

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, March 9, 2021/ 18 Phalguna, 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

Yogasana as a competitive sport in Asian Games and Olympics

1601 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Shri Ram Shakal:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps for recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport in Asian Games and Olympics;
- (b) whether any such effort has been taken up so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Alternative therapies for COVID-19 in Ayurveda

1602 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

- (a) whether there is break-through in alternative therapies, particularly Ayurveda, for country's fight against COVID-19, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any medicine of alternative therapies for COVID-19 is patented;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any medicines of alternative therapies for COVID-19 is in demand in countries abroad; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Action plan for revival of indigenous traditional medicine practices

1603 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the objective of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is to revive indigenous traditional medicine practices and AYUSH practices, so that public health system can be strengthened at all levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan adopted for revival of indigenous traditional medicine practices?

AYUSH policy for the State of Uttar Pradesh

1604 **Shri Syed Zafar Islam:**

Smt. Kanta Kardam:

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

- (a) whether AYUSH policy is being formulated for the State of Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof and the agencies or institutions from which suggestions are being sought;
- (b) whether advice is also sought from people's representatives or doctors of Ayurveda department working in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the salient features and purpose of the AYUSH policy being formulated and the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal?

Promotion of herbal cultivation in the country

1605 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) the efforts being made to promote and push herbal cultivation in the country;
- (b) whether Government has identified herbal hubs in the country and, if so, details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is planning to extend herbal cultivation to 10 lakh hectares in the coming two years with an investment of ₹4,000 crores under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) whether any special emphasis is being made on Seshachalam forest area in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh where there is huge potential for medicinal plants?

Farming and export of medicinal plants and herbs

1606 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) the total quantity of medicinal plants and herbs grown in the country during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided for encouraging the farming of medicinal plants and herbs during the last five years; and
- (c) the total quantum of herbs exported from the various States during the said period and the revenue generated thereof, State-wise?

Setting up of Central AYUSH university

1607 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

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

- (a) the efforts being made by the Ministry in view of Prime Minister giving emphasis on AYUSH, for setting up of Central AYUSH University on the lines of Central Universities in four regions of the country to begin with for better spread and giving impetus to AYUSH system of medicine in the country and abroad;
- (b) whether the Ministry is considering upgrading some Ayurveda Central Institutions to the

level of Central AYUSH University, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Research study on Gomutra

1608 **Shri Bikash Ranjan:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Gomutra (Cow Urine) has been made a subject of research; and
- (b) the details of scientific material on the basis of which such an unscientific research could be done by the department of Government?

Identification of medicinal plants in Tamil Nadu

1609 **Shri P. Wilson:**

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

- (a) the details of medicinal plants identified in various parts of Tamil Nadu, during last five years;
- (b) whether National Medicinal Plant Board has undertaken any exercise for allotment of land in various States including Tamil Nadu, if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government encourages/proposes to encourage the Tamil Nadu farmers for growth of medicinal plants under any scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the financial assistance provided to promote farming of medicinal plants and herbs during the said period; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to increase production of medicinal plants and herbs in country including Tamil Nadu?

Financial assistance to Jharkhand for Medicinal plants and herbs cultivation

1610 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

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

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided to promote cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs in Jharkhand during the last two years;
- (b) the quantum of medicinal plants exported from Jharkhand during the said period;
- (c) the steps taken to promote the production of Ayurvedic and herbal medicines in the country, particularly in Jharkhand; and
- (d) the schemes under which the Central Government encourages farmers to cultivate medicinal plants?

AYUSH dispensaries in the country

1611 # **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 has decided to open AYUSH dispensaries in the whole country including Delhi and NCR to promote AYUSH system of Medicine;
- (b) if so, the number of AYUSH dispensaries approved across the country including Delhi and NCR and the details thereof, place-wise; and

(c) the steps taken towards starting the dispensaries including in the said scheme?

Setting up a Central Ayurvedic Medical College in Kalahandi, Odisha

1612 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

whether the Ministry is planning to set up a Central Ayurvedic Medical College in Kalahandi with respect to the fact that Kalahandi district in Odisha and adjoining areas in Nuapada and Nabarangpur have rich resources of medicinal plants in the deep forests?

Impact of the COVID-19 situation on various sectors

1613 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the impact of the COVID 19 – Corona Virus pandemic in various sectors;
- (b) if so, the number of labourers and officials in major sectors including information technology who have lost their jobs during the current year; and
- (c) the measures taken or being taken by Government to improve the situation?

Amount spent under CSR by corporate companies in Karnataka

1614 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

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

- (a) whether any amount has been spent under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the corporate companies in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, district-wise and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the companies which have spent the amount during the said period in Karnataka, company-wise and sector-wise?

Extending suspension of applicability of IBC

1615 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal before Government to extend the suspension of applicability of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) which was expired in December 2020, to help companies from being forced into insolvency proceedings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any assessment has been made about the success of IBC since its implementation in 2016 and, if so, the details thereof?

Action initiated to control fraudulent companies

1616 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a huge number of fraudulent companies are registering in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any action against these companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Market Study on E-Commerce in India

1617 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

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

- (a) the status of implementation of the recommendations given in the “Market Study on E-Commerce in India” conducted by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in April 2019; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacancies in NCLT

1618 # **Smt. Chhaya Verma:**

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

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

- (a) the number of existing vacancies in National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) at various levels and the details of steps taken during the last three years to fill up those vacancies;
- (b) the vacancies in the benches of NCLT;
- (c) whether vacancies in the Tribunal are affecting trial of cases due to which pendency of cases is increasing day by day;
- (d) the number of cases registered during the last three years;
- (e) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years; and
- (f) the details of steps taken to fill up various vacancies so that the long lasting process can be completed?

Detection of shell companies and action against them

1619 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to detect the shell companies and take action against them; and
- (b) the ATR on shell companies in the last financial quarter?

Study and survey on expenditure incurred on CSR in tribal/ backward districts

1620 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted a detailed study and survey on expenditure incurred on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by 100 companies in tribal and backward districts, including Jharkhand, through the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA);
- (b) if so, the details of the outcome of the above study and survey and action taken based on it in respect of companies working in the State of Jharkhand; and
- (c) whether there is obligation for CSR fund to be spent on the agency, trust or scheme designated by the State Government, if so, whether the Union Government can also give such directions?

