

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 14, 2018/Agrahayana 23, 1940 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Coal; Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing Industries; Law and
Justice; Railways; Statistics and Programme Implementation)**

Total number of questions — 160

Infrastructural support and cheap credit for agriculture sector

481. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture sector needs long-term solutions rather than temporary loan waiver and free power supply;

(b) whether it is also a fact that agriculture sector needs infrastructure support and cheap credit to improve the growth;

(c) whether it is also a fact that agriculture is becoming unviable and people are abandoning farming and moving into urban areas; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to prevent this situation?

Assistance to farmers affected by demonetization

482. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of farmers were unable to buy seeds and fertilizers for winter crops because of demonetization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had submitted a report in this regard;

(c) whether as per the said report, 263 million farmers live mostly in the cash economy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to assist the needy farmers to buy seeds and fertilizers?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

483. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had declared 15 Mandals in Nellore district, apart from various other Mandals of the State as drought-prone during Rabi season 2017-18;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested financial assistance from the NDRF; and

(c) if so, the amount of funds the State Government has sought for Nellore and the recommendations made by the visiting Central Team and the amount released so far, for Andhra Pradesh, with particular reference to Nellore district?

Establishment of Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh

484. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, Central Government shall take steps to establish an Agriculture University in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the latest status of the University, the funds which have been released for establishing the University and the timeline for completion thereof along with the details thereof?

Technology-driven revolution in agricultural sector

485. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian agriculture needs a technology-driven revolution, especially given the extant challenges of fragmented landholding, low level of input usage, limited access to irrigation, absence of extension services and inadequate linkage to markets; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to infuse multiple technologies in farming to transform agriculture from being a means of livelihood to one of agri-business where every farmer becomes an entrepreneur?

Assistance to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements

†486. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides assistance to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements;

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

(c) whether the funds allocated for this purpose have been fully utilized by all State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of drip-irrigation technologies

487. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of drip-irrigation technologies, State-wise, district-wise and panchayat-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry has developed a mechanism and infrastructure to promote the use of recycled water for irrigation on the line of the Israel's agriculture model;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the parts of Israel's agricultural model which are being followed and implemented by the Ministry alongwith the details thereof?

Procurement by Government agencies

488. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAFED has utilized only ₹ 1,000 crore over the last five years out of ₹ 29,000 crore fund to procure oilseeds, pulses and copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), if so, details thereof; and

(b) the details of percentage of procurement by Government agencies, such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), to meet requirement of the Public Distribution System under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) through the Price Stabilization Fund, Market Intervention Scheme, and scheme for procurement of cotton over the last four years and the current year, State-wise?

Delayed payments under PMFBY

489. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a delay in payments to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the delay is caused by late payment of premium to the insurance companies by the Central and State

Governments, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the use of modern technology in assessing the yield loss for payment of crop insurance claims has not been properly implemented, which resulted in delay in claim reimbursements, if so, the details thereof?

MSP for pulses

490. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MSP for pulses, though nearly twice the market price today, still does not pay for the farmers' production costs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider revising the MSP of pulses to benefit the farmers in distress?

Assessment of drought condition by State Governments

491. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that State Governments are experiencing difficulty in assessing monitoring and declaring drought situation in their States due to which there occurs inordinate delay in declaring drought notification for Kharif and Rabi crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to extend the date for drought declaration notification by State Governments so that validity period can be extended suitably;

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

Implementation of Swaminathan Commission Report

492. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the highlights of Swaminathan Commission Report to improve the living conditions of farmers,

(b) the reason for not implementing the Swaminathan Commission Report fully, especially to ensure that farmers get the maximum MSP and subsidized inputs;

(c) by when Government would implement the report fully; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to help farmers in the country, including waiving of farm loans, availability of soft-term loans and subsidized seeds and fertilizers?

Compensation for loss of corn crop in Bihar

†493. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the farmers of Purnia division of Bihar have incurred heavy loss due to failure of corn crop;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to compensate the farmers for the loss incurred by them; and

(c) if so, by when the payments would be made to them, if not, the reasons therefor?

Remunerative price for farmers' produce

494. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Procurement of crops by State Governments under MSP

495. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on procurement of 8 crops out of 14 crops, by different State Governments under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the year 2017 and 2018;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the farmers of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha are the most affected ones and have been forced to resort to distress sale; and

(c) if so, the details of purchase price and production price, per unit of major crops, like gram and pulses for the above States for 2017 and 2018?

Increase in budget allocation for agricultural schemes

†496. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has continuously and sufficiently increased the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

budget allocation under various agricultural schemes with the aim of doubling the farmers' income by 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers' income has increased therefrom and whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Requirement of skilled labourers in agriculture sector

†497. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of skilled labourers required for agriculture sector in the country, at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the required number of skilled labourers is currently available;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether any training programme is being run in States, with the assistance to Central Government, to ensure the availability of such skilled labourers?

Cooperation with Israel in plantation sector

498. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential for cooperation between India and Israel in plantation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up any steps to explore these potentials with Israel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to farmers to tackle agricultural residue

499. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any plan to help farmers to remove agricultural residue from their fields, instead of burning it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to tackle stubble burning in Punjab

500. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has recently urged the Central Government to help it financially to tackle the problem of stubble burning in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

schemes for boosting income of farmers

501. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes launched by Government to address the problems of farmers and boost their income; and

(b) the outcome of the schemes, so far?

Funds to protect farmers' land from erosion

502. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earmarked

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

certain amount for protection of farmers' land from erosion in the country; and

(b) if so, the farmers' land affected during each of the last three years, State-wise, and the amount spent to protect their land in the State of Kerala?

