

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, January 5, 2018/Pausha 15, 1939 (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;
Parliamentary Affairs; Railways)

Total number of questions — 160

Settlement of farmers' claims under PMFBY

2081. SHRI SAMBHAJI
CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers with large land
holdings majorly opt for crop insurance
under PMFBY and not the small land
holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of Government
has been drawn to the fact that settlement
of farmers' claims takes unusually long time
and the financial institutions do not make
a reasonable assessment of the damage to
farm produces in the true spirit of PMFBY;
and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government
proposes to take in this regard?

Pre and post harvest losses

†2082. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR
SABLE: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to
check pre and post harvesting crop losses
in the country, including Maharashtra;

(b) whether any study regarding the
volume of pre and post harvest losses of
crops in the country has been conducted
by Government, if so, the details thereof;
and

(c) the number of crops covered under
this study and the annual value of pre and
post harvest losses of major produces on
national level along with the details thereof,
State-wise?

Old age practice of agriculture

†2083. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH
NAGAR: Will the Minister of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is the main source of livelihood for rural people;

(b) whether most of the farmers are still following the age old agriculture methodology;

(c) if so, the measures taken for educating the farmers to adopt modern techniques for better yield at less expenditure;

(d) whether 15 per cent of rural households are landless; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot the non-cultivable land to such people so that these people may be in a position to transform such land into cultivable land to earn their livelihood?

Dairy development projects of Ujjain and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh

†2084. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two projects namely National Programme for Dairy Development, Ujjain and Ratlam costing ₹ 513.13 lakh and ₹ 251.54 lakh respectively, sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh are pending for approval, if so, the latest status of both the projects and details with regard to approval and release of amount therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to provide loan for buying cattle at zero per cent interest rate on the lines of agriculture loan as the dairy occupation is associated with agriculture?

Conservation of seeds of traditional varieties of crops

2085. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of traditional varieties of various crops in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps for conservation and multiplication of seeds of all the traditional varieties of various crops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on Happy Seeder machine

2086. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb stubble burning, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to procure Happy Seeder machines which can help to curb this problem;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken or is planning to take any policy steps to provide Governmental subsidies on Happy Seeder machines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Securing production and investment credit of farmers

2087. 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 in spite of Government's claim that the achievements

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

under annual agricultural credit flow surpassed targets during the last three years, several farmers across the country are unable to secure short term crop loans, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any priority for the small and marginal farmers in securing their production and investment credit?

Unlawful crediting of consumer LPG subsidy

2088. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharti Airtel opened accounts of its mobile phone subscribers without their consent and allegedly credited consumers LPG subsidy to their Airtel Payments Bank accounts instead of their regular bank accounts unlawfully;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating officials responsible for such misappropriation; and

(c) the details of stringent steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for such violation of rules?

Average income of agricultural households

2089. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether data regarding average monthly income per agricultural household has been collected for different size of landholdings;

(b) if so, under which size the maximum households fall;

(c) the average income of that class;

(d) whether the average income of farmers is also available; and

(e) if not, by when it would be collected?

Increase in MSP of various crops

2090. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:
SHRI VEER SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has recently announced an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of oilseeds, sugarcane, pulses and wheat;

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

(c) the details of the increase in MSP of various agricultural produces during the last three years, crop-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted in increasing the MSP of various agricultural produces;

(e) whether Government has any proposal to review the increase in MSP of various agricultural produces; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

Protecting sea horse and sea cucumbers in the coastal areas

2091. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards media reports regarding endangered sea horse and sea cucumbers ending up as poultry feed, when

caught into trawlers in coastal areas in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the sea horse and sea cucumbers in the coastal areas?

(c) whether Government has proposed other ways of treating agricultural residue like making organic manure or investing in biomass energy plants so that environment is not harmed and farmers also do not suffer, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of schemes for fishermen

†2092. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by Government for those poor fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats;

(b) the details of other schemes being implemented by Government to provide regular livelihood to poor fishermen in the country; and

(c) the details of the financial help provided by Government to fishermen in the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Burning of agricultural residues

2093. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a financial incentive package of ₹ 3000 crore was recommended by a Task-Force set up under the CII-NITI Aayog Cleaner Air initiative to dissuade farmers from burning crops;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action to implement these recommendations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

Development of technologies for agricultural growth

†2094. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new technologies being developed in the country for growth of agriculture and to double the income of farmers;

(b) whether Government has received suggestions from different States in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any target in this regard so far, if so, the details thereof?