Tangible and Intangible cultural heritage of Dara Shikoh

1621 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

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

- (a) whether a project has been set up in order to explore aspects of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh;
- (b) the funds allocated for this project;
- (c) the details of the desired outcome of this project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss due to decrease in foreign tourist visiting India

1622 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) the details of total foreign tourists who visited the country during the last three years up till 31st January 2021, year-wise and month-wise;
- (b) the details of foreign tourists visiting India since March 2020 up till 31st January, 2021, month-wise;
- (c) the details of estimated losses due to decrease in foreign tourists visiting India post March 2020, month-wise; and
- (d) the details of steps being taken by Government to attract foreign tourists in India?

Conservation of the Sun Temple at Konark

1623 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) steps taken by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) for conservation of the Sun Temple at Konark viz. Saline action, waterlogging, mechanical erosion and vegetative intrusions;
- (b) whether an inquiry has been initiated to probe the replacement of 40 per cent artistic stone carvings of the existing temple with plain stones, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reason therefor; and
- (c) whether as long term measures, a master plan for comprehensive preservation of the Konark Sun Temple has been prepared by ASI in order to ensure its appropriate preservation, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reason therefor?

Award of Scholarships to Young Artists (SYA)

1624 **Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

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

- (a) whether Government is giving Award of Scholarships to Young Artists through Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT);
- (b) if so, the details of the objective and implementation thereof during the last three years;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for the award of Scholarships to Young Artists during financial year 2020-21; and
- (d) number of young artists who have availed Awards during last three years?

Fund for protected monuments in Tamil Nadu

1625 **Shri K.P. Munusamy:**

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any new proposal of fund for the protected monuments in the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal thereof; and
- (c) if so, the progress made so far in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

Bengali language as a Classical Language

1626 **Shri Bikash Ranjan:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Linguistic Expert Committee in declaring the Bengali language as a Classical Language; and
- (b) if no observation has been concluded by the Committee, whether the same has been forwarded to Sahitya Akademi for further consideration and when the same was forwarded?

Cultural development in Jharkhand

1627 # **Shri Samir Oraon:**

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Jharkhand for cultural development and promotion;
- (b) if so, the details of the approved proposals;
- (c) the details of the proposals not approved and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the funds allocated to Jharkhand for the cultural development and promotion during the last three financial years and current year?

Preparation of Amrut Mahotsav, 2022

1628 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken for Amrut Mahotsav of 2022, on the 75th year of the country's independence so far and too resonate with the vision of Atma Nirbharta; and
- (b) the funds sanctioned/spent so far along with future action plan worked out in this regard?

Outsourcing of historical monuments

1629 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has outsourced Red Fort and other historical monuments for their up-keep of security and cleanliness, etc;
- (b) if so, details in this regard; and
- (c) the details of outsourcing of security provided to the Red Fort in New Delhi and whether it is adequate in view of recent trespassing by some bad elements?

National Artistes Pension Fund

1630 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing National Artistes Pension Fund under the Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes scheme;

- (b) if so, the details thereof for the year 2020-21, State-wise;
- (c) the details of budgetary allocation and utilization for the year 2020-21; and
- (d) the number of retired artistes who could avail the National Artistes Pension Fund in the State of Odisha for last three years?

Unique cultural tradition of whistling

1631 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there exists unique cultural tradition of whistling for communication in many villages of India;
- (b) Kongthong in Meghalaya is one such unique village and in view of its uniqueness, the steps being taken to preserve its cultural tradition and strengthen and preserve it;
- (c) whether Government will send a proposal to UNESCO to recognise Kongthong as an Intangible Cultural heritage like Coscov in Turkey, which is also a whistling village and is part of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage;
- (d) whether Government will take steps to provide amenities to people of Kongthong and improve their standard of life; and
- (e) whether Government will survey such whistling tradition and open a museum?

Development and restoration of Barabati Fort

1632 **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw:**

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

- (a) whether Government has implemented or is contemplating to implement any composite development scheme for Barabati Fort in Cuttack to preserve the past glory of Odisha; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

National museum for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

1633 **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw:**

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

- (a) the steps Government is taking to convert Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's ancestral place in Cuttack, Odisha into a national museum; and
- (b) whether Government would consider drawing a framework within which the sacrifices and valour of Netaji could spread across the country and abroad from his birthplace in Cuttack, Odisha?

Scheme of Pension and Medical Aid for Artistes

1634 # **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

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

- (a) whether Government considers increasing the aid given to artists under 'The Scheme of Pension and Medical Aid for Artistes' of the Ministry of Culture keeping in view the inflation; and
- (b) the year from which the aid being given to artists at present has not been increased?

National monuments in Odisha

1635 **Shri Prasanna Acharya:**

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

- (a) the number of structures in Odisha declared as national monument by Archeological Survey of India, and details thereof;
- (b) fund allocated and steps taken for preservation/ maintenance/ restoration/ beautification of such national monuments; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to trace/ recover places, monuments, scriptures, articles of historical and architectural values in Odisha?

Potential excavation sites in Tamil Nadu

1636 **Shri N.R. Elango:**

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

- (a) the details of potential sites in Tamil Nadu that are protected by ASI;
- (b) by when these identified archaeological sites are going to be excavated;
- (c) the reasons why the ASI report on Adichanallur excavation is not yet released; and
- (d) whether all the protected sites and monuments are fenced and have proper guards?

Earthquake prediction systems

1637 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several earthquakes of medium intensity have been reported in the country during the last few months, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the National Centre for Seismology or other concerned agencies have not yet been able to create any prediction system for earthquakes, if so, the reasons therefor?

Disinvestment Targets

1638 **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Shri Kumar Ketkar:

Shri Rajmani Patel:

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

- (a) whether the budgeted disinvestment target for 2020-21 will be met as per Government's assessment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the proportion of the disinvestment target for 2020-21 which has been achieved as of January 15, 2021, in percentage terms;
- (d) whether receipts from disinvestment as a proportion of the total budget have declined since 2014, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the total disinvestment receipts as a proportion of total receipts for each financial year since 2014?

Disinvestment of Vizag Steel Plant

1639 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

- (a) whether Government has provided in principle approval to the disinvestment of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has considered the ramifications of the step on the stakeholders involved; and
- (d) whether Government intends to provide support to the State Government of Andhra

Pradesh for the due revival of the said project?

Relief measures for the middle class and salaried people

1640 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) the details of relief measures announced by Government for the middle class and salaried people, who have been suffering pay cuts, job losses and other livelihood insecurities due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether Government is planning to initiate some tax cuts for salaried and other middle class people facing financial crisis in this pandemic;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of other financial relief package and subsidies being planned by Government for salaried employees other than option to take loan?