Awareness on new techniques for increasing farm yields

503. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided by the Central Government to Department of Agricultural Research and Education, since 2014;

(b) the new research centres/institutes set up by the Government for agricultural research, since 2014;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to increase awareness amongst farmers with respect to new techniques and processes to increase farm yield, reduce chemical usage, seed choice and irrigation technologies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy for dairy and animal husbandry sector

504. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to increase efficiency and market of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount of subsidy provided to various beneficiaries to start small businesses/units of dairying and animal husbandry?

Stabilization of prices of pulses

505. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production, consumption, import and export of pulses in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for stabilization of prices of pulses to support farmers growing pulses during the last three years; and

(c) the amount spent on subsidy to pulses growing farmers?

Promotion of Aquaponic, Hydroponic and Aeroponic technology in agriculture

506. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards benefits of aquaponics, hydroponics and aeroponics technology in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of promotion Government proposes to undertake to encourage farmers to get far better yield without much investment to support the growing population of the country which may require 60 per cent import of food by 2050?

Arbitrary fixing of MSP for crops

507. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MSP for paddy during 2016-17 was ₹ 1550/- per quintal whereas

the cost of production to the farmers worked out to be ₹1484/- per quintal, and hence the margin of profit was just ₹ 64/- per quintal;

(b) if so, the parameters fixed for arriving at MSP;

(c) whether Government proposes to review the parameters and fix MSP rationally so that the farmers get a minimum 25 per cent profit over and above their input cost; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of manure from organic waste

508. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been able to develop manure for crops from organic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the research bodies involved in such research;

(d) the comparative cost of producing such manure against the chemical fertilizers; and

(e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to produce manure from organic waste?

Delay in payment of premium subsidy to farmers under PMFBY

509. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most States have failed to make timely payments of their premium subsidy to the farmers under

the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the reasons for non-payment and details of the number of farmers benefited and not able benefited under the scheme, year-wise; and

(c) if so, whether there is a grievance redressal mechanism for the aid of the farmers who have not received the subsidy in due time if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

510. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding claims for the crops for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) whether the claims under PMFBY are being paid within two months of harvest, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to avoid any delay in settlement of claim payments, if so, the details thereof?

MSP for agricultural crops

511. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent hike in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural crops is not in consonance with the demand of farmers' based on input costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis on which these MSPs were enhanced and whether there is any proposal

to further enhance the MSP of other foodgrains?

Establishing world class agriculture university in the country

512. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan under consideration to start world class agriculture university in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of mango and pineapple in Konkan region

†513. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of mango and pineapple production in the country, particularly in the Konkan region;

(b) whether there is ample scope for mango and pineapple production, especially in the Konkan region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any special steps for production of mango and pineapple, specially in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, for the last three years?

Delay in paying insurance claims

514. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers currently

enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), along with the percentage of small and marginal farmers and women farmers, State-wise;

(b) the amount of premium collected since its inception, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the amount of compensation that has been paid out, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the number of unsettled claims of insurance under the scheme, State-wise and the reasons for unsettled claims; and

(e) the status of Government intervention to penalise State Governments and insurance companies for the delays in paying insurance claims?

Problems being faced by farmers

515. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural families/households in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to conduct door-to-door survey of farmers to ascertain their financial condition and agricultural problems being faced by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of farmers Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, State/UT-wise;

(e) the area of agricultural land that has not been provided with irrigation facilities, State/UT-wise; and

(f) the area of agricultural land that is still being cultivated by obsolete implements like plough and yoke, etc.?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MSP for Kharif crops

516. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hike in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crop announced by Government in July, 2018 was below the ones effected under the previous Governments in 2008-09 and 2012-13;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the farmers are not happy with the MSP hiked by Government; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to take necessary steps in this regard?

Changing the agriculture pattern for reducing carbon emission

†517. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to reduce carbon emissions by changing the pattern of cultivation; and

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

Functioning of Agriculture University at temporary campus in Guntur District

518. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agricultural University is functioning from temporary campus at Guntur District, since 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated/granted and released towards the project cost of the Agriculture University during the last three years;

(d) whether the funds released by Government are sufficient for early completion of this project; and

(e) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

Implementation of schemes for farmers

519. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is running many schemes for farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited by these schemes during the last four years, year-wise and State-wise, the details thereof?

Drought in Maharashtra

520. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that half of Maharashtra, consisting 180 talukas, is facing drought conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to provide necessary relief, financial assistance, provision for food, drinking water and fodder for livestock of the drought-affected areas of the State?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Crop insurance under PMFBY

521. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:
SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of farmers covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) since its inception till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of premium collected since inception of PMFBY till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of estimated claims and claims paid since inception of PMFBY till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the details of crop area insured since inception of PMFBY till date, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) whether Government is on track to bring 100 million hectares under PMFBY by 2018-19, if not, the reasons therefor?

Average income of farmers

522. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey of NABARD, released recently, average farmers' income has increased only by ₹2505/- over the four years between 2012-13 to 2016-17;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that the cost of production has increased more than the increase in farmers' income; and

(d) if so, the details of measures Government would take during the last few

months of its tenure to make agriculture profitable?

Impact of demonetisation on farmers

523. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:
PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent report the Ministry of Agriculture has reported that millions of farmers across the country were affected by demonetisation;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers were not able to purchase seed and fertilisers because of financial crunch; and

(d) whether Government has made efforts to distribute seeds free of cost, if not, the reasons therefor?

Budget allocation for welfare of farmers

524. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed schemes to ensure that farmers get fair price for their produces; and

(b) the details of annual budget allocated for welfare of farmers?