Economic condition of farmers

†2095. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic condition of farmers is not improving due to non-payment of fair price for their produces apart from lack of rain and good quality seeds, etc.;

(b) whether the farmers could not get even the cost price of their potato crops last time around and they got wasted;

(c) whether owing to this reason, the sowing of potatoes during current season has been quite less; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government to check exploitation of farmers by the traders, if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking of Krishi Upaj Mandis of Bihar with e-portal

†2096. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards the establishment of e-mandis (market);

(b) the number of Krishi Upaj Mandis linked with the e-portal in Bihar, so far;

(c) whether Government is bringing any concrete proposal for the procurement of produces of farmers, so that they could be protected from exploitation by profiteers/middlemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Placing agricultural marketing in Concurrent List

2097. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government appointed high-level committee has called for placing agricultural marketing in the Concurrent List and for greater private sector participation in agri-marketing and logistics;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the other recommendations made by the said high-level committee; and

(c) the reaction of Central Government on the recommendations made by the said Committee?

Compensation for families of farmers who committed suicide

2098. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers' suicide in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the compensation given to their families, State-wise?

Ill effects of chemical fertilizers on farming

2099. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the ill effects of use of chemical fertilizers in farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether chemical fertilizers contaminate ground water and environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken to protect ground water and environment from chemical fertilizers?

Area under pulses cultivation

2100. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that net sown area of pulses in this Kharif season came down by nearly 5 per cent to 130 lakh hectares;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether country will be having scarcity of pulses and would be scouting for pulses in other countries as was done in 2015-16;

(c) the area in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where pulses have been sown this Kharif season, State-wise, and how this can be compared with previous two years; and

(d) whether Government has made any arrangements to meet the shortage, if any?

Study on use of neem coated urea as fertilizer

2101. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study on the use of neem coated urea as fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of demand and supply of neem coated urea in the State of Bihar?

Relief package for families of farmers who committed suicide

2102. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to reinstitute a relief package for families of farmers who commit suicide in the most suicide-prone districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of any relief measures being undertaken for families of farmers who have committed suicide since 2014?

Research on growing paddy with less water

2103. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rice varieties available in the country;

(b) whether any research has been conducted to grow paddy with less water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to check farmers' suicide

2104. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are no farm deaths in China in spite of having small pieces of farm land;

(b) whether it has ever tried to find out the reasons why there are no farm suicides in China and tried to replicate the same here; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to assuage the concerns of the farmers

2105. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers from Maharashtra and other States have raised demands like purchase of some crops by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., assessment of loss and compensation to farmers for bollworm attack on their crops and action against MNCs for supplying defective seeds, which are agitating them a lot; and

(b) if so, the urgent steps Government is taking to assuage their concerns?

Agrarian crisis in the country

2106. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has identified several regions in various States/UTs facing agrarian crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has deputed Central teams to assess the agrarian crisis in Vidarbha, Saurashtra, Bundelkhand and other areas of the country;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to resolve the agrarian crisis?

Sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds in Maharashtra

2107. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of unapproved and fake cotton seeds has been reported from Maharashtra and other parts of the country, which has adversely affected the cotton producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken in the matter?

Social security for women farmers

2108. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives launched by Government for the welfare of women farmers in the country, in the last three years; and

(b) whether Government is planning to ensure better social security for women farmers for their health and well being, if so, the measures taken by Government for the same?

FMD in animals

2109. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how successful is the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMDCP) initiated by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) in the prevention and providing vaccination to the affected animals along with the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of funds allocated by the Ministry for the FMDCP during the last three years, the details thereof?