Amount sanctioned under ECLGS

1641 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

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

the details of the amount sanctioned under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) and the number of MSMEs and other enterprises benefitted under the scheme?

Bringing jewellery sales under PMLA, 2002

1642 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to bring gold jewellery sales in the country accountable under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of Government to the appeal from the jewellery business for reversal of the decision?

Amendment in Indian Stamp Act, 1899

1643 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

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

- (a) whether the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 has been amended; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Doorstep banking services

1644 **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:**

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

- (a) whether Government has launched doorstep banking services of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such doorstep banking services have been launched in the rural and remote areas of the country as well; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the beneficiaries are satisfied with the services?

Rate of interest on home loans by NBFCs

1645 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

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

- (a) whether Government has ever assessed the total number of persons who have taken home loans from Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and from Nationalised/Commercial Banks separately;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that some NBFCs are charging almost double rate of interest on home loans if compared to nationalized banks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken against such exploitative institutions?

Divestment of stake in SAIL

1646 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to divest 10 per cent stake in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present share of Government of India in SAIL after proposed divestment; and
- (d) the reasons for divesting 10 per cent stake?

Letter on pay fixation of ex-servicemen re-employed in PSBs

1647 Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) whether Government has received any letter on the issue of pay fixation of ex-servicemen re-employed in the Public Sector Banks from All India Ex-servicemen Bank Employees Federation to seek an appointment to discuss the issues raised therein;
- (b) if so, the action initiated to resolve the issues;
- (c) whether any committee has been constituted to resolve the issues, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether representatives of the All India Ex-Servicemen Bank Employees Federation have also been included in the Committee?

Infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu under NIP

1648 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) the details of infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu which have been included in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP);
- (b) the details of estimated expenditure of these projects for the next five financial years, sector-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the component of investment of State Government and the private sector, if any, in these projects and the details thereof?

Information sought by CAG on recapitalisation of PSBs

1649 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has written

to Government seeking details about the ongoing performance audit of Government's massive recapitalisation exercise of Public Sector Banks (PSBs);

- (b) if so, the details regarding the information sought by CAG;
- (c) whether Government has given its response to the CAG; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Converging GST rates into three slabs

1650 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for converging the existing Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates to three slabs in order to reduce complexity and probability of disputes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Complaints received by Ombudsman RBI

1651 Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:

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

- (a) the number of complaints received by Ombudsman RBI in which fraudsters are siphoning off money misusing Paytm KYC since January, 2018 till date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the total number of senior citizens affected in these frauds, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether, while examining the complaints, it has come to notice of the Ombudsman that banks have not issued specific advisories to customers about non uploading of third party apps;
- (d) if so, the details of cases in which complainants have been benefitted in view of the facts mentioned in part (c); and
- (e) if not, names of banks which have issued said advisories?

Sale of equity of steel PSUs in India

1652 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to sell large tranches of equity stakes of steel Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India to private players; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

Tax devolution to States

1653 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) whether Government has State-wise data of taxes devolved by the Union Government as part of State's share for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including amount received in devolution year on year for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the details of total taxes devolved and total taxes owed for the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of total tax revenue collected under GST and sent to the Union Government year on year for the last three years, State-wise?

NPAs in Public Sector Banks

1654 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) whether Government has the latest data reflecting the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Non Performing Assests (NPAs) in Public Sector Banks (PSBs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including NPA amounts pre and post lockdown and steps being taken to resolve the situation, if applicable; and
- (c) the details of total amount of NPAs in PSBs, year-on-year, for the last five years?

Issuance of e-insurance certificates

1655 # Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide e-insurance certificates instead of issuing insurance Bonds;
- (b) the expenses expected to come down for the insurance companies by providing e-insurance certificates and whether Government proposes to extend the said benefit to the insurance customers by reducing their premium or GST; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Incentives given to corporate tax payers

1656 Shri K.K. Ragesh:

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

- (a) the details of total revenue loss for Government from incentives given to corporate tax payers during the last five years, year wise;
- (b) the reasons for giving such incentives;
- (c) whether any alternate measures to compensate such revenue loss are being taken; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Digital lending Apps

1657 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

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

- (a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the matter of increasing digital lending Apps and online lending institutions wooing the needy persons to become prey to their loan trap advertisements, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has taken stringent action on the digital lending business, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Kisan Credit Card Scheme

1658 Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:

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

- (a) the details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued since 2016, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number of KCCs that have been converted to Rupay cards and that have been

active during 2020-21;

(c) the density of ATMs in rural areas that are likely to serve KCC holders; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the adoption and use of KCC?

Revenue leakage

1659 **Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:**

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

(a) whether Government witnessed a scope of transfer pricing leading to revenue leakage, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there are fraudulent cases detected by Government, if so, the data for the past five years;

(c) the measures and reforms taken by Government to curb revenue leakage; and

(d) whether Government has commissioned a board to monitor and prevent such revenue leakages, if so, the details thereof?

Pandemic effect on economy

1660 **Shri Anil Desai:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that lockdown, following the Corona virus pandemic, has affected our economy to a large extent;

(b) how many persons have lost their jobs due to lockdown; and

(c) the sector which is most affected due to the lockdown?

Reduction in deposits under National Savings Scheme

1661 **Shri Rajeev Satav:**

Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

(a) whether there is a reduction in the amount being deposited under the National Savings Scheme (NSS) and, if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether major amount of money deposited in the NSS belongs to the people of rural areas;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken steps to popularize the scheme in rural areas;

(d) whether Government is considering enhancement of interest on deposits under the National Savings Scheme; and

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

Vivad se Vishwas Scheme

1662 **Shri Rajeev Satav:**

Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

(a) whether the income tax collection has been drastically reduced due to COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, the steps taken by Government to overcome the shortfall;

(b) whether Government has been able to achieve the objective of settling income tax cases after launching Vivad se Vishwas Scheme;

(c) the total number of cases disposed off under Vivad se Vishwas Scheme till date; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to reduce the litigation and tax disputes in direct

taxes and to boost income tax collection in the country?

Non-spending of collected cess

1663 # **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the amount received from cess can be spent only on the objective for which it has been levied for;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government received an amount of ₹ 2,74,592 crore from 35 types of cess in the year 2018-19, but over one lakh crore rupees remained unspent in the Consolidated Fund; and
- (c) if so, the details of rationale behind the same?