Growth rate of agricultural income

525. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average growth rate of agricultural income has come down from 4.2 per cent to 3.7 per cent in the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average agricultural growth over the past four years has been lowest, since economic reforms began; and

(d) the proposal of Government to take the agricultural income over 4.5 per cent?

Agitation by farmers' organisation

526. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the dharna of Kisan Kheth Mazdoor Congress, which held an agitation in Parliament Street seeking redressal of their problems, *viz.*, Minimum Support Price for their crops, increasing farmers suicides during the last four years and to clear their debts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MSP of some crops announced by Government is not sufficient and there is no proper system to purchase farmer's produces; and

(c) whether Government has taken any decision in the matter to alleviate the problems of farming community, if so, the details thereof?

Action plan on bio-fertilisers

†527. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific action plan has been formulated by Government to promote the use and production of bio-fertilisers since 2014 till date; and

(b) if so, the outline of the said action

plan and the extent of increase recorded in use and production thereof after implementation of the said action plan?

Retail price of urea bags

528. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incidents of selling urea at more than the prescribed price *i.e.*, maximum retail price for 45 kg. and 50 kg. bags of urea has come to the knowledge of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the stockists/sellers;

(c) whether State Governments are permitted to put additional levy on the price of urea due to which in some States it has been/is being sold at higher prices resulting in difference of prices of urea among the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of fertilizer plant in Karnataka

529. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after four years, the promise of setting up a fertilizer plant in Karnataka still remains on paper despite the State Government offering free land for the proposed factory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry asked the State Government to contact private manufacturing companies to invest in Karnataka, against the promise made by the Union Minister; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trade margins on medical devices

530. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to put a cap on trade margins on medical devices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had warned all concerned, who deal with imported medical devices, to reduce their prices or face the consequences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Di-Ammonium Phosphate plant in Algeria

531. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is exploring the possibility of setting up a Di-Ammonium Phosphate plant in Algeria through joint venture and under buyback arrangements?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NFL has received all approvals and sanctions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in price of DAP and shortage of urea

532. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a substantial increase in the price of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer by

Government and if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is a shortage of urea in the country and if so, the steps being taken to reduce the shortage;

(c) the total production of urea in the country and the quantum of urea imported during the last four years, particularly in the State of Haryana; and

(d) whether Government is planning to increase the urea subsidy to be paid to the farmers during the Rabi season this year?

New policy for subsidising companies supplying fertilizers

533. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy has been put in place that will subsidise companies supplying fertilizers, on the condition of producing receipts of sale of fertilizers to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UID project has been integrated within this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Quality of drugs supplied under PMBJAP

534. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets of number of stores to be opened under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the number of such stores actually opened, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether Ministry received complaints of quality issues and drugs being recalled, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) the body responsible to monitor quality compliance under the scheme, along with number of cases investigated on poor quality of drugs being provided to Jan Aushadhi stores including action taken against the quality; and

(e) whether there is challenge of drug stock-outs in such stores, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

Consumption of coal by power plants

535. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of coal in the country which may affect the power plants across the country, if so, the details thereof and the manner in which Government proposes to overcome the situation;

(b) the consumption of coal by various power plants in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the coal stock of power plants in NCT of Delhi along with the details thereof?

Average rate of production of coal

536. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal mines presently functioning in the country along with the details of each coal mine;

(b) the details of the private enterprises, if any, involved in mining;

(c) the average rate of production of coal in the last two years in the country and whether this production level is more than the requirement of the country;

(d) the average amount of coal exported along with the details thereof; and

(e) whether the country imports coal from any other country, if so, the details thereof?

Coal stocks in power plants

537. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortfall in production as well as transportation issues have affected the coal stocks in power plants across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country would need 615 million tonnes of coal in 2018-19; and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to fill up the gap between the requirement of supply of 288 rakes per day through Railways to the current supply of 270.8 rakes per day?

Annual production of coal

†538. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rise has been registered in the annual production of coal from 2014 till date in the tenure of present Government;

(b) if so, the amount of increase thereof; and

(c) the comparative details of annual production from 2004 to 2014 thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Royalty on coal to State Government

539. SHRI PRATAP KESHARI DEB: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of royalty given to the State Government per tonne of coal and whether it has been revised in the last four years; and

(b) the amount of money the State of Odisha has received in the form of royalty during the last four years?

Amount spent under CSR by Coal India Limited

540. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent and total unspent money available under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Coal India Limited (CIL) and other PSUs under the Ministry of Coal;

(b) the details of such CSR fund spent by CIL and other PSUs under the Ministry of Coal during the last four years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details and the names of project implementing agencies as well as the amount of sanctioned funds for each of such projects for which the CSR fund of CIL and other PSUs under the Ministry of Coal is spent during the last four years?

Selling of captive coal in open market

541. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to allow captive coal

block owners to sell a part of the coal produced by them in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other relaxations being given to captive coal block owners?

Allocation of coal blocks through allotment and auction route

542. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocks that have been allotted through the auctions route (with details of annual peak mining capacity and total estimated reserves), after the cancellation of coal blocks pursuant to Supreme Court order of September, 2014;

(b) the details of the respective one-time and annual revenues accrued to State Governments from such auctioned coal blocks; and

(c) the number of coal blocks that have been allocated to public sector companies through the allotment route from 2014 till date and details of the respective one-time and annual revenues accrued to State Governments from such allotted coal blocks?

Collection and transmission of data by Chinese mobile handsets

543. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Chinese mobile handsets sold in the country may be covertly and illegally collecting consumer data and transmitting them back to the vendors based in China; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to scrutinise these Chinese products before

they are sold to Indian consumers since they represent a serious national security threat?