Death of farmers due to poisonous pesticides

2110. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have died due to fertilizer use in the last three years, State-wise, including the current year, especially in the months of September-October in 2017 in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to educate and train farmers to use pesticides safely; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) has publicly demanded the Centres intervention in this matter so as to identify and take action against the officers whose negligence contributed to these deaths, if so, the action taken thereon?

Damage to crops due to drought

†2111. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the quantum of crops damaged due to drought in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh in last three years;

(b) whether any assessment has been carried out this year regarding losses accrued to paddy crops due to drought in various districts of Chhattisgarh;

(c) the States in which paddy crops have been damaged due to scanty rain causing drought and steps taken to compensate it;

(d) whether Government is considering to declare such areas as draught hit where there was scanty rain, so that farmers could get immediate relief; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Use of toxic pesticides in the country

2112. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven deadly pesticides, banned or restricted elsewhere in the world due to their high toxicity, are used in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre for Science and Environment has released a list of seven extremely hazardous pesticides which continue to be used in

India despite being banned in many countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development

†2113. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been running National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development since 2014 to promote animal husbandry and dairy, if so, the total budget allocated and expenditure incurred on these two schemes along with the steps taken by Government to connect small and marginal farmers with this scheme; and

(b) whether the evaluation of social and economic impact on farmers and cattlemen has been done with the implementation of this scheme having completed three years, if so, details thereof, State-wise?

Relief for fishermen

2114. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of boats owned by Indian fishermen seized by neighbouring countries since 2014;

(b) whether Government is providing relief to those fishermen whose boats have been seized;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the quantum of funds allocated and released since 2014; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Import of Chinese sprayers

2115. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that imported Chinese sprayers, with the help of which pesticides and chemicals are sprayed on crops have taken the toll of 20 farmers, 25 farmers suffered with blindness and caused other health hazards in Maharashtra, etc.;

(b) whether Ministry is also aware that Maharashtra Government has instituted an inquiry into this entire incident; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and steps going to be taken by the Ministry to stop import of such sprayers and also take action against fertilizer and chemical companies which are using excessive chemicals in their pesticides?

Use of hazardous pesticides

2116. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of hazardous pesticides, which are banned worldwide, are still in use in our country;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to have an exclusive legislation on pesticides management to address the issues related to unsafe use of pesticides?

Assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country

2117. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country, particularly in Odisha, due to shortfall of rain/untimely rain/drought/pest attack, etc., if so, the details thereof;

(b) the financial assistance sought by the concerned State Governments to cope up with the situations like above during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the crop losses; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to the different State Governments, including Odisha, as requested and the percentage of utilization of such funds by the concerned State Governments?

Instant payment to farmers for produce procured

2118. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor farmers have still not come out from the clutches of money-lenders, traders and middlemen as they continue to sell their produce at a price below the MSP because Government agencies make payment to the farmers against the produce procured after a considerable time;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan under consideration of Government to make payment to the farmers instantly against the produce procured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Strengthening of animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries etc.

‡2119. 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 seriously contemplating to strengthen the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agriculture education and research and expansion system;

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

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

Training to farmers about PCC technology

2120. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board (NHB) has made any efforts to have agricultural engineers, specialised in Protected Crop Cultivation (PCC) technology, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by NHB to impart training to farmers about PCC technology; and

(c) whether any subsidy is granted by Government to install infrastructure in order to use PCC technology effectively, if not, the reasons therefor?

Assistance to fishermen of Tamil Nadu

2121. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending

with the Government to extend financial assistance to fishermen in Tamil Nadu to purchase high-end deep sea fishing vessels so that they can compete with Taiwan and Thailand which are using much advanced vessels for deep sea fishing; and

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

Awareness campaign about new farming techniques

2122. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to create awareness among the farmers of the country about the new farming techniques, developments, etc;

(b) whether the said awareness meetings/seminars/camps are held frequently in each and every rural area of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Madurai in Tamil Nadu?