GST on online gaming and betting

1664 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

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

- (a) whether online games in which real money is involved are in nature of betting and gambling as prevalent in India;
- (b) the mode and method of levying and collecting GST from entities offering online gambling services;
- (c) whether there has been an analysis of websites sponsored by cricket players, such as Dream 11, Mobile Premier League, My11 Circle, etc. and the manner in which GST is being charged by them; and
- (d) whether each game and each bet is being charged for tax, at 28% as defined as taxation rate of gambling, if so, reasons therefor and if not, details thereof?

Buyback of shares of GSTN and NPCI from private organisations

1665 **Shri Binoy Viswam:**

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

- (a) the current status of GSTN ownership;
- (b) whether Government plans to complete the buyback of shares from private organizations, if so, the details thereof and timeline for buyback;
- (c) similar to the case of GSTN, whether Government intend to buying back the shares from private organizations of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is working with RBI on the New Umbrella Entity framework proposed by RBI, if so, the details thereof?

Public Credit Registry

1666 **Shri Binoy Viswam:**

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

- (a) whether the RBI is building a Public Credit Registry with all the credit history of every resident of the country, if so, the details of the project;
- (b) who will have access to this Public Credit Registry and whether Government plans to amend the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act;
- (c) whether the RBI is also working on a Fraud Registry to blacklist people who are misusing credit systems; and
- (d) who will have access to this Fraud Registry?

Funds to State of Tamil Nadu

1667 **Shri P. Wilson:**

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

- (a) whether Government has released the pending GST compensation funds to State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether nearly ₹19,591.63 Crore recommended by the 14th Finance Commission for rural and urban local bodies are yet to be released to the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the above said grants;
- (d) whether Government has any proposal to allow the States to borrow up to five per cent of GDP in 2021-22, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the funds allocated to Tamil Nadu in current budget?

Meetings with top investment funds to attract more investments

1668 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Hon'ble Prime Minister held meetings with top global investment funds and sovereign wealth funds as part of efforts to attract more investments in the country, especially in infrastructure; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof while comparing in the last five years and progress made as on date and, if not, by when such meetings will be held in future?

Freezing of DA

1669 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

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

- (a) whether freezing of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees/pensioners till July, 2021 has subjected them to undue hardship;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not restoring DA to Central Government Employees and pensioners before July, 2021; and
- (c) whether Central Government employees and pensioners are not entitled to three installments of DA and, if so, whether Government would also release these installments and, if not, reasons therefor?

Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes to Telangana

1670 **Dr. Banda Prakash:**

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

- (a) whether Government has allocated and released funds to all States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) during the last five years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government of Telangana has submitted proposals seeking additional grants and assistance under various schemes;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has released any grants and assistance additionally to the State of Telangana; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Failure of banking sector to meet the targets for weaker sections

1671 **Shri P. Bhattacharya:**

Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that banking sector has failed to meet the targets for weaker sections of the society;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that economic reforms have reinforced financial exclusion of the landless belonging to the weaker section who would suffer from agrarian crisis and uprooting as a result of industrialization and urbanization;
- (c) if so, whether Government is taking any action; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Bank credit in villages

1672 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

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

- (a) the per capita income of the people of the country particularly those citizens who are residing in the villages;
- (b) the comparative figures for the last four years;
- (c) the figures of bank credit to those citizens who are residing in the villages in the country; and
- (d) the amount of credit that has gone to the tribals?

Functioning of Co-operative Banking Sector

1673 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:**

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

- (a) whether Government has done any research, study and analysis for the reasons for corruption in Co-operative Banking Sector in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether there is an expert committee or a subcommittee set up to analyse this factor?

Poor penetration of card payment system in the country

1674 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that level of card payment (credit and debit) penetration is low in India as compared to other advanced countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to promote card usage and card payment in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bringing petrol and diesel under purview of GST

1675 # **Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring petrol and diesel under the purview of GST in view of their ever increasing prices;
- (b) whether Government would consider imposing cap on petrol and diesel prices in view of the continuous increase in their prices, so that the rates of petrol and diesel can be controlled once they are above a certain limit; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in inflation due to rise in the prices of petrol and diesel, if so, the details thereof?

GST compensation to States

1676 **Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the various State Governments are yet to receive a huge amount as GST compensation from the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including pending dues of West Bengal; and
- (c) Government's proposition to compensate the earning loss amid pandemic in States for the financial year 2020-21?

Farmers who got loan wavier

1677 **Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:**

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

- (a) the number of farmers whose loans have been waived off under any Government scheme till date;
- (b) the number of such farmers whose loans were waived off after Government got complaints of non-waiver of their loans; and
- (c) the details of such waived off loans, State-wise?

COVID Cess on cigarettes and bidis

1678 **Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:**

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

total amount of revenue which Government can generate in a financial year if a COVID cess of Rupee One per stick of bidi and cigarette is imposed on them and the details thereof?

Cess on petroleum products

1679 **Shri A. Vijayakumar:**

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

- (a) the number of cess and the period of collection of cess on petroleum products in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to impose new cess on petroleum products; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Loans disbursed under Kisan Credit Cards

1680 **Shri Vaiko:**

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

- (a) the details of loans disbursed under Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to farmers who are registered under Kisan Samman Yojana without any collateral guarantee in the last two years in the country, particularly Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the targets fixed for the years 2020-21 to 2022-23, and the achievements made so far; and
- (c) the details of interest rates applicable on these loans along with eligibility for the same?

Measures to check rise in healthcare costs

1681 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Healthcare costs have been constantly rising for decades and are expected to keep increasing due to population growth, population aging, disease prevalence or incidence, medical service utilization, service price and intensity;
- (b) whether Government has taken into consideration or develop a mechanism to check this expenditure going out of available means; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Anti Microbial Resistance crisis

1682 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to address the issue of Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) in the country;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure treatment of effluents released from antibiotic manufacturing plants;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure finalisation and implementation of the draft standards for antibiotic residues in effluents from the pharmaceutical industry released by the Environment Ministry in January 2020;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the cost to individuals and society as a result of anti-microbial resistance; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Completion of first phase of COVID-19 Vaccination

1683 **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

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

- (a) the total number of persons expected to be administered COVID-19 vaccine in the first phase of vaccination including categories of persons covered;
- (b) the expected date by which the first round of vaccination will be completed;
- (c) the total number of COVID-19 vaccines that have been ordered by the Drugs Controller General of India as on January 20, 2021;
- (d) whether orders placed so far are expected to cover the proposed 3 crore persons to be vaccinated in the first round (at the rate of two doses per person); and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Consent Form for vaccine recipients

1684 **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) the reasons due to which vaccine recipients are required to sign a consent form when being administered the Covaxin and not for the Covishield Vaccine;
- (b) whether this difference is due to the fact that Covaxin has not released its Phase 3 trials efficacy data;
- (c) the specific additional protections that accrue to the manufacturer of Covaxin as a consequence of the consent form; and
- (d) the implications of these additional protections for Covaxin's safety and efficacy?