**New National Digital
Communications
Policy**

544. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is launching a new National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the relaxations being given to telecom industry under this policy;

(d) whether the telecom service providers have requested the Government to redress their concerns in the new NDCP; and

(e) the response of Government to such requests and the sops and concessions being given to service providers in the NDCP?

**Mechanism of TRAI to report
predatory tariff plan of
telecom operators**

545. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has any mechanism to inspect the telephone companies to find predatory tariff plans among private telecom operators, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cases which have been reported against telecom operators under predatory tariff plan in the last four years along with the details thereof; and

(c) how much amount has been penalised by TRAI against such predatory

practices, the list of the companies and the amount of fine received?

India Post Payments Bank

546. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of India Post Payments Banks established/to be established in the country;

(b) the services provided by India Post Payments Banks and whether there is any difference from those provided by Scheduled Banks;

(c) whether there is inadequate budgetary provision from setting up of India Post Payments Banks; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Target of setting up of BSNL mobile
towers in each Gram Panchayat**

547. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earmarked any target of setting up of atleast one BSNL mobile tower in each of the Gram Panchayats of the country with a view to augment its mobile network so that hassle-free telephone connectivity, including 4G network, can be given to BSNL subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has earmarked any funds for this to be spent in coming years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats under BharatNet

548. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets planned to provide high-speed internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats under BharatNet at its launching and the targets achieved, so far, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these targets have already missed various deadlines and there is still failure in its operationalization;

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

(d) the action taken to operationalize the BharatNet network?

Insurance arm of India Post

549. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post is considering to come up with an insurance arm as a special business unit in two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India Post has invited bids for consultancy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Call drops of MTNL and BSNL

†550. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for substantial call drops on MTNL and BSNL networks as compared to networks of private companies; and

(b) the steps being taken to improve

the position of MTNL and BSNL in the competitive market of communications?

Profit of BSNL and MTNL

551. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any circles/regions of BSNL and MTNL are recording profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses of MTNL

552. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL is incurring huge financial losses for the last so many years;

(b) the earnings of MTNL during the last ten years and the expenditure on salary and allowances of officers and employees, separately, for the last ten years; and

(c) whether private players in this field are doing better business than MTNL, if so, the reasons for poor performance of MTNL?

Investment by telecom operators to boost network

553. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom operators have informed the Government that they would invest more than ₹ 74,000 crore in financial year 2018-19 on networks including telecom towers and Base Transceiver Stations (BTS);

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether they have invested the same and the details of their investments; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the recent past over the worsening call drop situation in the country and the action it proposes to take in the near future?

Failure to meet call-drop benchmark

554. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent report by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, except for a few, all other telecom operators failed to meet call-drop benchmark in drive tests conducted on highways and rail routes;

(b) the stretches of highways and sections of rail routes covered under the drive tests;

(c) whether the telecom operators claim that they are investing in mobile towers and boosters in public buildings to improve the situation; and

(d) whether the Centre has planned to convene a meeting of the telecom operators to sort out the issue, if so, the details thereof?

Improvement in post-sales standard and services

555. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a study, which indicated that nearly 43 per cent of mobile and computer manufacturers have the worst after-sales service and nearly 53 per

cent of companies never replace the products;

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

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for improving the post-sales standards and its services for the benefit of consumers?

Procurement of agricultural produces

556. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agriculture produces purchased by Government and private vendors since 2014 till date;

(b) the details of Minimum Support Price (MSP) increased by Government since 2014 till date;

(c) whether Government maintains data regarding the days for procuring the agriculture produces, if so, the details thereof State/year-wise and if not, the reasons therefor along with the reason for delay in procurement, post announcement of new MSPs; and

(d) the data about agriculture produce that was destroyed due to non-availability of the godowns, since 2014 till date, State/UT/year-wise?

Wastage of foodgrains due to inadequate storage facility

557. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to inadequate storage facilities across the country, particularly in rural

areas, wastage of foodgrains takes place, which makes adverse impact on Government in fulfilling its objectives enshrined in the National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to create more storage facilities across the country; and

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

Special allocation of foodgrains and kerosene to Tamil Nadu

558. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any special allocation of foodgrains and kerosene to Tamil Nadu to meet its high demands, especially after every cyclone hits in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the foodgrains and kerosene allocated and disbursed to Tamil Nadu in the last four years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government has increased the supply of foodgrains and kerosene as requested by the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of fall in price of sugar

559. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to create 3 million tonne buffer

stock of sugar and fixing a minimum ex-mill price to help cash-starved millers to clear the cane arrears which have surged to about ₹ 22,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this situation has been created due to sharp fall in sugar prices and record production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Deteriorated financial condition of sugar mills

560. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that financial condition of sugar mills in the country has deteriorated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative to improve the financial condition of sugar mills; and

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

Distribution of poor quality foodgrains under PDS

†561. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed to distribute quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of times foodgrains being distributed under PDS have been checked by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in last five years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that regular complaints are being received regarding rotten and sub-standard foodgrain provided under PDS, if so, the action taken thereon?

Rise in price of essential food items

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

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in wholesale and retail price of food items in the last three years;

(b) whether inflation has increased in October-November as compared to last year, if so, the reasons therefor and the reasons of failure of Government mechanism in controlling the price rise; and

(c) the details of obstructions coming in the way of controlling the price rise of essential food items?

