctors and healthcare facilities in Chhattisgarh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the steps are being taken to ensure better availability of specialist-doctors in rural and remote areas of Chhattisgarh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Adverse Effects Following Immunisation

908 Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has observed any Adverse Effects Following Immunisation (AEFI) arising from the use of COVAXIN and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has observed any AEFI arising from the use of COVISHIELD and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any COVID-19 vaccine currently under clinical trials in the country have led to any AEFI, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the common side effects of all vaccines currently being used or undergoing clinical trials in India?

Side effects of COVID-19 vaccine

909 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the reports of side effects of COVID-19 vaccine from different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines for availing vaccination, the details

thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any impact analysis of COVID-19 vaccine after receiving the vaccination;

(d) the details of actions taken by Government to overcome the hesitancy to receive vaccination among the citizens including front-line health workers; and

(e) whether Government is ready to allow the State Governments to lay out State specific order of beneficiaries of vaccination, if not, the reasons therefor?

Timely availability of services in Government hospitals

910 Shri Hishey Lachungpa:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that beds and accommodation are made available on priority and mandatory basis to the patients who arrive in Government run hospitals in an emergent health situations, irrespective of the day being a Government holiday or weekend;

(b) whether it has been observed that there is lack of apathy on the part of the medical staff especially on these days, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the strict regulations and guidelines that can be issued by Government in this regard to ensure proper and timely assistance to these distressed patients?

Indigenous vaccine to tackle COVID-19

911 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries in the world have claimed that they have come out with a vaccine that will tackle COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when Government will be able to come out with a vaccine in this regard, which will be available in the market and, the details thereof?

Uniform bond policy for doctors trained in Government Institutions

912 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

(a) whether any committee has been constituted by the Ministry to formulate a Uniform bond policy for compulsory service to be rendered by the doctors trained in Government institutions, medical graduates / post graduates/ super speciality doctors, pursuant to a Supreme Court decision dated 26th September, 2019;

(b) if so, whether any such policy has been formulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, with timeline of its implementation and, if not, the reasons therefor as the issue merits urgent attention involving lives of thousands of doctors?

UK variant of COVID-19 cases in the country

913 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

(a) whether passengers coming from U.K. have been tested positive for mutant strain of corona virus;

(b) if so, the number of persons found infected with this virus and the places where they have been quarantined;

(c) whether there are passengers who have not been found infected with the virus and are

- still being quarantined;
 (d) whether Government bears the expenses of quarantined passengers; and
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Transparency in COVID-19 vaccine trials

914 **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

Smt. Ambika Soni:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of reports that citizens are being used to test COVID-19 vaccine candidates without their consent;
- (b) whether Government is aware of reports that companies have misrepresented the trial of vaccine candidates and failed to disclose potential side-effects of vaccine candidates;
- (c) whether Government intends to investigate the companies involved for misconduct during COVID-19 vaccine trails; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Establishment of National Institute of Virology in Bihar

915 # **Shri Vivek Thakur:**

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

- (a) whether any step has been taken towards opening a National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Bihar's Patna or Muzaffarpur in the wake of prevention from encephalitis and other tropical diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

COVID-19 assistance to Telangana

916 **Dr. Banda Prakash:**

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

- (a) the details of the physical resources provided by Government to the State Government of Telangana during the COVID-19 crisis; and
- (b) the financial assistance and resources provided by Government to Telangana for setting up of COVID-19 testing laboratories in the State and the details thereof?

Use of drugs under clinical trial for COVID-19.

917 **Dr. Banda Prakash:**

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

- (a) whether Government has permitted the use of drugs under the clinical trials for treating COVID-19, rare genetic diseases and paediatric disorders without amending New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the drugs that Government is likely to permit to use under the above exemption; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the countries using drugs under clinical trial for COVID-19;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the drugs likely to be imported by the Government in this regard?