Nasal vaccine for COVID-19 prevention

1685 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

- (a) the status of launching a nasal vaccine for COVID-19;
- (b) the details as to how does it differs from other injectable vaccines; and
- (c) the interval period between two doses and other details?

Administration of COVID-19 vaccine to people above 50 years of age

1686 **Shri Y. S. Chowdary:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to administer vaccine to the people above 50 years of age shortly in the second phase across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any cost for COVID-19 vaccine for the people above 50 years of age;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time frame fixed by Government to complete second phase of vaccination?

COVID-19 vaccine per million population

1687 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) the details of number and percentage of people vaccinated per million population in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of national average per million in comparison to national average per million in USA, UK, France & Germany;
- (c) the reasons for such low vaccination per million even after India being one among the first to start vaccination; and
- (d) the steps being taken to speed up vaccination process?

Long waiting for appointment in AIIMS, Delhi

1688 **Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:**

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Chh. Udayanraje Bhonsle:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi is allocating very long waiting dates for appointment in OPD and operation for treatment of the various patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would consider to find a way to avoid long wait dates, and to reduce the pressure of increasing number of patients by increasing resources and the health facilities of AIIMS-like institutions in view of the number of patients; and
- (d) whether any student has been conducted, in view of the increasing number of patients in AIIMS, to ascertain the inconvenience caused to the normal patients in treatment due to pandemic?

Reluctance among doctors to serve in rural areas

1689 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that specialist doctors are not coming forward to serve in rural areas in spite of handsome salary, additional incentives and relaxations by both the State and the Central Governments;
- (b) whether the Central Government in consultations with the State Governments, proposes to make rural service mandatory for every specialist doctor; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Chronic diseases in elderly people

1690 **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that nearly 55 per cent of citizens in the country over the age of 60 suffer from chronic diseases like hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, mental illness, etc;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to hold consultations with the State Governments to provide health care services to these people; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in fund allocation for various health schemes

1691 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

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

- (a) whether allocation for various health schemes under the Ministry has witnessed a considerable increase in allocation under budget 2021-22;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and scheme-wise; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised during 2020-21 under various health schemes run or funded by Government, State-wise and scheme-wise?

Allocations made for AIIMS, Madurai

1692 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

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

- (a) the allocations made for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi and at other places, including Madurai during the last three years and in the current year;
- (b) the present status of establishment of AIIMS, Madurai, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which the AIIMS, Madurai would be fully operational?

Vaccines used in UIP

1693 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

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

- (a) the details of vaccines being administered under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), disease-wise;
- (b) the details of the new vaccines included under the UIP during the last three years and the current year, disease-wise;
- (c) whether some health experts have claimed that newly included vaccines are not essential and if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction;
- (d) whether Government proposes to include any new and effective anti pneumonia vaccines, which are promoted by WHO and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) under UIP; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Research priorities of ICMR

1694 **Shri K.K. Ragesh:**

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

- (a) the research priorities of Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR);
- (b) whether the current researches by ICMR or ICMR funded researches are oriented towards these priorities;
- (c) if so, the details of the total number of researches being conducted, on each of the 'research priorities' set by ICMR along with topics of research;
- (d) if so, the concrete measures being taken to orient the research to such 'research priorities' set by ICMR, if any; and
- (e) whether the funding policy of ICMR is linked to such 'research priorities'?

ICMR projections on expected impact of COVID-19

1695 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) whether ICMR had any studies or projections on the expected impact of COVID-19 spread in India by the time Prime Minister announced lock down;
- (b) if so, the details of expected number of patients and actual reported cases in each months since March;
- (c) if not, the manner in which ICMR formed its strategy to fight this disease; and
- (d) whether ICMR suggested for nationwide lockdown without giving proper time for citizen to prepare for it, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons for such an unplanned announcement?

COVID-19 helplines for mental health assistance

1696 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

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

- (a) the number of helplines that were set up by Government between April 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020 to provide counselling/assistance to persons undergoing severe mental strain as a fall out of the pandemic and lockdown;
- (b) whether provisions have been made to make them accessible for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons thereof; and
- (c) whether any COVID-19 mental health isolation ward facilities have been set up in the states, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Representation of non-medical teaching staff in medical schools

1697 **Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:**

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

- (a) the percentage representation of non-medical teaching staff in medical schools for each year during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has lowered the percentage of non-medical teaching staff in medical schools for the subjects like Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has excluded non-medical teaching staff from teaching the subjects like Pharmacology and Biochemistry in medical schools;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reasons for exclusion of MSc graduates with specifications in the above-said subjects excluded from teaching in Medical Schools?

Nutritional information of food items served in restaurants

1698 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has made it mandatory for restaurants to disclose caloric count and nutritional information of food items listed in menu to push in healthy eating;
- (b) if so, the constraints that the restaurateurs have in disclosing such information; and
- (c) the manner in which restaurants in other countries are following such norms?

Open market price of COVID-19 Vaccine

1699 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that open market price of the 'Covishield Vaccine' is ₹1000 per dose which is unaffordable for large sections of Indians, particularly Below Poverty Line persons and Economically Weaker Sections;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that all citizens will be given affordable access to the vaccine, including vulnerable persons belonging to BPL, EWS and homeless category amongst others;
- (c) whether COVID-19 vaccines have been added to the National List of Essential Medicines; and

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

Higher price of Oxford vaccine in the country

1700 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine is being sold to European Union nations at ₹ 158 or EUR 1.78 per vaccine, which is lower than the price at which vaccines have been purchased by Government at ₹ 200;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the higher cost of vaccines purchased by Government;
- (c) whether Government has sought explanations or reparations from the vaccine manufacturer in light of the price difference;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government is negotiating a lower price for purchasing the same vaccine in future; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Allopathic doctors in the country

1701 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of allopathic doctors registered under the competent authority of the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure the doctor-patient ratio as per the stipulated norms of Government; and
- (c) if so, the details of adequate number of doctors available in the country?