Payment of dues to sugarcane growing farmers

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

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the season of crushing of sugarcane has begun but outstanding dues of sugarcane growing farmers have not been paid by sugar mills

till now and therefore the outstanding amount is rising day-by-day;

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry in view of payment of dues to sugarcane growing farmers by sugar mills and the result thereof; and

(c) the amount of dues of sugarcane growing farmers in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Hurdles in online registration for selling agricultural produces

†564. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are forced to sell their produces at a rate lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for want of adequate numbers of Government procurement centres;

(b) whether the farmers are made to undergo various online procedures including an 'Online Registration' to sell their produce and thus creating unwarranted hurdles for them; and

(c) if so, whether any study has been carried out to ascertain the number of farmers who enjoy internet facilities at their homes for online registration and the ones having computer literacy to get themselves registered online?

Draft Personal Data Protection Bill

565. SHRI RAJEEV
CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry on

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

my letter dated 21 September, 2018 regarding the need for an expanded discussion on draft Personal Data Protection Bill;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any study regarding the overall economic effects of data localization proposed in draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018; and

(c) whether there are any alternate ways to protect sensitive data and to ensure that law enforcement can investigate crimes without data localization?

Appointment of Adjudicating Officers under IT Act

566. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Adjudicating Officers have been appointed under Section 46 of the Information Technology Act, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the number of Adjudicating Officers appointed, State-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the number of cases filed and disposed of before the adjudicating Officers in the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the procedural safeguards in the applicable law and regulations to ensure that the parties appearing before the Adjudicating Officer receive a fair hearing?

Cyber Appellate Tribunal

567. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Cyber Appellate Tribunals established under the Information Technology Act, 2000 till date, State-wise;

(b) the total number of cases appealed to and disposed of by each Cyber Appellate Tribunal since their inception, tribunal-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of Cyber Appellate Tribunals which currently have a Presiding Officer appointed; and

(d) the total expenditure, one-time and recurring, spent on the Cyber Appellate Tribunals since their inception, tribunal-wise and year-wise?

Updation of Aadhaar details

568. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that getting an Aadhaar Card is easy but trying to update it is very difficult for people who are not tech-savvy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to make the process of updating simple;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Aadhaar enrolment in some States has more than 100 per cent saturation;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the States; and

(e) the total number of Aadhaar numbers generated in the country, so far, State-wise?

Projects and schemes for development of IT in Tamil Nadu

569. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has any special projects and schemes for development of Electronics and Information Technology sectors in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total amount allocated and disbursed in the last four years for the purpose;

(c) whether Government has taken any effective steps to support and develop the large number of small and medium-sized IT and ITES companies in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Prevention of cyber crimes

570. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legal, technical and administrative measures taken by Government to prevent cyber crimes have achieved the desired results;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases of cyber crimes reported across the country during the last four years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has sought technical aid from some of the developed countries of the world to prevent cyber crimes in the country; and

(d) any other steps being taken by Government in this direction?

Face Authentication by UIDAI

571. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UIDAI was planning to roll out face authentication with effect from 1 August, 2018;

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken to ascertain the accuracy of face authentication as well as to tackle cases of misuse and fraud;

(c) whether Government has a plan to handle and resolve such cases of fraud; and

(d) the company/agency which would be the device provider for registered devices for face authentication?

Spreading of fake news in social media

572. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has observed that fake news in social media, particularly on WhatsApp, is spreading like anything;

(b) whether the Ministry has any guidelines to curb such things or has given any direction to WhatsApp to curb fake news on its platform;

(c) if so, when such instructions have been issued and whether it has yielded positive results; and

(d) how social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, etc., are working with Ministries of Communications, Home Affairs, IT and the local police to address these and other issues?

Elimination of fake news on social media

573. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

several innocent persons have been killed because of a large number of fake and provocative messages that are being circulated on WhatsApp and the social media platforms, and the fringe elements get away with their hit and run approach;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last two years; and

(c) how many persons have since been arrested and the action Government has taken to eliminate fake news, which often appears in the media?

Agency for tackling cyber threats

574. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to security solutions provider, Symantec, India is the third most vulnerable country to cyber threats;

(b) if so, the measures taken to find solutions to malware, spam, phishing, network attacks, web attacks, ransomware and cryptominers; and

(c) whether any coordinated agency has been created to tackle the increasing attacks, especially when the country is going for more and more online and digital transactions, if so, the details thereof?

Protection of Aadhaar data

575. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

bring a law for data protection of Aadhaar card holders;

(b) if so, by what time;

(c) if not, the measures taken to protect the data of Aadhaar card holders;

(d) whether any awareness campaign is launched to inform the public that Aadhaar card is not compulsory for school admissions, opening a bank account or for getting mobile connections; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Sharing of UID data with States

576. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether UID data is being shared with State Governments;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure security of UID data during such sharing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting of special agricultural processing zone in Chhattisgarh

†577. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up a special agricultural processing zone in Chhattisgarh in the near future;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

Establishment of Mega Food Parks

578. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is proposing to establish about 122 Mega Food Parks across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such Food Parks are being established in the State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of areas in which they are being established?

Subsidy for establishing Food Parks

579. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring some changes in the existing rules related to subsidy being provided by the Ministry for establishment of Food Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the details of criteria for the beneficiaries getting existing subsidy, State-wise?

Legal aid for weaker sections

†580. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to further strengthen the legal aid system to deliver justice to the weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

Shortage of court rooms

†581. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of 3500 to 4000 court rooms in the High Courts of the country; and

(b) if so, by when this shortage would be fulfilled?

Pending cases in High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and its subordinate courts

582. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending cases in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the subordinate courts of the State, at present; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps taken to clear the backlog of pending cases?

Average pending cases per Judge

†583. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of posts of Judges are lying vacant in various courts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the factual position of Judges right from lower courts to the Supreme Court; and

(d) the number of average pending cases per Judge?