Loan burden on farmers

2123. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have borrowed or continue to borrow money from private money lenders in the country to meet their agricultural expenses; and

(b) if so, the total number, in figures and percentage, of such farmers who have borrowed money from the private moneylenders, State-wise, in the last three years along with the total amount borrowed and rate of interest charged by such moneylenders?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indiscriminate use of Oxytocin

2124. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one-fourth of India's dairies had no shelter for animals and all of these institutions house sick and injured animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 55 per cent of dairy owners are allowed their sick animals to be milked;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was also minimal veterinary care and indiscriminate use of Oxytocin across the country; and

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

Implementation of RKVY

2125. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the status of implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in various States of the country;

(b) the details of the programmes being undertaken under the said Yojana and achievements made therefrom during the last two years; and

(c) the details of the funds released by Government and utilized under the said Yojana by the State Governments during the said period?

Assistance from NDRF for cattle conservation

2126. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan for assistance of ₹ 1043.69 crore regarding cattle conservation activities from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF);

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

Doubling the income of farmers

2127. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee appointed by Government in April, 2016 to prepare the report on doubling farmers' income has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) how much expenditure is likely to be incurred on the implementation of such recommendations to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022?

Suicide by farmers in Jharkhand

2128. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmer suicides have now become a frequent phenomenon in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken cognizance of the matter;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to address the matter; and

(d) the number of such cases have been reported in the last one year?

Revamping of NPPA

2129. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on revamping the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and to set up an advisory body above it;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Drugs (Prices Control) Order is being delinked from NPPA, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Upgradation of NIPER

2130. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering proposals for improvement/upgradation of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in various cities of the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to upgrade the equipment and machinery in NIPER, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various upgradations that have taken place and funds allocated

by Government during the last two years for development of NIPER as a model pharmaceutical research organisation?

Savings with usage of reduced quantity in urea bags

2131. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has decided to have urea bag of 45 Kgs. in place of 50 Kgs.;

(b) if so, the reasons for reducing the quantity;

(c) the normal quantity of urea used for one acre of land;

(d) whether Ministry is aware that farmers calculate number of bags to be used per acre rather than judiciously using only the required quantity of urea;

(e) how the Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to bring awareness among the farmers in this regard; and

(f) the percentage the Ministry thinks of saving in usage of urea with the reduced quantity in bags?

Shortage of fertilizers

2132. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any reports from some State Governments about shortage of fertilizers in their respective States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure sufficient supply of fertilizers to these States so that farmers do not suffer any losses on this account?

Production of urea

†2133. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of urea in the country in the current financial year is estimated to be 2.41 crore tonne falling down 3 lakh tonnes thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of urea?

Transparency in role of co-operative societies

†2134. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of transparency, tenant farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds provided by co-operative societies and it goes to blackmarket;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to make the role of co-operative societies more transparent; and

(c) whether any scheme is being considered upon by Government for using accounts of farmers opened under Jan Dhan Yojana for providing fertilizers' subsidy to farmers?

Establishment of NIPER at Jhalawar in Rajasthan

2135. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for establishment of National Institute of

Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Jhalawar, Rajasthan, is under consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has ordered evaluation of the proposal by a team of experts;

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

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the establishment of NIPER in Jhalawar, Rajasthan?

Overcharging from patients for angioplasty

2136. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private hospitals still continue to overcharge from patients for angioplasty despite the fact that Government has slashed the prices of cardiac stents to the tune of 75 per cent;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in this regard against such hospitals; and

(c) the action taken by Government against them and if not, the reasons therefor?

Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices

2137. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has finalized draft Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the code will be made effective?

Establishment of a Sports University by CCL in Jharkhand

2138. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU has been signed between the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Government of Jharkhand for the establishment of a Sports University in the sports stadium located at Hotwar in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including target set and the budget allocated for the same?

Production and consumption of coal

2139. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present quantum of coal production in the country;

(b) whether granting of new coal blocks has increased the production substantially;

(c) if so, by how much;

(d) the annual consumption now;

(e) whether the country is committed to reduce coal usage as part of Paris Agreement; and

(f) if so, by how much?

Dousing fires in Jharia Coalfields

2140. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal fires in and around Jharia Coalfields have been raging for over a hundred years;

(b) whether Government has conducted

a study on the effects of these coal fires on environment and health and if so, the summary of the main findings;

(c) whether sand and other inflammable materials can be used to douse these fires; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

Ramping up production of coal to meet demand

2141. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Coal India Limited to ramp up its coal production and dispatch 2 million tonnes per day against around 1.6 million tonnes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has been decided in view of robust demand for coal from all segments, if so, the details thereof?