Inoculation of PM and Cabinet Ministers

1702 **Shri Kapil Sibal:**

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

- (a) whether Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers have been administered the COVID-19 vaccine;
- (b) if so, the vaccine which they were administered with; and
- (c) if not, when they will be vaccinated and which vaccine they will be administered with?

Filling up of vacancies in Government run hospitals

1703 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of qualified doctors in various disciplines in Government run hospitals and CGHS Dispensaries across the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (b) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled up and whether there is any timeline to fill the vacancies for the benefit of common man; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of drugs from China

1704 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether bulk of the drugs to manufacture medicines in the country are imported from China, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (b) the manner in which Government is going to protect the pharma industry in view of the recent steps taken by Government ; and
- (c) whether Government has considered any alternative arrangement so that there is no scarcity of medicines in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Violation of concessional OPD and IPD treatment rules

1705 # Shri Narayan Rane:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the hospitals to which Government land was allotted at concessional rates are violating the rule of providing 25 per cent of the OPD and 10 per cent of IPD treatment at free of cost to the poor and there is no record of such hospitals at the Central level that are not following the hospital rules;
- (b) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

Inadequate allocation of funds to AIIMS

1706 # Shri Narayan Rane:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the new AIIMS hospitals being set up are not getting adequate amount for early completion of the work;
- (b) the response of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard so that AIIMS hospitals can be set up at the earliest?

Requirements of logistics infrastructure for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

1707 Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) the details of logistics infrastructure requirements for the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination including the gap between existing infrastructure and actual requirements; and
- (b) the estimated costs of bridging the gap in infrastructure requirements?

Establishment of new medical colleges

1708 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) the present number of medical colleges in the country, State-wise, Government sector-wise and private sector-wise;
- (b) the number of new medical colleges sanctioned under new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for medical colleges and budget approved for Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (c) whether it is a fact that State Government of Uttar Pradesh is planning to establish medical colleges in all 75 districts, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware that large number of Indian students are undergoing medical education abroad, if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and
- (e) the quality of education being furnished to Indian students?

Meeting COVID-19 vaccination target on time

1709 **Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:**

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

- (a) whether the current daily vaccination rate is sufficient for Government to meet its target of vaccinating 300 million people by August, 2021;
- (b) if not, whether Government is planning to increase the daily vaccination rate in order to meet its target;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the price at which the Covishield vaccine is being procured is higher than the price at which European Union nations are procuring the same vaccine; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to renegotiate the price for future procurements?

National Polio Immunisation programme

1710 **Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:**

Shri Rajmani Patel:

Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Shri Kumar Ketkar:

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

- (a) whether the National Polio Immunisation programme has been deferred or suspended, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the date when the National Immunisation Day (NID) will be conducted which was scheduled for January 17, 2020, and subsequently postponed;
- (c) whether the Ministry has assessed the potential adverse impact that suspension or deferment of the programme will have on preventing polio in children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

Completion of COVID -19 vaccination drive

1711 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) whether there is a plan regarding the completion of COVID-19 vaccination for the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of States with most successful vaccination drives and by when the first round of vaccination is expected to be completed?

Funds released to private healthcare sector under Ayushman Bharat Scheme

1712 **Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:**

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

- (a) the total amount of funds released to private healthcare sector from the date of launch of Ayushman Bharat Scheme; and
- (b) the details of companies or hospitals to which the said funds were released?

Display of expiry date

1713 **Shri A. Vijayakumar:**

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

- (a) whether there are any orders regarding display of expiry date in restaurant or sweets

- shops etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of violations cases filed for not displaying expiry of products; and
- (d) whether Government would take steps to exercise awareness camp in this regard?

Implementation of report of cadre restructuring committee for physiotherapists

1714 **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering to implement the report of cadre restructuring committee for physiotherapists, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Ministry will call upon stakeholders to give their views on report, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry will consider the dissent note given by the lone stakeholder member of committee, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the report requires any modifications in respect to model curriculum for physiotherapists of the Ministry and DoPT guidelines, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the expected time to implement the report of cadre restructuring committee report?

Shortage of obstetricians and gynaecologists in the country

1715 **Shri Rajmani Patel:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision for the constitution of the medical board under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and it is proposed to have a obstetrician-gynaecologist as a member;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that on an average, there is a shortage of 80 per cent of obstetricians and gynaecologists in Indian States and Union Territories and 100 per cent in Arunachal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Sikkim;
- (c) if so, the manner in which the medical board will be formed without a doctor; and
- (d) the timeline by when the shortage of obstetric gynecologists will overcome?

Financial support for upgradation of infrastructure of district hospitals

1716 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that financial support is being provided to the States for upgrading infrastructure of district hospitals in the States, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the financial support provided to States under this head during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the district hospitals in the State in which infrastructure were upgraded during the said period;
- (d) whether Government proposes to increase the support to the State in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Special benefits for Medical and Health Workers

1717 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to provide any special benefits for the country's

- medical and health workers;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the details of the schemes for medical and health workers fighting COVID-19 in the country; and
 (d) the details of beneficiaries of such schemes, as on date, State/UT-wise?

COVID-19 vaccine for homeless persons

1718 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has prepared any plan to identify the specific steps to be taken to ensure that all homeless persons in the country receive the vaccine for COVID-19 with all necessary precautions with low or no-cost; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Reduction in budget for Department of Health Research

1719 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Health Research received a 34.4 per cent lower budget in the year 2021-22 than 2020-21 despite the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines

1720 **Shri Anand Sharma:**

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

- (a) whether all mandatory safety and efficacy data has been collected for approved COVID-19 vaccines for public use through full trials before authorisation;
 (b) if not, the reasons for dispensing away with any mandatory provisions before grant of authorisation;
 (c) whether approved vaccines which have not undergone full clinical trials pose any risks to recipients; and
 (d) whether Government is aware of any such risks or adverse effects?

Renewable energy potential for the State of Assam

1721 **Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

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

- (a) the details of Assam's renewable energy potential based on a combination of prevalent renewable energy technologies including solar, wind, geothermal and tidal;
 (b) the target of renewable energy generation for the State of Assam under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM); and
 (c) the allocation and disbursement of Central financial assistance for Assam under PM-KUSUM?

