

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 17, 2021/ 26 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

**(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Commerce and Industry;
Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Electronics and
Information Technology; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Food
Processing Industries; Heavy Industries; Railways; Textiles)**

Total number of questions -- 160

Promoting vertical farming in urban areas

2241 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for improving agricultural production and food security in urban areas by way of vertical farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of functional vertical farming businesses in the country, State/UT-wise and year-wise during the last three years and if no such data exists, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of monetary, technical and other support Government has provided to vertical farming entrepreneurs and if not, the reasons therefor?

Digitisation of pulses stocks

2242 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the entities that have access to the digital record of pulse stocks and the benefits to traders by enrolling in this programme;
- (b) the number of persons and companies that have enrolled in the digitisation of pulse stocks programme;
- (c) the quantum of pulses stocks recorded; and
- (d) the percentage of country's total pulses stocks does this encompass and the amount from this that goes into exports?

Setting up of horticulture university in Madhya Pradesh

2243 Shri Ajay Pratap Singh:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for setting up a horticulture university;
- (b) whether there is any proposal of Government to set up a horticulture university at district Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, by when it would be set up?

Compensation for crop loss due to natural calamities

2244 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Shri Sanjay Raut:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any request from the State Governments for providing assistance to compensate for the loss suffered by farmers due to heavy rains and other natural calamities in the last six months, State wise including Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of crop loss assessed thereof along with the funds released, State-wise including Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the other steps taken by Government to cover the loss of life, property and livestock suffered by farmers?

Withdrawal of cases registered against farmers protesting farm laws

2245 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Shri Abdul Wahab:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases registered against the farmers during farmers protest, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is considering to withdraw these cases as Government has withdrawn the three agricultural laws, if so, by when;
- (c) the number of farmers who died during the farmers' protest;
- (d) whether Government would grant martyrs status to the deceased farmers and whether it would give assistance amount to the families of deceased farmers; and
- (e) if so, amount of assistance and by when the same would be provided; and
- (f) whether Government proposes to implement support price for agricultural produces after repealing farm laws, if so, details thereof?

Implementation of schemes for farmers having small land holding

2246 # **Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:**

Shri Ram Shakal:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are more than 80 per cent of farmers who have less than two hectares of land in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has started special programmes and reforms in agriculture for the development of farmers having small land holdings;
- (c) if so, the details of the programmes being run at present for the farmers with small land holdings; and
- (d) whether research programmes are being conducted by Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as well to develop technology to increase production and productivity in small land holdings?

Promoting hybrid seeds to address the challenge of climate change

2247 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has distributed rapeseed and mustard seed mini kits to farmers

free of cost, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the name of States, shortlisted for distribution of free seed mini kits;

(c) whether Government is also considering to promote various varieties of refined hybrid seeds for diverse agricultural climatic areas in order to tackle the global climate change which has an adverse impact on cultivation and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which these hybrid seeds are likely to prove helpful in tackling the problems arising out of global climate change?

Implementation of MIDH in Uttar Pradesh

2248 Shri Sanjay Seth:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof along with its features;

(b) the challenges faced by Government while implementing this mission; and

(c) the details of number of farmers trained under MIDH in the State of Uttar Pradesh?

Operational cost incurred in Kisan Rail Yojana

2249 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has raised a red flag over the burgeoning operational costs of its Kisan Rail Service with the subsidy it gives to farmers for transportation of their produces at half-rate, already exceeding the maximum of ₹ 50 crores, if so, the details, thereof;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries under Kisan Rail Service as of today since its launch;

(c) whether there is any action plan initiated to extend the Kisan Rail Service to other States, if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the details of additional programmes planned to extend the scheme?

Suicide by women farmers

2250 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) the data on the suicide of women farmers;

(b) the steps being taken to correctly identify suicides by persons engaged in agriculture; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Control on burning of crop residue

2251 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution caused by stubble burning is a major issue in a few States of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is providing financial assistance to farmers to purchase crop residue machine at low cost to put a check on stubble burning, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds allotted to States for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of other measures taken by Government to manage crop stubble without

burning it?

Use of technology against locust attack

2252 # **Smt. Geeta alias Chandrababha:**

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has used any new technology to resolve the problem of locust attack, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has put locust attack under the category of natural disaster?

Expansion of organic farming

2253 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

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

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to expand organic farming in the country through any programme/scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the financial outlay for any such scheme for the last three years;
- (d) whether there is any provision for training and capacity building of farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details of farmers trained/oriented State/UT-wise during the last three years?

Implementation of PM-KISAN scheme

2254 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers getting the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) across the country along with the estimated number of farmers deprived of this scheme across the country; and
- (b) the manner in which the benefit of this scheme is likely to be provided to the farmers deprived of the said scheme along with the time by which it is likely to be provided and the details thereof?

Modernization and mechanization in agriculture sector

2255 **Shri K. Somaprasad:**

Shri Prasanna Acharya:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is likely to introduce any scheme for the modernization and mechanization in agriculture sector in addition to the existing schemes to boost efficiency, productivity and quality, if so, the details thereof along with pace of existing schemes;
- (b) whether Government has noticed that the farmers use less modern farming equipments, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether farmers are using any Agri-related mobile app for sharing of knowledge and information;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government apprehends underutilization of labour force in mechanization in agriculture, if so, the alternative plan to provide employment to farm labour?

Sale outlets at ICAR and other research Institutions

2256 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other similar research institutions in the country have proper mechanism for sale of developed seeds of cereals, oilseeds and vegetables and saplings of fruits to the genuine farmers who visit these institutions since most of the time there are hardly any seeds or sapling available for sale; and
- (b) if so, whether Government would ensure that such research institutions maintain sales outlets and keep in stock the high yield and disease-resistant varieties of seeds and saplings around the year?

Remunerative price for potato and onion

2257 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being run to provide remunerative price to potato and onion growing farmers, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized under the said schemes during 2021-22, till date, scheme-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the details of numbers of farmers benefitted under this schemes during 2021-22, State-wise and scheme-wise?

Augmentation of cold storage facilities

2258 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the requirement and availability of cold storages in the country for perishable vegetables and fruits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of cold storage facility augmented in the country during 2021 till 1st December, 2021, State-wise?