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

918 Shri Bikash Ranjan:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes, instead of a medical board, an independent gynaecologist not regularly checking the pregnant person to be the final authority on abortion, as the constitution of medical board is near impossibility particularly at the base level of primary centre where ordinarily the pregnancy is taken care of medically;
- (b) whether the decision to abort remains with the person concerned and doctors may only give medical advice on the health of both foetus and the pregnant person; and
- (c) whether it will be more appropriate to replace the term "Pregnant woman" with the term "Pregnant Person"?

Sanctioning of AIIMS for Kerala

919 Shri K.K. Ragesh:

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

- (a) whether sanctioning of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kerala is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

Regional Institute of Ophthalmology in Karnataka

920 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to establish a regional Institute of Ophthalmology in Karnataka, if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (b) the total amount allocated to various States from 2015 to present date under the National Programme for Control of Blindness?

Safety and efficacy of approved vaccines

921 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhara:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that at the time of approving the vaccine candidate of Bharat Biotech, phase 3 trials of the vaccine candidate had not yet been concluded;
- (b) if so, the reasons for Government's approval of vaccine candidates without following mandatory protocols, including verification of data on safety and efficacy;
- (c) whether Government intends to review the data on the safety and efficacy of the approved vaccine candidates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, reasons therefor?

Identification of COVID-19 patients using air travel

922 Shri Anand Sharma:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of confirmed COVID-19 positive patients using air travel between May 25, 2020 and December 31, 2020, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether adequate measures other than self-declaration have been taken to identify and

track COVID-19 positive patients using air travel during the above time period, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of COVID-19 positive cases identified upon and after arrival at airports in India between May 2020 and December 31, 2020?

Tuberculosis crisis in India

923 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

(a) whether Government will be able to achieve its set target of eliminating all tuberculosis (TB) cases by 2025;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any special step to manage the TB crisis in the country amidst the pandemic and rising malnutrition cases;

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

(d) whether TB crisis has worsened because of the pandemic and whether Government has conducted any research to assess the same?

National Digital Health Mission

924 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

(a) the details of a user's data that will be collected under National Digital Health Mission;

(b) the details of Government and non-government entities that will manage the data and have access to data collected through the Mission; and

(c) the manner in which personal data of persons under the National Digital Health Mission will be protected?

Safety of COVID-19 vaccine candidates

925 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

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

(a) the evidence to support the Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI) statement that COVID-19 vaccines are 100 per cent safe; and

(b) the details of vaccine candidates which were referred in DCGI's statement made in January, 2021?

Presence of Microplastics in the food chain

926 **Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:**

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

(a) the details of research being undertaken on various aspects of presence of microplastics presence in food chain, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of health risks associated to humans due to microplastics found in food chain, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government validates international health bodies work on microplastics present in placenta, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the said regulations are to be notified by Government;

(e) if not, whether Government is considering to formulate any such study; and

(f) the details of institutions involved in such research work?

Rates of payment made by insurance companies to hospitals under Ayushman Bharat

927 # **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

- (a) the details of the rates of payment made by insurance companies to hospitals for the 1350 types of treatments under "Ayushman Bharat" scheme;
- (b) whether there is a conflict between Government and hospitals regarding the rates of payments made by the insurance companies to the hospitals; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government, in this regard?

Construction of residential complex and OPD block of AIIMS Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

928 **Shri Y. S. Chowdary:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been inordinate delay in construction of residential complex and OPD block of AIIMS Guntur in the state of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

Beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Yojana

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

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

- (a) the number of people across the country who have been benefited under Ayushman Bharat scheme, particularly the poorest people of the country; and
- (b) whether the fund that has been allocated for this scheme is also being used for medical insurance under this scheme, if so, how many people have been benefited, State-wise?

Neglect of other diseases due to pandemic

930 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that diseases other than COVID-19 do not get much attention in the country as the focus of attention is on the pandemic;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that severe health issues like Cancer, Cardiac, HIV and TB diseases are neglected in health care initiatives; and
- (c) if so, details of the measures being taken by Government to redress the situation?