Increasing the capacity target under Solar Park Schemes

1722 # **Shri Surendra Singh Nagar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the capacity target under Solar Park

- Scheme, if so, the details thereof;
 (b) whether Government proposes to establish more solar parks in Uttar Pradesh to achieve these targets; and
 (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Power generation using solid waste

1723 # **Shri Samir Oraon:**

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

- (a) whether various companies in the country have sought approval to start power generation from using Integrated Solid Waste Management Technology;
 (b) if so, the details of such proposals; and
 (c) action taken by Government thereon?

Enhancing domestic manufacturing capacity/ capabilities of renewable energy equipment

1724 **Shri P. Bhattacharya:**

Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps of enhancing domestic manufacturing capacity and capability of renewable energy equipment, if so, the details thereof;
 (b) whether Government provides/ proposes to provide low-cost financing to support the domestic manufacturing sector and if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) whether Government has taken steps to improve global competitiveness of the domestic players, including promoting research and development and, if so, the details thereof?

Dependence on renewable energy

1725 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) the current dependence of the country on renewable energy;
 (b) whether there is a plan to increase this dependence and details thereof; and
 (c) the amount spent on increasing extraction of renewable energy in 2019 and 2020, region-wise?

Power generation from waste

1726 # **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

- (a) the quantum of electricity presently being generated from garbage wastes materials;
 (b) the State/Union Territory wise financial assistance provided by Government during last three years and year-wise details thereof; and
 (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to encourage initiatives such as tie-ups with solid waste management companies, Municipal Corporations and Institutes of Technology to promote 'Waste-to-Energy' programmes?

Status of InSTS under Green Energy Corridor

1727 **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudde:**

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

- (a) the progress of the Green Energy Corridor Project in the last three years, the details thereof, state-wise;
- (b) the status of Intra State Transmission System (InSTS) under the project and the details thereof; and
- (c) the total amount spent by Government for construction of InSTS in the last three years and the details thereof?

Reduction in dependence on fossil fuels

1728 **Dr. Bhagwat Karad:**

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

- (a) whether the dependence on fossil fuels has reduced over the years keeping in view our commitment to sustainable development goals; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Boosting hydropower development

1729 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to take a number of initiatives, including hydro-development fund, to woo the investors to boost hydro-power development in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the current hydro power generation per annum and its projection by the end of current financial year?

Non functional gas based power plants

1730 **Shri K.P. Munusamy:**

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

- (a) whether a significant portion of gas based power plants of capacity of more than 20,000 MW is lying idle due to non availability of gas, resulting in high power generation cost; and
- (b) if so, the details of action taken or being taken by Government?

Uninterrupted coal supply to power plants under Shakti Scheme

1731 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

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

- (a) whether the Shakti Scheme launched by Government to provide continuous coal supply to the power plants have eased the stress of the power plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the hurdles still being faced by Government in providing continuous coal supply to the plants; the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to overcome them?

Star labelling programme

1732 **Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:**

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

- (a) details of number of appliances and products that have availed Star Label rating scheme for last three years, year-wise;
- (b) details of number of these appliances and products checked and tested by NABL accredited labs to ascertain energy efficiency standards for last three years, year-wise;
- (c) details of number of appliances and products actually checked and tested by NABL accredited labs to ascertain energy efficiency standards for last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) details of number of appliances and products that failed to adhere to energy efficiency standards in accordance with Star Label being availed by them for last three years, year-wise?

Status of DDUGJY and Ujjwal DISCOM scheme

1733 # **Shri Surendra Singh Nagar:**

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

- (a) the number of villages that have been electrified under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY);
- (b) the number of households electrified under this scheme;
- (c) the number of States which have adopted Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana to help in converting DISCOMs into profit making bodies;
- (d) the current status of the implementation of the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana in different States;
- (e) the States and DISCOMs which have failed to perform their duties under this scheme; and
- (f) the details of actions taken against them?

Reduction of losses by DISCOMs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

1734 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

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

- (a) details of steps taken by DISCOMs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to cut transmission and distribution losses;
- (b) to what extent the above measures by the above States help in getting disbursement under Atmanirbhar Bharat package of ₹1.25 lakh crores;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure that these DISCOMs achieve zero revenue loss and whether any target set for achieving this; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

Finalisation of Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) for UMPP in Odisha

1735 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that to date about ₹350 Crore has been contributed by the State Government of Odisha for the Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) at Bedabahal if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Odisha had submitted its views/feedback on the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of the bidding process of Bedabahal UMPP?

Sponsorship to NTPC Kendriya Vidyalaya

1736 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any communication from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to stop sponsorship to the NTPC Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kayamkulam in Alappuzha;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the stoppage of sponsorship by NTPC would lead to the closure of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha;
- (c) if so, whether Government is ready to continue with the sponsorship to the said Kendriya Vidyalaya; and
- (d) if not, whether Government will chalk out an alternative mode of sponsorship in consultation with the Ministry of Education, if so, the details thereof?

Installation of de-sulphurisation units in power plants

1737 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has made it compulsory for all coal based power plants to install de-sulphurisation units in order to meet the environmental norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all coal-based power plants across the country have installed the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Power allocation to Subansiri HEP

1738 **Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan:**

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

- (a) whether allocation of Power of 2000 MW Subansiri HEP have been made and if so, details of state wise allocation including percentage /quantum of free power if allocated to any state/states;
- (b) the criteria for allocation of free power in case of Hydel Project where more states are involved in a single project as host state /affected states;
- (c) whether Government is aware about system deficiency in Assam for distribution of power for which people are suffering even if power is available in the region; and
- (d) if so, what are those constraints and what steps are being taken to improve?

Power demand in Assam

1739 **Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan:**

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that present power demand of Assam is around 2000 M.W. and against this demand the State sector generation is around 250 MW, thereby more than 80% of the demand is dependent on Central Sector generation;
- (b) whether there is proposal ongoing or under consideration for setting up power generation project in State Sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons the therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that against 'SAUBHAGYA' Scheme, transformers (DTR) have been

procured for Assam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the capacity of transformers and its corresponding rate, make etc.?

Upgrading high carbon emitting power plants

1740 # **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

(a) whether Government has identified high carbon emission coal based power plants across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to close down these plants and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the demand for electricity and carbon emission has declined as compared to the previous years and, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure a speedier flu-gas desulfurisation (FGD) and other emission upgrades in the light of a steep fall in demand for electricity?

Cognitive Science Research Initiative

1741 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

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

(a) the projects taken up under Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI) during the past five years;

(b) out of the 44 individual projects taken up, how many have been completed;

(c) whether their findings have been published on the Ministry's domain; and

(d) how many of these project studies have been useful for the country?