Import and export of agricultural products

2259 # Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the ratio of imports and exports of agricultural produces;
- (b) the policies and schemes to ensure self-reliance in agriculture;
- (c) the number of Government/official organisations working in import and export sector of agriculture and the number of Non-Government and private organisations that are working to provide the said products; and
- (d) the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilisation certificates for agricultural schemes

2260 # Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Utilization Certificates (UC) received from the States for the

agricultural schemes financed by the Central Government; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for those States wherein the targets of schemes have not been met?

Suicide by farmers in Chhattisgarh

2261 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers' suicide has drastically increased after the year 2018 in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study regarding the reasons for increasing cases of farmers' suicide in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount allotted by the Central Government to Chhattisgarh to prevent farmers' suicides and their welfare during the last three years and current year?

Construction of warehouses in Maharashtra

2262 Shri Sanjay Raut:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge requirement of financial aid for developing various modern warehouse infrastructure to assist farmers and industrial products in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of projects under consideration/pending with NABARD and other financial institutes and amount involved therein; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to approve the various projects in Maharashtra to build more warehouses?

Allocation of funds to Bihar for implementing agricultural schemes

2263 # Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) the funds received by the State of Bihar from the Central Government during the last three years for agricultural schemes and agricultural mechanization, year-wise;

(b) whether the State Government of Bihar sent two letters for sanctioning ₹ 395.48 crores under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization scheme for the year 2021-22 but the approval has not been received yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this delay and by when approval would be given?

Declaration of MSP for crops

2264 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Shri John Brittas:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) for any crops;

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

(c) whether any States have declared MSP for crops;

(d) if so, the details regarding MSP declared for each crop by different States including MSP for paddy in different States;

(e) whether the Central Government intend to declare MSP for more crops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of crop insurance schemes

2265 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of crop insurance schemes being implemented by Government and the number of beneficiaries of the schemes, State-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to attract more farmers to these schemes?

Central share in premium subsidy under PMFBY

2266 Shri Prasanna Acharya:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would consider to increase the Central share in the premium subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the contingent expenses under the scheme are totally borne by the State Governments; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would consider sharing the contingent expenses with State Governments?

Share croppers and landless farmers in the country

2267 Shri Prasanna Acharya:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of landless farmers and share croppers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the schemes implemented for the said category of farmers; and
- (c) the number of such farmers who come under Below Poverty Line (BPL) and the steps taken by Government to improve their financial status, State-wise?

Legal guarantee for procurement of crops at MSP

2268 Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the formula used by Government to arrive at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different crops;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government uses A2+FL as comprehensive cost of production instead of C2, as recommended by Swaminathan Commission;
- (c) whether the MSPs declared for wheat is in keeping with the recommendation of Swaminathan Commission and Ramesh Chand Committee;
- (d) whether Government plans to provide a legal guarantee for procurement of crops at MSP rates; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that the MSP in real terms has decreased when the rates are adjusted for retail inflation?

Granting industry status to agriculture

2269 Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:

Will the Minister of ***Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development of the

country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been genuine demands to grant 'industry' status to agriculture to push it further in all respects;

(d) if so, the details of each of the benefits being given to agriculture, including industry status during the last five years; and

(e) whether there are any constraints that Government is facing in granting industry status to agriculture, if so, the details thereof?

Schemes to improve agriculture in Tamil Nadu

2270 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Central Government to reform agriculture in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the area of cultivable land for which irrigation facility is available in Tamil Nadu and the scheme to improve irrigation facility;

(c) the scheme aimed at providing high quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers on time; and

(d) the scheme of the Central Government to improve the pathetic condition of farmers in Tamil Nadu along with the time limit fixed for the purpose?

Import of Chinese medical goods and equipment

2271 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese medical goods and equipment were imported in large numbers in 2021 by Indian companies to fight against COVID-19; and

(b) if so, the details of trade volume and medical goods and equipment which were imported?

Status of Free Trade Agreements

2272 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the Continent-wise details of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that India has entered into in the last five years;

(b) the Continent-wise details of FTAs that India is negotiating currently including the expected deadlines for the completion of such agreements;

(c) whether free trade in services is also being considered under such agreements, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether immigration is also being considered under such agreements?

Engineering Clusters under IIUS

2273 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up Engineering Clusters under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Jharkhand;

(c) the funds sanctioned/allocated/released and utilised so far for the said Clusters,

State/UT and cluster-wise; and

(d) the details of the progress made in this regard so far?

Software exports

2274 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total software exports undertaken across the States in the last five years in a State and year-wise manner; and
- (b) the total revenue earned from these software exports in a State-wise and year-wise manner?

PLI schemes

2275 Shri Anand Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for various sectors for fuelling Indian economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this would enable job creation and contribution in Indian economy substantially; and
- (d) whether Government is also contemplating to launch some more PLI schemes for boosting employment?

Export of citrus products

2276 Smt. Ambika Soni:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has formulated any plan to boost exports of citrus and its value added products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government for promotion of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged Kinnor, orange and organic citrus products from Punjab?

Export of Basmati rice

2277 Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the export of Basmati rice from the country has decreased considerably in the last five years;
- (b) the reasons for the sharp decline in export of Basmati rice from the country; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken to increase/restore export of Basmati rice from the country and the details thereof?

India being manufacturing destination

2278 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which Government looks at the recent report of Cushman and Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index which indicates that India surpassed US and became the second favoured manufacturing destination after China; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Ministry to capitalize on this and push its efforts to attract more and more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country?

Import of agri commodities

2279 # **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum and procurement rate of chickpeas, soyabean, maize, pulses and oilseeds imported since the year 2016 till date; and
- (b) the import duty levied thereon?

Objectives of setting up SEZs

2280 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment with regard to one of the objectives of setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that they would promote balanced regional development across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government had made any such assessment in the past, if not, whether it would come forward to make the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Strengths and opportunities under ODOP

2281 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which Ministry is planning to make every district through One District One Product (ODOP) scheme becoming self-reliant and providing employment opportunities by taking local products to global level;
- (b) whether Ministry has identified strengths and opportunities under ODOP and, if so, how Ministry is going to address those gaps; and
- (c) the efforts being made to encourage investment to boost manufacturing and push exports, State-wise?