Vacant posts of Judges

†584. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than fifteen thousand posts of Judges are lying vacant in various courts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of posts of Judges lying vacant and the cases pending in courts of the country and by when these cases would be disposed of?

Filling up vacancies in the lower judicial service

585. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a backlog of around 2.85 crore pending cases in lower courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the number of pending cases in lower courts of the country, since the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether a centralised recruitment system has been proposed by Government and the Supreme Court to fill up 5000 vacancies of Judges in the lower judicial courts; and

(d) if so, the details of the recruitment process along with the time-frame of its initiation and the procedure thereof?

Reforms in Central Tribunals

586. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of central tribunals operating in the country;

(b) how many of these tribunals have selection committees;

(c) whether all of these tribunals have judicial members;

(d) whether there are more non-judicial members than judicial members in these tribunals, if so;

(e) whether this is in compliance with the Supreme Court guidelines; and

(f) the status of the three-member expert committee, constituted by Government on the directions of the Supreme Court, to study the country's tribunals framework?

Vacancies of Judges in High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

587. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI:
SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total sanctioned strength of 61 Judges in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, the working strength is just 29 and there are 32 vacancies of Judges;

(b) if so, since how long these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the efforts the Ministry is making to fill-up the vacancies in a time-bound manner?

Malfunctioning of EVMs

588. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether EVM malfunctioning has been reported during the State Assembly elections 2018 in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram and Rajasthan on a large scale;

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

(c) the reasons for Election Commission's failure to ensure proper functioning of EVMs in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections;

(d) whether EVMs do not function properly in winters also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Pendency of court cases

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

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in the various courts of the country whose number is increasing constantly;

(b) the number of cases pending in lower courts and High Courts of the country at present and if their settlement goes on at this pace, the time that would be taken in their disposal; and

(c) in view of increasingly large number of cases, the steps being taken by Government to expedite the judicial process so that people may get timely justice?

Increase in cases against Government

590. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA
RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that cases against Government, Centre as well as States, have increased manifold over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated steps to fulfil the posts of Judges, Government Pleaders (GPs), Public Prosecutors (PPs) and other Judicial Officers in a time-bound manner so that adjudication of cases can be drastically reduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stoppage of Sabari Express at Kavali

591. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY
VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

received in the Ministry from MPs, MLAs, etc., for stoppage of 17229/17230 Sabari Express at Kavali since large number of people such as traders, Ayyappa devotees and college going students are suffering due to non-stoppage of Mumbai Express at Kavali;

(b) if so, the details of the requests/representations made in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry so far on the said requests?

Status of Bullet train project

592. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of land acquirement for Bullet train project; and

(b) the deadline for running Bullet trains in the country?

Employee efficiency in Railways

593. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the employee efficiency in Railways over the last ten years, and how does it compare with other developing countries;

(b) whether there have been any studies about the income of railway employees and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plan of Government to reduce the expenditure on employees and pensions?

Review of flexi fare system

594. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the flexi-fare system introduced for some premium trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such review;

(c) whether Railways have reduced the flexi-fare rate for some trains, whereas in some trains it has been scrapped;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not scrapping it in all trains; and

(e) the likely impact it will have on revenue generation as it was claimed by Railways that the scheme during its implementation, generated higher revenue?

Monetary provision for new railway line between Indore and Dahod

†595. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of laying of new railway line between Dahod in Gujarat and Indore in Madhya Pradesh, which was to be completed in the year 2011, has not been completed so far due to less monetary provisions in the budget;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the efforts being made by Government for completion of laying the new railway line by making necessary provision for the said work; and

(d) if no efforts are being made, the reasons therefor?

Current status of new railway line between Indore and Dahod

†596. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the ongoing construction work of new railway line

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

between Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Dahod in Gujarat;

(b) the time by when the above said work will be completed; and

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of above said railway line?

Provision for hygienic and quality catering services

†597. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Railways to provide hygienic and quality catering services to railways passengers on payment basis at railway stations and in all the passenger trains according to their speed; and

(b) the special arrangements and action plan of Railways to make 'good food fair price' campaign effective?

Sanitation and maintenance of coaches

†598. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the factual position of campaign launched for modernisation and sanitation of stations;

(b) the measures taken for sanitation, cleanliness and maintenance of coaches under rail passenger services;

(c) the details of highly damaged and quite old Railway rakes which need immediate replacement; and

(d) the names of individual passenger trains being run with these rakes along with the names of originating and terminating stations?

Payment gateways of IRCTC mobile app

599. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of payment gateways allowed for booking of railway reservation tickets through IRCTC mobile app;

(b) the details of Government payment gateways working for booking of railway reservation tickets through IRCTC mobile app; and

(c) the details of the procedure adopted for selection of payment gateways for booking of railway reservation tickets through IRCTC mobile app?

Earning of revenue from non-fare sources by Railways

600. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to earn revenue from non-fare sources in order not to burden the passengers by raising the passenger fares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are planning to earn revenue of about ₹ 2000 crores by way of offering branding packages of full trains; and

(c) whether this means that only the products of the advertiser would be sold in the whole train or platforms, thus leaving no other choice to the public/passengers visiting the platform or travelling by those trains?

Bullet train in Karnataka

601. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new train services

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

introduced in Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise, along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is introducing high-speed Bullet trains in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, in view of high rail traffic in Karnataka, Railways have considered introducing a Bullet train in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of passenger trains between India and Bangladesh

602. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce passenger trains between India and Bangladesh through bordering rail stations of Rohanpur in Nawanganj district of Bangladesh and Singhabad in Malda district of West Bengal, like Maitree Express, for betterment of rail connectivity between the northern parts of both the countries, particularly when goods trains are presently plying through this route in a routine manner;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

Chirimiri-Barwadih railway project

†603. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects underway in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the current status of Chirimiri-Barwadih project in Chhattisgarh;

(c) the estimated time and cost for completion of the said project; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to complete the Chirimiri-Barwadih project within the specified time-frame?