Medical insurance cover in case of medical complication due to COVID-19 vaccine

931 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

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

- (a) whether those administered/ to be administered with the COVID-19 vaccines are insured against any kind of side effects or medical complications that may arise due to inoculation;
- (b) if so, the step taken by Government so far to ensure non-piling of litigations due to vaccine administrated side effects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Shortage of medical colleges in the country

932 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the shortage of medical colleges in the country to meet the demand of the present needs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal seeking establishment of one medical college in every district across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Strengthening National Urban Health Mission

933 **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the National Urban Health Mission;
- (b) if so, whether any consultation was done with the State Governments; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Potential of ocean energy in Odisha

934 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated oceanic energy potential of Odisha; and
- (b) the potential thereof of oceanic energy in Odisha, source-wise (Tidal energy, wave energy, ocean current energy, ocean thermal energy conversion etc.)?

Renewable energy potential of Odisha

935 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

the renewable energy potential of the State of Odisha based on a combination of prevalent renewable energy technologies including solar, wind, geothermal and tidal?

Renewable energy generation under PM-KUSUM in Odisha

936 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the target of renewable energy generation for the State of Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM); and
- (b) the allocation and disbursement of Central financial assistance for Odisha under PM-KUSUM?

Renewable energy capacity

937 # **Ms. Saroj Pandey:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth registered in renewable energy capacity during the last five years; and
- (b) the renewable energy capacity at present in GW and the percentage of its contribution to total power generation capacity and the details thereof?

Solar energy production in the country

938 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of solar energy generated during the last five years in the country, year-wise;
- (b) in what ways has this helped in curbing the level of energy scarcity in the country; and
- (c) the details of major initiatives taken to increase solar energy production in the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh?

Setting up of solar parks

939 # **Shri Ram Shakal:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy to set up solar parks in view of the growing energy requirement in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the States which have been identified for setting up solar parks and the criteria adopted for the same; and
- (c) the amount allocated during the current financial year for setting up of solar parks?

Progress of Atal Jyoti Yojana

940 **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of Atal JyotiYojna (AJAY) during the last two years and the details thereof;
- (b) the list of States that have been covered under the scheme during the last two years and the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the total expenditure in implementing the scheme during the last two years and the details thereof?

Solar panel manufacturing

941 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons why solar panel research is bleak and there is little investment in R & D;
- (b) whether any specific scheme which is initiated by Government to focus on R & D of solar panels, if so, details thereof;
- (c) details of anti-dumping duty imposed on Chinese solar panels;
- (d) in what ways is Goods and Services Tax (GST) crippling solar panel manufacturing in the country and how is Ministry planning to help the sector;
- (e) to what extent has COVID-19 impacted the solar power sector in the country; and
- (f) future prospect of the sector in view of banning of solar panels from China?

Renewable power projects in Odisha

942 **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up floating solar projects in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the progress made so far in implementation of those projects; and
- (c) the proposals of Government to set up other non-conventional power projects in Odisha in 2021 and 2022?

Energy Generation

943 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

whether Government proposes to invest funds to establish new plants for new and renewable energy generation in various parts of the country including Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of renewable energy parks in Andhra Pradesh

944 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered setting up renewable energy parks in the country as a part of Make-in-India initiative to boost self sufficiency, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether any such park has been proposed to be established across the country particularly in the state of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

Details of claims of pending work

945 # **Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:**

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

- (a) the details of the claims of executed works under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY); and
- (b) the tentative dates and reasons for releasing funds against these claims?

Power generation in the country

946 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

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

- (a) the details of power generation capacity in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of power generation in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether the country has doubled power generation during the last six years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of power generation in country during the last six years, year-wise?