Developing districts as Export Hubs

2282 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's objective to convert each district of the country into an Export Hub, initiated by Government, has been proving to achieve its potential in transforming the districts as export hubs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the performance of the scheme during the last one year; and
- (d) the prospects of the initiative continuing in future?

Export and import of mobile phones

2283 # **Shri Ram Shakal:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made sincere efforts to reduce import and increase export of

mobile phones; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Welfare of Tea and Coffee garden workers

2284 Shri Vaiko:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken for the welfare of Tea and Coffee garden workers, especially women and their children, in various States in the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether Government has devised special schemes for their welfare, like medical equipment, higher education for their children, especially for Tea garden workers in the Nilgiris hill areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Broadband access for villages of Rajasthan

2285 Shri Ramkumar Verma:

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

- (a) the installation target of mobile towers across the country vis-a-vis mobile towers actually installed under the National Broadband Mission;
- (b) the reasons for very slow progress in installation of mobile towers, especially in cities and towns; and
- (c) the time by which the broadband access is likely to be provided to all the villages across the country and particularly in Rajasthan?

Internet connectivity coverage in the country

2286 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) the total coverage of internet connectivity in the country, as on date, State-wise details thereof; and
- (b) the steps Government is taking to increase this coverage?

FDI in telecom sector

2287 # Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

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

- (a) whether experts are anticipating that mobile consumers would have to pay more in future for the services if 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in telecom sector;
- (b) the details of extended facilities after the decision of allowing FDI in telecom sector; and
- (c) the reasons for allowing 100 per cent FDI in telecom sector?

Installation of cell towers in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Delhi

2288 Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:

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

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is planning to increase cell towers as Airtel, Jio and other mobile services are not much satisfactory in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Delhi;

- (b) the details of number of new towers installed during 2019-20 and to be installed in 2021-22 in the aforesaid States, district-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps proposed to be taken to increase cell towers in Maharashtra?

Impact of internet shutdowns

2289 Shri Kumar Ketkar:

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

- (a) whether Government maintains data pertaining to internet shutdowns, the corresponding reasons for shutdowns and duration, by States;
- (b) if so, the State-wise and year-wise details of internet shutdowns from May 2016 to November 2021;
- (c) whether Government has calculated the impact of internet shutdowns on freedom of speech, dissemination of information and online socialisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Launch of 5G and its benefits

2290 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

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

- (a) the details of launch of 5G, the options under consideration and their merits, demerits and cost;
- (b) by when Government expects the 5G technology to be rolled out in the country;
- (c) the estimated investments and economic benefits likely; and
- (d) how much would 5G help in digital education at the primary and secondary school levels?

Frequent call drops on mobile sets

2291 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

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

- (a) the reasons for increase in call drops and disconnection in calls over mobile sets and how does the Ministry measure or view this alarming problem;
- (b) whether each of these phone calls are charged separately, as is alleged by people; and
- (c) the remedies against and the steps being taken to improve this marked deterioration in mobile telecom services?

Status of telecom infrastructure for supporting 5G

2292 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) the details of current status of telecom infrastructure in the country;
- (b) whether the current state of telecom infrastructure is adequate enough to support the 5G technology;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by Government to boost the level of telecom infrastructure;
- (d) whether Government-run operators like Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have taken necessary upgrades for adoption of 4G and 5G technologies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Broadband and Wi-Fi in Rajasthan

2293 # **Shri Rajendra Gehlot:**

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

- (a) the details of optical fibre cables laid so far under the National Optical Fibre Network project;
- (b) the number and district-wise details of Gram Panchayats connected with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspots under the said project in Rajasthan so far; and
- (c) the number of those Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan which have not yet been connected under the said project?

4G upgradation of BSNL

2294 # **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

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

- (a) how long would it take for pan-India completion of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) 4G networks roll out;
- (b) the predicaments in completing the project;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has insisted BSNL to use equipment completely built in India, regardless of such a condition hurting the financial interests of the company; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has insisted other telecom providers to use equipment completely built in India during their respective network upgradation processes?

Measures for improving rural teledensity

2295 **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) the measures that have been taken by Government to increase the teledensity percentage in the rural segment as rural teledensity has been around 61 per cent in 2021, the details thereof;
- (b) the status of the PM- WANI scheme and how much of the dedicated funds have been utilized across the country, especially in the State of Jharkhand, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to involve the private sector to participate in this, the details thereof?

Directions to States for internet cuts

2296 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

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

- (a) whether Government has proposed issuing of directions and Notifications to the States to reduce the instances of internet cuts for exams, protection, etc.; and
- (b) the steps Government has taken in this regard?

Linking of Gram Panchayats with optical fibre in Karnataka

2297 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

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

- (a) whether Government is linking all the Gram Panchayats of the country with Optical Fibre Communication (OFC) network under the BharatNet project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Gram Panchayats that have been linked with

OFC network in the State of Karnataka, Taluka-wise;
 (c) the details of OFC network laid down in terms of kilometres and the expenditure incurred thereon in Karnataka, district and Taluka-wise; and
 (d) whether the linking of all Gram Panchayats via OFC network would benefit the farmers and if so, the details thereof?

Constitution of Committee for calculating excess AGR

2298 Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to set up an independent Committee of experts, chaired by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, to calculate the excess Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues to be paid based on a transparent formula;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Debt burden on FCI

2299 Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo:

Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the debt amount owed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF);
- (b) whether Government has a repayment plan in place;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Union Budget 2021-22 reflects the accurate debt amount, if so, the details thereof?

Expansion in distribution of food items under PDS

2300 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to include pulses and millets under Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has any plans for expanding price support mechanisms and incentives towards pulses and millets as per Shanta Kumar Committee recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by Government to expand distribution under PDS, as well as distribute locally grown food items to ensure diverse, traditional diet and nutritional security, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Storage capacity of FCI

2301 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current godown/storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) across the country, State/UT-wise;

- (b) whether a recent study has revealed that foodgrains production in the country is increasing, but a large chunk of foodgrains is getting wasted every year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by Government to prevent wastage of foodgrains, its preservation and increasing the storage capacity of foodgrains in various States of the country; and
- (d) whether FCI has stored foodgrains in rented godowns also and if so, the annual amount being spent thereon?