Status of various initiatives under ministry

1742 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

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

(a) the objective of Integrated Cyber Physical Security;

(b) the achievements of Data Science Research Initiative; and

(c) the achievements of Internet of Things Research Initiative?

Clean Energy Research Initiative

1743 **Shri K.J. Alphons:**

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

(a) the objectives of Clean Energy Research Initiative;

(b) the action taken to build a lithium battery capable of being used in motor vehicles;

(c) the reasons for slow progress in this area; and

(d) action taken to ensure that the raw materials required for the battery are mined or contracted in sufficient quantity?

National Science Research Fund

1744 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up a National Science Research Fund for promoting scientific research in the agriculture sector;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, including how the farmers of the country will be benefited from this scheme; and
 (c) the steps being taken by Government to make the awareness among the farmers community to use the latest scientific method in agriculture sector of their produce?

Hospitality Development & Promotion Board

1745 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Shri Rajeev Satav:

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

- (a) whether there is a Hospitality Development & Promotion Board for hotel projects and development of tourism in the country and if so, the details thereof and the details of the tasks assigned to the board;
 (b) whether Government has advised the State Government/Union Territories to constitute Hospitality Development and Promotion Board in their respective States/UTs;
 (c) if so, the State/UT-wise details thereof along with the progress made in this regard; and
 (d) whether Government has provided funds to the State Governments for the said purpose and if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated in this regard, State-wise?

Measures to revive tourism

1746 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

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

- (a) whether there has been some decline in tourism in last one year due to COVID-19 pandemic, affecting the income of the several States in the country; and
 (b) if so, measures being undertaken by Government to attract tourists both domestic as well as foreigners so that the income and job opportunities may be enhanced in the country?

Promoting foreign tourists in the country

1747 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has worked on any plan to attract foreign tourists in view of the diminishing effects of COVID-19;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Addition of Kapilvastu in Buddhist Circuit

1748 # **Shri Brijlal:**

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

- (a) whether Kapilvastu is being considered to be developed and added as a tourist destination in the "Buddhist Circuit" like the other Buddhist sites given the fact that "Piprahwa" (now "Kapilvastu"), excavated by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1972 in Siddhartha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh in which the ruins of Stupa and Palace were found; the urn of Lord Buddha was found in the stupa, which is kept in Delhi museum at present; Kapilvastu has been established as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, where foreign tourists also visit; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Eco-tourism

1749 # **Smt. Kanta Kardam:**

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

- (a) the schemes started by Government to promote Eco-Tourism in the country;
- (b) whether funds have been allocated for such tourism projects; and
- (c) if so, the State/Union Territory-wise details thereof?

Tourism in Kashmir

1750 **Shri Anil Desai:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to terrorists activities in Kashmir, tourists used to avoid Kashmir;
- (b) whether it is a fact that now with better security arrangement number of tourists have increased, if so, the number of tourist who visited Kashmir during 2019 and 2020; and
- (c) whether any special LTC package has been devised by the Ministry for Government employees, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of IITM at Bodh Gaya, Bihar

1751 # **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Central Government had granted ₹ 50 crores to set up Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management (IITM) at Bodh Gaya in Bihar;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the completion of construction work and the academic session of this institute was scheduled to start in the year 2019 itself but it could not be started so far; and
- (c) the reasons for delay along with the details of progress achieved, so far?

New tourist spots in Uttar Pradesh

1752 **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Dr. Amee Yajnik:

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

- (a) whether Government has initiated to identify and develop new tourist spots in the country;
- (b) if so, the number and names of new tourist spots identified in Uttar Pradesh, so far; and
- (c) by when the new identified tourist spots in the State are likely to be developed?

Swadesh Darshan Eco-circuit theme for Odisha

1753 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

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

- (a) whether Government has received any projects under the eco-circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan programme from the State Government of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the quantum of central financial assistance for the implementation of Eco-circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan scheme in the country including the State of Odisha?

Tourism projects approved in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

1754 **Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

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

- (a) the total funds sanctioned and released to Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh under PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan schemes since the launch of the two schemes;
- (b) details of projects approved;
- (c) the status of completion of the above approved projects; and
- (d) the details of each of the above projects in improving infrastructure in pilgrim centres/ project locations?

Swadesh Darshan schemes in Rajasthan

1755 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

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

- (a) whether Government intends to release administrative and financial sanction of various projects submitted under Swadesh Darshan scheme and other tourism projects in the State of Rajasthan, if so, by when;
- (b) action intended to be taken by Government on development of Amer as iconic tourist destination;
- (c) whether Government is intending to give administrative and financial sanction to the proposed mega desert circuit project in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Potential for village tourism

1756 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is huge potential of village tourism in India;
- (b) whether Government will form a village tourism commission to assess the potential and actualise it;
- (c) parameters to choose villages for tourism;
- (d) steps being taken to publicise and promote it;
- (e) whether Government has prepared a list of villages which can be destination of tourism; and
- (f) whether the Ministry will produce literature to depict the importance and impact of village tourism?

Modalities for selection of projects under PRASAD Scheme

1757 **Shri Prasanna Acharya:**

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

- (a) whether State Government of Odisha has submitted any proposal under the PRASAD Scheme;
- (b) if so, the location wise details along with the action taken by the Union Government and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the modalities for selection of projects under PRASAD Scheme and how many projects have been taken up so far, State-wise and project-wise details?

Employment generation through Tourism

1758 **Shri Rajmani Patel:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to generate employment through tourism sector in the country in last two years;
- (b) achievements made so far in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to open more tourist spots in the country in near future in order to attract tourist and generate employment?

Encouraging collaborative efforts among stakeholders

1759 **Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe:**

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

- (a) whether there are any schemes launched by Government to encourage collaborative efforts among Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and National Monuments Authority (NMA) to promote tourism, particularly developing and maintenance of different heritage sites, the details thereof; and
- (b) if so, whether these schemes synchronize with other stakeholders including public sector, private sector, trusts, NGOs and individuals, the details thereof?

Parasnath pilgrimage site

1760 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a famous pilgrimage site for Jain community called Parasnath, located in Giridih district of Jharkhand, where most of the Tirthankaras had attained salvation;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that for long many organizations of Jain community have been demanding to declare Parasnath as a holy city and to make necessary provisions and facilities for promotion of religious tourism, making the place free from trade of meat and liquor; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would take initiative to declare Parasnath a holy city, if so, by when?

New Delhi
The 2nd March, 2021
11 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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