Involvement of NTPC in green energy generation

947 **Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:**

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

- (a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into the arena of green energy generation apart from managing 70 power stations, if so, the details of green energy generated and green energy projects being undertaken by NTPC;
- (b) the details of green energy estimated to be generated by NTPC by the end of next fiscal year; and
- (c) the future projects of NTPC in new and renewable energy generation for next five years beyond 2022?

Reforms in power sector

948 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) the reforms that Government proposes to bring in the power sector;
- (b) whether it is a fact that recently Government has released a draft Electricity Bill to reform DISCOMS, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to privatize DISCOMS in the country, if so, the reasons therefor?

Biotech URJIT Cluster Scheme

949 Shri Mahesh Poddar:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the intended benefits behind the launching of Biotech URJIT Cluster Scheme;
- (b) the details of clusters being planned along with their locations; and
- (c) in what ways this scheme will contribute towards strengthening of research and innovation in the country?

Quality of scientific research

950 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding country's position globally in terms of the quality of scientific research during the last four years; and
- (b) the details of achievements made in this regard along with the measures being taken for improvement in this field?

Loss to tourism industry

951 # Shri Brijlal:

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

- (a) the details of direct and indirect loss incurred to Indian tourism business which was first to have been affected after the Corona virus disaster;
- (b) whether any scheme is under consideration to improve Indian tourism business and the business of associated entrepreneurs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

952 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

the allocation and utilisation of funds under different schemes of the Ministry for tourism promotion in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the last three years, year-wise?

New Tourist Spots in Punjab

953 Shri Shwait Malik:

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

whether Government has recognised new spots for development of tourism across the State of Punjab during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, district-wise, if not, the reasons therefor?

Eco tourism Circuits

954 Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:

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

- (a) the number of ecotourism circuits identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme;
- (b) the number of such ecotourism destinations that are within or in close proximity to wildlife conservation areas and Protected Areas;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce ecotourism related ecological damage at such destinations;
- (d) whether Government has identified any destination to be promoted as an ecotourism circuit in the state of Punjab and details thereof; and
- (e) whether State Government of Punjab has made any proposal for identification of ecotourism destinations under the scheme?

Foreign Direct Investment in Tourism

955 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has received Foreign Direct Investment in tourism and hospitality sector during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the percentage of quantum of foreign direct investment received in the State of Odisha in the Tourism and Hospitality sector during the Financial Year 2019-20?

Developing theme-based tourist circuits in Odisha

956 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has identified any place in Odisha to develop as theme-based tourist circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on tourism sector

957 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether Government has analyzed the impact of lockdown and pandemic on tourism sector in the country;
- (b) the details of economic loss and job loss in various sectors under the tourism sector;
- (c) the actions taken by Government to boost and promote domestic tourism in the wake of easing restrictions and unlocking, the details thereof; and
- (d) the actions taken by Government to make tourist places like monuments, museums and heritage sites safe and accessible to tourists following health protocols and the details thereof?

Identification of tribal areas for tourism promotion

958 # Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether Government has identified some tribal areas of the country to promote tourism therein, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount spent in the current financial year thereon?

Prime Minister's Special Package to Bihar

959 # **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 600 crore have been earmarked for tourist spots in Bihar under the Prime Minister's Special Package;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that an amount of Rs. 223.25 crore have been sanctioned for 5 schemes under the said package;
- (c) whether a proposal to sanction Rs. 168.75 crore for Ramayan and Buddhist circuits is pending with the Ministry of Tourism; and
- (d) if so, by when Government proposes to sanction the same?

Developing small towns and cities as tourist destinations

960 **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is considering advertising small towns and cities as tourist destinations;
- If so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (b) whether Government is of the view that diversifying tourist locations will bolster the tourism sector's chances of recovering strongly after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) whether Government would consider temporary tax holidays and other fiscal incentives to promote tourism at new locations; and
- (d) whether Government plans to create a mechanism to promptly identify new locations with an increasing footfall of tourists and invest in their development and the details thereof?

New Delhi
The 3rd February, 2021
 14 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
 Secretary-General.

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