Payment of dues to farmers of Tamil Nadu

2302 Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of paddy procurement dues to be paid to farmers in Tamil Nadu as of November 2021, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of total number of farmers, farm labourers and total hectares of farming lands affected in the recent floods in Tamil Nadu, district-wise?

Availability of sugar in domestic market

2303 Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total raw sugar imported in the country in the financial year 2020-21 and the details of specific sugar mills where it is processed;
- (b) whether there are any problems for processing of imported raw sugar in the country, especially in Maharashtra; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to sort out this matter and also to increase availability of sugar in the domestic market to control its soaring price?

Settlement of pending dues for paddy procurement in Andhra Pradesh

2304 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ministry has to pay dues around ₹ 1,700 crores to Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation for procurement of paddy under National Food Security Act (NFSA) since 2012-13;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has submitted Utilization Certificate long back; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in release of dues and by when the Ministry is going to clear the dues?

Payment of dues to Andhra Pradesh for rice subsidy and PMGKAY

2305 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any dues towards rice subsidy and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) are pending in favour of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the reasons for non releasing the pending dues by the concerned authorities; and
- (d) the estimated time-limit for release of these dues?

Implementation of ONORC scheme

2306 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government in identifying the beneficiaries under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme, as the migrant workforce move to other cities for employment;
- (b) the manner in which the registration of workers of unorganized sectors is made under ONORC scheme;
- (c) the steps to be taken by Government for making available Domicile-Based Social Sector Scheme's benefits to migrants; and
- (d) the number of States yet to be integrated under ONORC scheme and the data on number of beneficiaries under the scheme, State-wise?

Production and export of Kalanamak rice

2307 # Shri Brijlal:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Kalanamak rice, chosen under One District One product (ODOP) in Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, being exported and used to meet the domestic demand;
- (b) the concrete steps being taken to promote the export and domestic consumption of Kalanamak rice and the names of the countries it is being exported to, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the production of Kalanamak rice has increased in the last three years and if so, the details thereof?

Disposal of consumer cases

2308 # Shri Brijlal:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of consumer cases registered and disposed off during the last three years along with the number of cases pending in consumer courts, State-wise; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government for speedy disposal of those cases, State-wise?

Disposal of cases of senior citizens

2309 Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Supreme Court pulled up the Central Government recently over huge shortage of judges in courts;
- (b) if so, the total number of judges available against sanctioned strength in South Delhi District Consumer Courts;
- (c) whether there is no fast track disposal of cases of senior citizens of 70 years and

above in South Delhi District Consumer Courts and if so, the reasons therefor; and
(d) the steps Government propose to take to establish Fast Track Consumer Courts to dispose off cases of senior citizens?

Wastage of foodgrains in FCI godowns

2310 Dr. Santanu Sen:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount of foodgrain wasted in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the details of foodgrains allocated to the States from the FCI in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the details of amount of foodgrains stored in FCI godowns since the last five years, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of additional storage capacity created by FCI in the last five years, State-wise?

Implementation of Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) rules

2311 Dr. Ameet Jain:

Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints registered against e-commerce companies in the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether it has also come to the notice of the Central Consumer Protection Authority that some marketplace e-commerce entities are not displaying details of sellers as required to be displayed under Rule 5(3)(e) of the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 on their platform; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken by Government to address these issues?

Awareness about consumer courts

2312 Dr. Ameet Jain:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to create awareness among consumers who are reluctant to go to consumer courts for their grievances;
- (b) whether Government has any other options apart from consumer court for people where they can go for redressal of their grievances; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Production of ethanol

2313 # Smt. Kanta Kardam:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is permitted to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane in the country and if so, the details thereof and the name of major mills which produce ethanol directly from sugarcane;

- (b) the total production of ethanol in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to increase production of ethanol and to promote its utilization in the country?

Inclusion of more goods for distribution under PDS

2314 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of consumer goods being presently distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) the quantity of the said items released to the States in last five years, State-wise, including Maharashtra;
- (c) whether Government proposes to distribute other consumer goods apart from the goods already being distributed through PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of bogus ration cards under PDS

2315 Shri A. Vijayakumar:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to improve Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country; and
- (b) the number of fake/duplicate cards identified/issued in several States in the country, State-wise?

Irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat

2316 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is over 16 per cent increase in paddy procurement compared to previous season and if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this increase;
- (b) the number of farmers benefitted from Kharif and Rabi procurement;
- (c) whether the procurement centres set up by various procurement agencies have been proved sufficient for procurement of paddy and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat from various States and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

Restructuring of FCI

2317 Shri Subhash Chandra Singh:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made on recommendations given by High Level Committee on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI) regarding handing over of procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to States that have gained sufficient experience in this regard and have created reasonable infrastructure for procurement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Wastage of Foodgrains

2318 **Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge quantity of foodgrains, pulses and perishable items gets rotten/wasted/spoiled every year due to shortage of godowns, lack of scientific and proper storing technology in FCI and warehouses of CWC, if so, whether any accountability has been fixed for these losses/damages, the details of last five years;
- (b) steps taken and target fixed to reduce wastage;
- (c) whether Government has invited scientific communities and expertise in building storage capacity and funds allocated in this regard;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether any new warehouses have been constructed during last one year using scientific methodology; and
- (f) if so, details thereof?

Implementation of PDS in Tamil Nadu

2319 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the net coverage on economic criteria to Public Distribution system (PDS) in the State of Tamil Nadu similar to that of Below Poverty Line (BPL);
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to provide additional resources to the State of Tamil Nadu to make the PDS upto the universal standard;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measure to include more commodities in the existing PDS;
- (d) whether Government would take steps to increase of quantities in the PDS according to individuals in family count; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

Low coverage of beneficiaries under PDS

2320 **Shri Md. Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 42 per cent of country's population cannot access the benefits of PDS;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was insufficient in providing rations to migrant workers because of non-possession of ration cards;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the current ration card quotas are based on the 2011 census;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme is also being rolled out based

on data from 2011 census, if so, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Atal Khadyan Yojana

2321 # Shri Naresh Bansal:

Will the Minister of ***Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the ration card holders in the country for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 and year-wise number and the details of implementation of Atal Khadyan Yojana State-wise;
- (b) the per capita quantity and the types of foodgrains available to consumers under the Public Distribution System (PDS); and
- (c) whether rations are made available to the consumers in all the States throughout the year?