Maintenance work in Railways

604. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to undertake major maintenance works across all its zones on Sundays, when the traffic is usually low;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the on-time performance has reduced to around 65 per cent from being more than 80 per cent in the past few months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Standard of toilets in trains and railway stations

605. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of toilets in trains and at railway stations have worsened even after spending so much money under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the standard of the toilets in trains and at railway stations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Opening of Railway Reservation Centres

606. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening Railway Reservation Centres at places where there are no railway stations;

(b) the total number of proposals received by Government from the State/ Union Territories during the last three years in this regard;

(c) the details of Railway Reservation Centres opened on receipt of proposals and the number of proposals pending at present; and

(d) by when action is likely to be taken by Government on the pending proposals?

Anti-collision device in Railways

607. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-collision device has been successfully checked and installed in Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the action plan formulated to improve this device to make it more effective in preventing railway accidents;

(c) whether any machine/device is also being used to identify the railway track flaws, apart from taking help from the railway employees and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the arrangements made in other countries in this regard?

Incident of looting, eve-teasing, etc. in trains

†608. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of offering substance laced with sedatives, looting, eve-teasing in trains have increased significantly in comparison to earlier times despite all Government claims;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of number of such incidents occurred the during the last four years, year-wise?

Air conditioning system in trains

609. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been found that in many coaches of many popular trains, the air conditioning system had stopped working for many hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many passengers had filed complaints against such failures before the appropriate authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

Development of stations under Adarsh Station Scheme

610. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development of stations under Adarsh Station Scheme in the State of Jharkhand, station-wise/zone-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the names of stations identified to be developed under Adarsh Station Scheme in the State of Jharkhand during the last three years; and

(c) out of these, how many stations have been developed under the said scheme?

Derailment of goods train in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh

611. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the engine and eight wagons of a goods train derailed and fell off a bridge on the Kirandul-Visakhapatnam route in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this has happened because the Naxals had removed tracks to disrupt rail traffic in that area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Technological support to loco pilots

612. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no technological support available to loco pilots to avoid signal passing at danger, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has planned Automatic Train Protection Signalling System to aid the technological support to loco pilots; and

(c) if so, whether the said plan is intact, the approximate expenditure on this plan and by what time this system will be brought to use?

Construction of rail line from Sakri to Nirmali and from Jhanjharpur to Laukaha

†613. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame has been set by Government for the construction of broad gauge rail line from Sakri to Nirmali and from Jhanjharpur to Laukaha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not completing the said work in time in case time-frame was set?

Late running of trains

†614. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all trains in the country are running late from their scheduled times, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government in the last five years to tackle this situation?

Cancellation of flexi-fare system for Rajdhani trains

615. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to cancel the flexi fare system for Rajdhani trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any data about the decrease in number of passengers travelling the Rajdhani trains during the last two years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof, month-wise for the last two years?

Vacancies position in Railways

616. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several top posts, from General Managers to Board Members, have been lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in appointment of such staff?

Upgradation of railway stations in Konkan region

†617. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stations in Konkan region, specially between Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, as on date;

(b) the details of amount spent on maintenance, repairs and upgradation of railway stations in Konkan region during the last three years, station-wise;

(c) whether there is acute shortfall of passenger amenities on stations falling specially between Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg in Konkan region; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof?

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

618. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the status thereof, project-wise;

(c) the number of projects getting delayed and the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(d) the cost overrun for each delayed project, project-wise; and

(e) the efforts made by Railways to complete the projects within the time schedule or extended time-frame?

Scrapping of flexi-fare plan in trains

619. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to scrap the flexi-fare plan for trains as it drove away passengers, by making rail fares costlier as compared to other modes of travel;

(b) if so, the criteria for selecting trains under the scheme and the number of trains to be covered under the proposed scheme; and

(c) the time-frame for implementing the scheme alongwith the details thereof?

Establishment of new Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam

620. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee, constituted to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the Committee;

(c) whether Government is aware of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

fact that it took more than four years to decide the possibility of establishing a new Railway Zone; and

(d) whether Government has decided any time-frame to set up a new Railway Zone in a time-bound manner?

Increase in number of platforms in old stations and building new stations

621. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the increasing number of trains which are being brought in to curb the burden of growing populace, there are any plans in pipeline to increase the number of platforms on the old stations and build new stations; and

(b) if so, the current progress thereof?

Upgradation and modernisation of Dadri Railway Station

622. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a two minutes stoppage halt for all Rajdhani and Superfast trains passing through Dadri Railway Station (Uttar Pradesh) at Dadri Station, could ease off huge traffic culminating at New Delhi Railway Station, which will also serve travellers residing in Noida, Ghaziabad and Greater Noida;

(b) whether Government has any plans to upgrade and modernize Dadri Railway

Station as it is in close proximity to Greater Noida Metro Station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation for railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

623. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation to Andhra Pradesh in the recent Budget, 2018 for railway projects;

(b) the allocation for each of the projects such as doubling, electrification, ROBs, RUBs, etc., in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of amount released and spent, so far, and progress of each of the projects, project-wise; and

(d) the progress made in setting up of a separate Railway Zone at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

Offences committed on railway premises

624. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of offences committed by group/individuals on railway premises in the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the details of people arrested and prosecuted by the Railway Protection Force for offences committed on railway premises in the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) the details of the total amount collected through fines imposed for committing offences on railway premises in the last three years, zone-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to control such incidents?