Decline in coal import

2142. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal import has declined by 24 per cent on a yearly basis, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian buyers have preferred not to buy any fresh fossil fuel and instead decided to wait and watch ahead of an upcoming auction, if so, the details thereof?

Coal blocks in North-Eastern region

2143. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state whether Government has

any data of the coal blocks in North-Eastern region, if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of Palma and Tara coal blocks

‡2144. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of Gare Palma and Tara coal blocks in Chhattisgarh is under consideration of the High Court; and

(b) whether Central Government would help the State by requesting the early disposal of the court case as the State Government is unable to get either the amount back or the royalty because of non-allocation of coal blocks?

Welfare scheme for SC/ST employees

2145. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any welfare scheme for SC/ST employees working under the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has considered to regularize casual workers working in the Ministry; and

(c) the number of employees regularized during the last two years?

Allocation of coal mines for commercial mining

2146. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:
SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel of

the Government may soon decide on the methodology for allocation of coal mines for commercial mining, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a discussion paper on the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction route was earlier placed in the public domain for comments; and

(c) if so, the general views of the public in this regard?

Transmitting data to foreign countries by mobile phones

2147. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of any reports of mobile phones leaking/transmitting data to foreign countries;

(b) the list of private companies whose phones have been found transmitting data to foreign countries after the Ministry's investigation this August;

(c) whether Government is taking any action against these companies; and

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

Pick and drop facility of documents to post offices for MPs

2148. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal received/pending with the Ministry for pick and drop facility of the documents and letters from the Members of Parliament (MPs) Government residential address to the post offices; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken by Government for smooth functioning/communication between public representatives and the Government officials?

Floor prices for voice and data services

2149. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the telcos, including BSNL, have asked TRAI to consider setting floor prices for voice and data services;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study to examine the repercussions of setting up floor prices for voice and data and its impact on the progress of Digital India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of public Wi-Fi hotspots

2150. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is poised to set up around 7.5 lakh public Wi-Fi hotspots, especially in semi-urban and rural areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of agencies responsible for carrying out the project;

(c) the details of locations where such hotspots are being planned; and

(d) whether the initiative would enable to achieve the goal of e-governance and digital development, if so, the details thereof?

Curbing of Net Neutrality

2151. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware regarding curbing of Net Neutrality in USA;

(b) if so, the number of Indian companies affected in USA and India due to Net Neutrality in USA; and

(c) whether Government will take any precautionary measures to prevent any effect of Net Neutrality in USA?

Establishment of Base Transceiver Station in Villapuram, Tamil Nadu

2152. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the steps taken so far and proposed by BSNL to establish Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in the Villapuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu to enhance and augment mobile connectivity?

Internet shutdowns

2153. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of internet shutdowns taken place in the country in the last three years under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), year-wise; and

(b) the details of internet shutdowns taken place under recently released Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 in August, 2017?

National Wi-Fi network

2154. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to create a national Wi-Fi network in the country;

(b) if so, the deadline fixed for the completion of the project; and

(c) the funds allocated for this project and the status of the project as of 31 October, 2017?

Procurement centres in North-East Region

2155. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of procurement centres operational in North-Eastern Region, along with the details in regard to State specific centres thereof;

(b) the total storage capacity in these procurement centres;

(c) the total number of procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last two Kharif seasons, along with the details thereof; and

(d) the number of procurement centres in the North-Eastern Region established on private support?

Implementation of NFSA in States

2156. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has not been

implemented by several States in its true letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any action to see that all the key requirements of provisions are implemented by the States in view of recent remarks of the Supreme Court?

Labour charges in FCI

2157. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been found that at various depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) labourers were handling 998 to 1776 bags per day, which was unusually high against all prescribed norms, indicating proxy labourers being paid by Government agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether payment of ₹ 230 crore paid by the FCI towards labour charges were quite unusual labour cost;

(d) whether exorbitant incentives were being paid to these labourers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Direct transfer of subsidy into bank accounts

2158. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) the names of the States in which the subsidy received under the Public Distribution System is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of consumers;

(b) the details of the action plan for direct transfer of the above subsidy into the bank accounts of all the consumers; and

(c) by when the aforesaid scheme will be implemented across the country?