Incidence of cyber attacks

2322 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

- (a) how many incidents of cyber attacks have taken place in the country in the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has taken adequate steps to counter both cyber attacks and cyber terrorism and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the relevant laws in place to handle these kind of threats created by cyber terrorism and whether they are adequate to tackle the same?

Impact of violent online games on youth

2323 Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to promote Indian online gaming companies;
- (b) the steps taken to assess the impact of violent video games amongst Indian youth and increasing violence;
- (c) the details and impact of investments from entities from nations like China, Turkey, Malaysia, etc., in such games operating in India; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry to check the influence of such games?

Unemployment due to Artificial Intelligence

2324 Smt. Mausam Noor:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has studied that the advent of Artificial Intelligence would lead to job losses, the details thereof;
- (b) how does the Ministry plan to mitigate the unemployment which may arise due to rampant use of Artificial Intelligence, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has prepared any draft related to regulation of Artificial Intelligence, the details thereof?

Domestic operating system for countering threats

2325 Smt. Ambika Soni:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to create a domestic operating system for itself to boost Government's capabilities to deal with potential internal and external threats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to have a comprehensive framework that addresses national security threats as well as to evolve the infrastructure with latest developments in the technological field?

Production of electronic goods under PLI scheme

2326 Shri K.J. Alphons:

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

- (a) the impact of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in the production of electronic goods;
- (b) the products that have shown the best results; and
- (c) the amount given out as incentive ever since the launch of the programme?

Data breaches

2327 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) the details of the data breaches reported in the country in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of the action taken by Government against the breaches;
- (c) the details of the number of banking fraud- online/UPI related reported in last five years in the country; and
- (d) the details of the unrecovered money involved in banking fraud- online/UPI, year-wise?

Import of electronics and components

2328 Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) the details of volume of electronics and component imports in the last three years;
- (b) whether Government proposes to promote electronics manufacturing in order to reduce import dependency and generate employment;
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government for promotion of electronics manufacturing along with the employment generated due to these actions; and
- (d) whether Government has taken up any initiative for collaboration with States in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Digital villages in Karnataka

2329 Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:

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

- (a) the details of 30 villages in Karnataka identified as digital villages;
- (b) the services that the identified digital villages get under this digital plan;
- (c) the details of physical targets set and achieved in the above 30 villages in Karnataka, village-wise; and
- (d) the plans Ministry has to take up digitizing other villages in the State?

Policies and allocation of funds for electronics sector

2330 Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) details of initiatives/schemes/policies undertaken by the Ministry to allocate funding for Research and Development (R&D) for technology development of all States, especially for Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the existing policies, incentives, funds provided by the Ministry for the period 2016-2021 for the electronics sector across the country, especially the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to develop a healthy ecosystem to understand technology and to keep in pace with global industry in terms of electronics manufacturing for electronics and information technology development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Establishment of fabrication labs

2331 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) how many semiconductor manufacturing Startups are under Make in India project;
- (b) whether Ministry has made any plans to capitalize growing demand of semiconductor chips in Indian market and across the globe to reduce dependence on China and other countries for procurement of semiconductor chips;
- (c) whether Ministry has made any plans to procure Ferrosilicon (from sources other than China) for in-house production of semiconductor chips, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Ministry has taken steps to ensure availability of continuous supply of pure water, 24x7 uninterrupted electricity, skilled manpower and technical know-how to establish/operate fabrication labs in the country?

Law against spreading misinformation on social media

2332 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to enact any strict law against those who are spreading misinformation on social media and who are inciting violence in the name of an ongoing movement in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the extent to which these activities are likely to be curbed by the said law?

Investment under PMMSY

2333 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the investment, in terms of both funding and assets, in Goa under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY);
- (b) the proposed investment in Goa under this scheme;
- (c) the timeline for investment in Goa under this scheme;
- (d) the expected improvement in employment and fish production in Goa due to this scheme's implementation; and
- (e) how promotion of fishing is being balanced with interests of ecology?

Marine Exports

2334 Shri John Brittas:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has an estimate on India's competitiveness at the global level in fisheries sector;
- (b) the State-wise details of production and export of marine products in the last three years; and
- (c) the steps undertaken by Government for expansion of marine exports?

Breeding of cows

2335 # Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the foreign breed of cows become sterile after bearing offsprings twice or thrice in Indian atmosphere and breeding them becomes disadvantageous and impossible for the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that reproductivity and the quality of milk produced by Indian breed of cows is better than that of foreign breed of cows;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has prepared any action plan to develop the breeding of Indian breed of cows; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

2336 Shri Kumar Ketkar:

Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) checked the gaps in the value chain and fisheries management;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the details of budget allocation and budget utilization in the PMMSY during the last five years;
- (d) the number of beneficiaries under PMMSY; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to increase fish production and fisheries management?

Beneficiaries under AHIDF

2337 Shri P. Bhattacharya:

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of dairy farmers who are beneficiaries of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) or are registered thereunder;
- (b) the details of steps taken by Government to cover the maximum number of potential beneficiaries; and
- (c) the outcome of the efforts made by Government in this regard?

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

2338 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) launched in 2014 with upgradation of indigenous cow breeds as one of the primary objectives has proved to be successful;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any system of certification of individual cows of a particular breed for the buyers; and
- (d) if not, why a system of certification for individual cows of particular breed is not possible for introduction at district veterinary centres to begin with?

Economic revolution through PMMSY

2339 # Shri Ram Shakal:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has implemented Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojan (PMMSY) to bring economic revolution along side blue revolution; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Availability of milk

2340 Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that per capita availability of milk in the country is 394 gms per day;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that many States are not getting even the national average;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Puducherry's per capita availability is much below the national average and stands at just 106 gms per day; and
- (d) if so, the measures Government is taking to ensure that people of Puducherry get at least the national average?