Development of Utkrisht rakes and bio-toilets in trains

625. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have plans to develop 640 Utkrisht rakes as part of upgradation of its Mail/Express trains;

(b) whether Railways is planning to place dustbins in all lavatories in a bid to prevent choking of newly installed bio-toilets in train coaches;

(c) whether Railways have introduced e-toilets to ensure proper hygiene in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Deaths due to unmanned level crossings

626. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths due to unmanned level crossings from 2014 to 2018, year-wise;

(b) the number of deaths due to civilians attempting to cross railway tracks from 2014 to 2018, year-wise;

(c) the number of deaths in respect of (b) above which were due to civilians joywalking or trespassing and the details of reasons for remainder of deaths;

(d) the number of deaths due to

encroachment or ribbon development near the railway tracks, from 2014 to 2018, year-wise;

(e) whether Ministry has an action plan to reduce the number of casualties due to all such incidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Punctuality in Railways

627. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, Railway Board held a video conference with the General Managers of eight Zonal Railways which had reported less than 70 per cent punctuality; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken?

Electrification of railway lines

628. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the route-km. that are already electrified and on how many route-kms. electrification is ongoing in the Railways network;

(b) whether Railways have expedited electrification of all railway lines to reduce oil imports and to cut down carbon emission;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the schedule of completion; and

(d) the cost of electrification of the remaining route-kms., and the savings that would accrue due to saving in foreign exchange reserves and efficiency?

Filling up of vacancies of Assistant Commercial Manager in North Eastern Railway

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an examination was conducted on 11 February, 2018 against 30 per cent vacancies towards promotion for Assistant Commercial Manager (Group-B) in North Eastern Railway and a fraud has been unearthed in this regard;

(b) whether the vacancies were filled up by announcing result without interviewing the candidates who had scored the highest marks in written examination; and

(c) whether subsequent appointments made against all posts notified in the examination and also after the panel being operational, a corrigendum was released on 1 February, 2018 to declare the said candidates as qualified in utter disregard to rules?

Elimination of unmanned level crossings

630. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have already eliminated unmanned railway crossings on all A-category routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all unmanned railway crossings on all B-category routes will be eliminated by the end of 2018;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Railway Unions have criticised the practice of deputing a local man as gate mitra at unmanned crossings as ineffective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Accident at railway track in Amritsar

†631. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have lost their lives in Amritsar in last October when a fast approaching train mowed them down on railway tracks while they were witnessing burning of Ravana's effigy, and the facts emerging out of an enquiry constituted by Railways in this regard;

(b) the mechanism put in place to monitor railway tracks in the country and whether the same is functioning well; and

(c) whether the families of the victims in this accident have been provided assistance by Railways?

Increasing the number of station name boards on platforms

632. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are just two station name boards, one at the beginning of the platform and another at the end of it, and the passengers often used to ask fellow passengers about the name of the station and this problem is acute during the night time; and

(b) whether in view of the above

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government would provide more number of station name boards on each and every platform so that passengers can conveniently know about the station name?

Revamping of Bengaluru suburban infrastructure

633. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to revamp the Bengaluru suburban infrastructure with an estimation of ₹ 17,000 crores;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry so far on this;

(c) whether any blueprint has been prepared on this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the Ministry will give its approval since Government of Karnataka's proposal on financing is awaiting the approval of the Ministry?

Setting up of Rail Development Authority

634. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up a Rail Development Authority to regulate tariff structures;

(b) if so, the deadline by which this Authority would be constituted;

(c) the status of progress of implementation of the Rail Development Authority; and

(d) whether Government plans to firm up a non-fare revenue policy and if so, the details thereof?

Revised base year calculation of GDP

635. SHRI M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) according to the revised base year of GDP calculation from 2004-05 to 2010-11, what was the yearly GDP between 2005-2018, as per back-series calculations;

(b) whether the report on yearly GDP for the year 2006-07 is available in public domain or on Ministry's website; and

(c) if not, where can these reports be found?

Schedule of completion of infrastructure projects

636. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Central Government-funded major infrastructure projects are running behind their schedule of completion due to various reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of ongoing projects, stalled projects, State-wise and Sector-wise, along with estimated cost, scheduled date of completion, likely date of completion and cost escalations due to cost and time overrun; and

(d) the strategy being adopted to complete the projects on time?

Monitoring the completion of infrastructure projects

637. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are

several Central infrastructure projects without definite timelines;

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

(c) the monitoring mechanism put in place by Government to ensure that such projects are completed within a reasonable time; and

(d) whether Government would review its decision not to approve any infrastructure projects which are without definite time-frames?

Cost overrun of infrastructure projects

638. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by "Core Ratings" revealed that 358 Central infrastructure projects worth ₹ 3.38 lakh crores are facing cost overrun;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government for more effective monitoring of implementation of infrastructure projects?

Advance estimates of Gross Domestic Product

639. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has released first

advance estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recently, if so, the details and outcome thereof, sector-wise;

(b) the statistical/economical model used for calculation of GDP growth for calculation of first advance estimates;

(c) whether there has been an increase in national income and per capita income of the country during each of the last three years and current year;

(d) if so, the details of percentage increase in per capita income during the said period, State/UT-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and measures taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

GDP series data

640. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been working on back-casting GDP series data for comparison with the last 25 years;

(b) whether Government has any interim data, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government uploaded the data on its website and had to remove it later with a disclaimer about its sanctity, and if so, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the current status of availability of GDP data across 25 years of comparison?

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