Disposal of consumer complaints

2159. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act was enacted to provide better protection of interest of consumers, if so, to what extent it has achieved its objectives;

(b) the total expenditure during the last three years on the maintenance of consumer courts, viz., NCDRC, SCDRC and District fora, including the salaries and allowance of their Members; and

(c) the number of complaints received during last three years and the number of complaints decided in favour of the complainants along with the Member/Bench-wise disposal of cases for three years for NCDRC and SCDRCs of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh?

Storage facilities for PDS foodgrains

2160. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Government run warehouse in each of the 640 districts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, by when Government is planning to set up at least one warehouse in each district of the country for the storage of foodgrains and vegetables produced by the farmers; and

(c) the amount of budget allocated this

year by Government for the maintenance of existing warehouses and for the construction of new warehouses?

Storage capacity of FCI

2161. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foodgrains purchased by Government from each State and the price paid to the farmers for each item, during the last six months;

(b) whether the FCI has sufficient storage capacity to store the foodgrains purchased during every year;

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

(d) the steps being taken to increase the storage capacity in each State, particularly in the States where there is maximum production of rice and wheat?

Food subsidy

2162. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable increase in the food subsidy given by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of factors responsible for the spurt in the Central food subsidy bill?

Implementation of NFSA

2163. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:
SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

(a) whether the National Food Security Act, 2013 has achieved its objectives during the last four years of enactment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of citizens being benefited by the Act, State-wise;

(c) the difference in number of beneficiaries for NFSA from the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

(d) the amount of expenditure anticipated on the constitution of National, State and District Grievance Redressal Commissions and the benefit expected from the functioning of those Commissions?

Job cuts and layoffs in IT companies

2164. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a serious note of job cuts and layoffs effected by major IT companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand thereon;

(c) whether the management of some IT companies were engaging bouncers, counsellors to threaten the employees deprived of their jobs due to job cuts or layoffs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of job cuts and layoffs effected by IT majors in the last six months; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to protect the job interests and life of IT employees?

Grievance redressal mechanism for digital payments

2165. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a grievance redressal mechanism in place for digital payments, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received complaints in any form regarding discrepancies arising out in the digital payments, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the Debit Card fraud which took place in 2016 where 3.2 million debit cards of certain banks were compromised along with the status thereof?

Digital transactions

2166. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth in digital transactions is not picking up and in some cases, is slower than which was seen before November, 2016; and

(b) the reaction of the Ministry to experts' opinion that this fall is in urban areas and is due to high transaction fee charged at the end point and due to lack of basic physical digital devices in rural areas like swipe machines and seamless internet connection?

New electronics and software products policy

2167. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is implementing any scheme for a new electronics and software products policy;

(b) if so, the aims, objectives and salient features of the policy;

(c) how this policy is helping in easing the negative impact of the GST on the e-Commerce and electronics manufacturing industry; and

(d) the other steps being taken to become a \$1 trillion economy in the next seven years?

ATM fraud cases

2168. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ATM fraud cases are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the cases registered, investigated and the action taken during the last three years;

(c) whether there is a policy to check such frauds; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Cancellation of Aadhaar cards

2169. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Aadhaar cards have been cancelled without giving any notice to the individuals, depriving them of all the benefits provided by Government;

(b) the criteria adopted by Government

to cancel or deactivate the Aadhaar card and whether it is done unilaterally by Government or the individual is intimated in advance; and

(c) how does Government propose to continue providing the benefits of all the Governmental schemes to those whose Aadhaar card has been cancelled by Government unilaterally along with the details thereof?

Boost to digital transactions post-demonetisation

†2170. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether digital transactions have got a major boost following declaration of demonetisation on 8 November last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether share of black money in the economy has touched its lowest level with the promotion of digital transactions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fake call centres

2171. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake call centres are operating in the country;

(b) the steps taken to eradicate these fake call centres so that people are not duped of their money;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there are any regulations in place for starting a call centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Curbing of child pornography

2172. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to curb child pornography in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Andhra Pradesh

2173. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gave approval to open Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount for investment and the land area for the Cluster; and

(d) the amount of grant-in-aid sanctioned and disbursed for establishing the Cluster?