Milk quality testing infrastructure

2341 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of milk quality testing infrastructure and village level cold chain infrastructure, which is adversely affecting the exports; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to improve India's world trade in dairy products?

NDDB functioning without Chairman

2342 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

Will the Minister of ***Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is functioning without a regular full-time Chairman since 1st December 2020; and
- (b) whether Government intends to nominate a full time Chairman of NDDB, if so, by which date, if not, the reasons therefor?

Value addition in FPI sector

2343 **Shri K.J. Alphans:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of food produced in the country that undergoes value addition;
- (b) whether the percentage went up in the last five years;
- (c) the investments in the Food Processing Industry (FPI) during the last five years; and
- (d) whether FPI is covered under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme?

Funds allocated to UP and AP under various schemes

2344 **Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the allocation, release and utilisation of funds under different schemes of the Ministry to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh since 2017, year-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise and year-wise since 2017; and
- (c) the comprehensive list and details of all projects sanctioned for Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh and their present status?

Schemes under PMKSY

2345 # **Smt. Kanta Kardam:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various schemes being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) and the status of the investment made under the said scheme with regard to State of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized under the said scheme during the last three years and current year?

Establishing tomato processing plants in AP

2346 **Shri Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is establishing processing plants for fruits and vegetables in the State of Andhra Pradesh (AP), especially for Tomato and Mango; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Contribution of FPI to the GDP

2347 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Food Processing Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the contribution of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the percentage of big, medium, small and tiny industries in the food processing sector;
- (c) the number of MNCs operating in the FPI sector as on date along with the number of individuals employed by them;
- (d) the percentage of their share in the market; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to increase the contribution of FPIs to the GDP?

Non-functional paper mills at Panchgram and Jagiroad

2348 **Ms. Sushmita Dev:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of a paper mill at Panchgram in Hailakandi district that has been non-functional since October 2015;
- (b) whether Government is aware of Nagaon paper mill at Jagiroad in Morigaon district which has been non-functional since March 2017;
- (c) whether Government has made an assessment to understand the paper mills being non-functional till date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure re-opening of the two paper mills;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Penetration of EVs in Tier II and III cities

2349 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of electric vehicles (EVs) sold in tier II and III cities;
- (b) the number of EV charging stations in these cities, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken to increase the penetration of EVs in tier II and III cities?

Setting up of automobile production units

2350 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any multinational automobile or motorcycle manufacturer, including electric automobile or motorcycle manufacturer, has set up their production units in India in last three years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) amount invested by these manufacturers in India in last three years, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is providing any incentives to multinational automobile or motorcycle manufacturers to set up their production units in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the share of automobile and motorcycle exports in GDP with year-on-year basis for the last five years and the details thereof?

Forecast for slump in auto sales

2351 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations' forecast of auto sales possibly dropping by 25-30 per cent this final quarter, if so, the reaction of Government thereto, particularly in Odisha;
- (b) whether Government is concerned that commodity input prices are rising year-on-year; and
- (c) whether Government would take measures in response to demand within the industry for locally produced chips and parts to accelerate domestic supply as international supply of parts fell due to the pandemic?

Self-reliance in heavy industries sector

2352 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

Will the Minister of **Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to achieve self-reliance in the heavy industries sector in the last five years;
- (b) the impact thereof; and
- (c) the future action plan for the same?

Setting up of custom hiring centres

2353 # **Shri Ramkumar Verma:**

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing any dedicated scheme for promoting farm mechanization;
- (b) if so, the details the scheme and the provisions thereof;
- (c) the amount of financial help provided to set-up custom hiring centres under this scheme;
- (d) the number of custom hiring centres set-up during each of the last five years, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (e) whether Government has any plan to provide subsidy and loan to set-up custom hiring centres; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Ernakulam Electric Loco Shed

2354 **Shri John Brittas:**

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

- (a) whether Railways has constructed an Electric Loco Shed at Ernakulam (ERS), Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are any reasons for the delay in completing the construction and making the Electric Loco Shed operational, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any reasons for not commencing allocation/homing of electric locomotives to/in the Electric Loco Shed at Ernakulam and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether there are instances of any Electric Loco Shed in the country allotted with electric locomotives before inauguration and commencement of operations and if so, the details thereof?

Transportation of agricultural products through Kisan Rails

2355 **Shri Prakash Javadekar:**

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

- (a) how many Kisan Rails have started transporting agricultural products;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits received by farmers and traders through this initiative?

Status of unmanned gates at railway crossings

2356 **Shri Prakash Javadekar:**

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

- (a) the number of unmanned gates in existence in 2014;
- (b) the number of unmanned gates in 2021;

- (c) the number of unmanned gates closed in the last five years; and
- (d) the expenditure and benefits of this initiative?

Strengthening APMC

2357 Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating any action plan to strengthen the infrastructure of agriculture produce market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the agriculture infrastructure fund is being used to strengthen the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of privatisation on railway employees

2358 Shri Anand Sharma:

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

- (a) the details of Government employees presently working in the Indian railways as on date vis-a-vis 2017 when its privatisation took place;
- (b) whether all Government employees affected due to privatization have been fully rehabilitated;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) how many Government employees are presently manning the privately owned trains?

Sleeper class reservation for women in long distance trains

2359 # Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:

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

- (a) whether there is a provision of reservation for women in sleeper class in the long distance mail/express trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government in view of the safety of women passengers?

Rail Development Authority

2360 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved formation of a Rail Development Authority (RDA) as an advisory body despite the recommendations of the Committee on Restructuring Railways (2015) to make it statutory in nature;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the members comprising RDA and date of their appointment;
- (d) the number of meetings of the committee in the last three years;
- (e) the total expenditure undertaken by RDA in the last two years and details thereof; and
- (f) the details of key initiatives or measures undertaken by RDA to achieve its objectives?

Railway accidents

2361 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) the total number of people who lost their lives in railway-related accidents in the last two years;
- (b) whether any compensation has been offered to the families of the victims of such accidents;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of over bridge near Lakhminia station

2362 # Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to build an overbridge in view of several deaths due to accidents taking place at the busiest National Highway-31, which has to be crossed to reach the Lakhminia station in Sonpur zone of Bihar;
- (b) how old is the building of Lakhminia Station;
- (c) the last time when it was repaired; and
- (d) whether Government will construct a new railway station building as per the existing structure?

Modernisation of stations

2363 Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) how many railway stations will be modernised by 2025;
- (b) how many railway stations are in the process of modernisation;
- (c) the estimated expenditure of modernisation of Railway stations;
- (d) how many railway stations have wi-fi facilities by 2021; and
- (e) how many stations out of total have electronic display?

Stoppage of Rajdhani train at Lohardaga

2364 Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan for the stoppage of New Delhi Ranchi Rajdhani Express at Lohardaga railway station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a positive move in this direction would give relief to thousands of rail passengers of nearby districts; and
- (d) if so, the stand of Government in this regard?

Yelahanka-Dharmavaram-Gooty railway line

2365 Shri Narayana Koragappa:

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

- (a) whether the Yelahanka-Dharmavaram-Gooty line doubling work is completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the line electrification is done simultaneously;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether local DEMU/MEMU trains are introduced in electrified line;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the estimated operational date of electrified line of Yelahanka-Gooty line?

Yesvantpur-Hubballi railway line

2366 Shri Narayana Koragappa:

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

- (a) whether the Yesvantpur - Hubballi doubling work is completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the line electrification is done simultaneously;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the electrified lines have been commissioned, if any are planned for local trains DEMU/ MEMU services;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the estimated operational date of electrified railway line?

Bangriposi to Gorumahisani railway link

2367 Smt. Mamata Mohanta:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to start the Bangriposi to Gorumahisani railway link in order to reduce the travel time, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the survey report of Bangriposi-Gorumahisani does not take into account this aspect of alternative route, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Bangriposi-Gorumahisani could have acted as an alternative route, decongested Kharagpur – Tata section and reduced the haulage distance by 40 kms?

Pending railway projects in Odisha

2368 Smt. Mamata Mohanta:

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

- (a) the names of railway works for which proposals have been received by Government from Odisha during the last three years and the details thereof, proposal-wise;
- (b) the response of Government on the said proposals and the action taken so far on such proposals;
- (c) the number of proposals from Odisha pending so far with the Railways at present and the details of such proposals, location and work-wise; and
- (d) the reasons for pendency of the said proposals?

Post COVID train fares

2369 Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that all trains are running as special trains post COVID hence increasing the fares upto 29 per cent in the name of special train, festival trains etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that passengers have to bear the increased fare in this post COVID situation; and
- (d) if so, by when normal fares in railways would be implemented?

Railway line works at Jodhpur Division

2370 # Shri Rajendra Gehlot:

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

- (a) the details of the expansion and doubling of Merta Raod to Pushkar railway line of the Jodhpur Division of North-Western Railway, whether this plan has been stopped midway and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the work completed so far and the progress of remaining works under this scheme; and
- (c) the cost amount earmarked for this action plan and the details of the funds spent so far?

Ramp facilities at railway stations

2371 Shri Abdul Wahab:

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

- (a) whether Government has received representations from various quarters to provide ramp facility to board/alight the train particularly for senior citizens, wheelchair bound passengers, differently able persons;
- (b) whether Government is considering installation of ramp facility at the entry doors of the coaches facilitating hassle free boarding/alighting for the needy passengers; and
- (c) whether Government is considering redesigning the coaches to bring down the level of entry passage/door to that of platform level so as to avoid the steep and narrow steps to board/alight the train?

Modernisation of Ambikapur Station

2372 # Shri Ram Vichar Netam:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step for upgradation and modernisation of the Ambikapur railway station of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated for upgradation and modernisation of the Ambikapur station;
- (d) the details of works and funds spent respectively in this regard;
- (e) whether any time frame has been set by Government to complete the work of upgradation of the Ambikapur railway station; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail Development Authority

2373 Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:

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

- (a) whether the establishment of the Rail Development Authority (RDA) has been pending since gazette notification of 2017;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in implementation; and
- (c) whether Government is taking steps to establish this regulatory body, the expected timeline thereof?

Survey by Railways on slum clusters

2374 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to survey the number of slum clusters and slum dwellers along railway lines all over the country, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any plans to rehabilitate these families, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the railway lines would be free from such dwellers and slum clusters, the details thereof?

Pending railway line projects

2375 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

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

- (a) how many new railway lines are pending State-wise in the country and likely timeline for completion of those railway lines, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether adequate funds are available for completion of these projects and whether work on some of the new railway lines is in progress, the details thereof?

MP discretionary quota for railway reservation

2376 **Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has allotted discretionary quota for Member of Parliament (MP) for confirmation of railway reservation on the request for his guests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria fixed for allotment of berths in this quota;
- (d) whether the criteria are being observed regularly; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vande Bharat Express trains

2377 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

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

- (a) the details of Vande Bharat Express trains which are operated by Indian Railways; and
- (b) whether Government has any plan to introduce new Vande Bharat Express train in Odisha?

Benefits of Kisan Rail

2378 # **Shri Om Prakash Mathur:**

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

- (a) the number of farmers who have been benefitted by the running of Kisan Rails and whether any survey has been conducted/ is being conducted to get farmers' opinion in this regard; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Status of railway projects in AP

2379 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken up any gauge conversion and doubling of railway line projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh (AP) in the current financial year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the budget allocations made, project-wise and the estimated time for its completion; and
- (c) the details of the progress made so far and the action plan chalked out to complete them within the time frame?

MoU with Rail Infrastructure Development Companies

2380 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rail Infrastructure Development Companies of Indian Railways for sanctioning of modern coaches etc., for various States; and
- (b) the details of major projects taken up by respective Rail Infrastructure Development Companies, so far?

Transfer of production units to CPSE

2381 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) whether there is any move to transfer 8 production units (3 coach factories, 3 locomotive manufacturers and 2 rail wheel units) to a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE);
- (b) if so, what are the advantages and disadvantages of such transfer;
- (c) whether any consultations with unions and others have been held in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the same?

Railway track works

2382 # **Shri Rewati Raman Singh:**

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

- (a) the length of railway track constructed/doubled during 2018-19 and 2019-20;
- (b) whether it is a fact that only 1458 kilometres of railway lines have been doubled during 2014-2020; and
- (c) the length of railway lines constructed/doubled during the said duration in Uttar Pradesh, the details thereof?

Electrification of railway lines

2383 # **Shri Rewati Raman Singh:**

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

- (a) the total length of railway lines in kilometres, which has been electrified during the year 2020;

- (b) the target set for electrifying 100 per cent railway lines in the country; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to convert Railways into a zero carbon emission mode of transportation?

Laying of new railway line to Puducherry

2384 Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of a long pending demand for a new railway line of just 62 km between Tindivanam and Cuddalore via Kiliyanur and Puducherry which will not only shorten the distance by circumventing the circuitous route of Puducherry-Villupuram - Tindivanam but also reduce the travel time by 90 minutes;
- (b) what is the current status of laying a new railway line of just 22 Kms between Puducherry and Cuddalore; and
- (c) whether Government would take steps to execute the projects within a specific time limit in the interest of public?

Ongoing works in Tiruchi Division of Southern Railway

2385 Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) whether various representations have been made for new and ongoing works in the Tiruchi division of Southern Railway; (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government; and
- (c) the details of progress made so far in the ongoing works and by when Government proposes to complete these projects?

Improper sequencing of coaches

2386 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the passengers of Intercity Express running from Delhi to Bareilly are facing a lot of problems due to improper sequencing of the coaches shunted in the train;
- (b) whether Government would take any action against the officers responsible for this; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Integrated action plan for resolving problems affecting cash crops

2387 Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder:

Will the Minister of **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to take up any integrated action plan for resolving problems affecting cash crops in the country, especially in the State of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has any plan for cotton industry in Punjab; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Adarsh Station Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

2388 Shri Y. S. Chowdary:

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

- (a) the details and number of railway stations upgraded so far in the State of Andhra Pradesh (AP), under Adarsh Station Scheme; (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised under this scheme in the last three years, year-wise; (c) the details of amenities and facilities provided/likely to be provided at these stations; and (d) the present status of work and by when, the upgradation works will be completed?

Extension of railway track to Bhutan

2389 Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any action for extension of railway track from Rangiya Junction to Samdrup Jongkhar in Bhutan;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the schedule for completion of the extension of the said railway track?

Maintenance of railway coaches

2390 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that during recent safety audits it has been found that several hundreds of railway coaches have not been overhauled or serviced and most of them are in wornout condition;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether Government has allocated any funds for the periodic overhauling/servicing/replacement of railway coaches and if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken in this regard; and
 (d) the steps taken by Government to replace the old damaged and outdated rail coaches with new ones Post COVID-19 crisis?

Narkatiaganj-Bhikhna Thori railway work

2391 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

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

- (a) whether gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Bhikhna Thori railway line of East Central Railway Zone (ECR) had been selected in the year 2004;
 (b) whether this work has been completed, if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, by when it would be completed along with the details thereof?

Rejuvenating jute industry

2392 Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to rejuvenate the dying jute industry in eastern part of India;
 (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to address the issue of intense competition and cheap Bangladeshi imports; and
 (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that the jute balers receive timely payments from mills?

Contribution of MMF segment in PLI scheme

2393 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) whether the high value Man-made fibres (MMF) segment under the textile Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme complements the efforts of cotton and other natural fibre based textiles industry;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) the number and details of the companies that have submitted investment proposals to the Ministry under the PLI scheme;
- (d) whether Government has any similar proposal to improve investment and increase production in the handloom sector; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

NIFT satellites centre

2394 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) the State-wise details of the current National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) satellite centres established to improve design interventions;
- (b) the number of students that have enrolled and completed certificate or diploma courses;
- (c) whether Government is considering to establish a satellite centre at National Institute of Designing (NID) in Odisha; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to establish a satellite centre at NIFT in Sambalpur, Odisha?

Measures to promote handmade textiles

2395 **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

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

- (a) the quantity of handmade textiles exported by India in the last three years and its contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to promote handmade textiles, the details thereof;
- (c) the support extended by Government under the Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH) in Jharkhand, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government of Jharkhand has expressed interest for being a site for the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park meant to support textile growth, if so, the details thereof?

Closure of jute mills in West Bengal

2396 **Ms. Sushmita Dev:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal is the largest producer of jute in India;
- (b) the district-wise details of the number of functioning jute mills in West Bengal and Assam currently;
- (c) the district-wise details of the number of jute mills that have been closed in Bengal from 2014 till date, yearly in West Bengal and Assam;
- (d) the steps Government has taken to reopen the closed jute mills; and
- (e) the steps Government has taken to ensure livelihood of the workers of the jute mills that closed down?

Production of cotton

2397 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) the import of cotton during last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the production of cotton during last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the demand and consumption for cotton domestically during last five years, year-wise;
- (d) the reasons for significant surge in cotton imports despite India being world's largest producer;
- (e) the impact of imported cotton on domestic cotton farmers;
- (f) whether it is a fact that five per cent basic customs duty and five per cent Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on imported cotton is too less and needs to be enhanced; and
- (g) if so, steps taken by Ministry to enhance the rate of duties?

Common Effluent Treatment Plant

2398 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to provide one-time monetary assistance to textile units/industries so that they can set up Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) within the premises of textile parks and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether Government is in favour of minimising the cost incurred by the industry for treating effluents;
- (c) whether Government is planning to lay underground pipelines so that the effluents can be transported from the textile parks to the CETP; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States in which it is being planned?

Access to advanced technology

2399 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government in the last seven years to strengthen the textile industry's access to advanced technology; and
- (b) the impact of the steps taken so far specially on the small businesses in the textile industry?

National Technical Textiles Mission

2400 **Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

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

- (a) the National Technical Textiles Mission's (NTTM) aims to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market;
- (b) whether the Mission will aim at taking domestic market size to \$50 billion by 2024;
- (c) whether Government has approved the proposal for creation of NTTM for a period of four years (2020-21 to 2023-24) with an outlay of ₹ 1480 crores; and
- (d) the status of setting up these NTTMs in the country?

New Delhi
The 10th December, 2021
19 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
Secretary-General.

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