Funds for production of cyber security products

2174. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is embarked on providing funds for production of cyber security products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds being provided under this scheme along with the details thereof?

Aadhaar registration for differently-abled persons

2175. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any cases where differently-abled persons have been denied Aadhaar card;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to provide Aadhaar cards to people with neurological disabilities who are not able to sit still for the photograph or the iris scan;

(d) whether all Aadhaar centres have disabled friendly access infrastructure; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that Aadhaar card registration process is made viable for differently-abled persons?

Data safety in smartphones

2176. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued notices to the smartphone production companies to provide the details about the safety and security standards being followed in their making;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has received any feedback from those smartphone companies about the data safety measures, if so, the details thereof?

Firing of IT employees using unethical process

2177. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees in the private IT firms have been fired by the companies using unethical process;

(b) whether Government has taken any measures in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

IT services to Members of Parliament/ Legislative Assembly, etc.

2178. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any IT services have been provided/will be provided to the Members of Parliament/Legislative Assembly/Council for Personal Office Support like Indexing/Personal Office Management/Maintenance of Social Portal Support; and

(b) whether any such proposal is pending with the Ministry?

National Cyber Security Coordination Centre

2179. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the details of projects being implemented by National Cyber Security

Coordination Centre (NCCC) under various phases;

(b) the amount earmarked and released for NCCC in the last two years;

(c) the number of cyber crime awareness workshops organised for police officers, judicial officers and other personnel; and

(d) how far the coordination is effective among various stakeholders in handling cyber crimes and cyber security of the country along with the details thereof?

Schemes for processing of sea food in Cooperative sector

2180. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes to promote processing of sea food in Cooperative sector is being considered, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any special scheme of Government is available for subsidized loans to such units under Cooperative sector?

Provision of subsidy/loan for starting FPIs

2181. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government to boost the opening of new Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) whether there is any kind of subsidy or loan provided to the individuals who want to start Food Processing Units; and

(c) the status of FPIs in the State of Bihar, particularly those being run with the support of the Central Government?

Regulatory framework for legal profession

2182. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to facilitate improvement towards securing a higher global ranking in the enforcement of business contracts, Government has finally mooted a regulatory framework for legal profession;

(b) whether there is a need to regulate professional fee and ethics which can be done by an independent body instead of the elected body of the Bar;

(c) whether a check on the lawyer's performance has also been proposed through a mechanism of feedback by clients on advocates' performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Unified administrative framework for Tribunals

2183. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for reforms in Tribunals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for the same;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide a unified administrative framework for all Tribunals, thus removing problems of different procedures being followed by different Tribunals; and

(d) whether there is a time-frame within which the Government envisages to usher reforms in Tribunals of the country?

Establishment of a bench of Odisha High Court

2184. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recommendation of the State Government of Odisha to establish a bench of the Odisha High Court at a suitable place in western part of Odisha;

(b) if so, the steps Central Government has initiated in this regard; and

(c) whether Government is considering initiating a legislation in the coming Budget Session of Parliament for establishing a bench of Odisha High Court, if not, the reasons therefor?

Pendency of cases and appointment of Judges

2185. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average around 4000 cases are pending with each subordinate court in the country;

(b) if so, the details of courts, Judges, Judicial Officers and cases pending therewith, State-wise;

(c) the comparative study of total posts in different categories of courts and the vacancies therein; and

(d) the time-bound proposal of Government to appoint judges and staff against vacancies for conducting speedy trials?

Websites and portals of the Ministry

2186. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of

LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of websites or portals being managed and monitored currently by the Ministry along with their URLs;

(b) the record of visitors' traffic to these websites in general and response mechanism for complaints received through these portals since 2014;

(c) the number of Twitter handles and Facebook pages, if any, being maintained by the Ministry and organisations under it; and

(d) the performance of these Twitter and Facebook accounts in general since they were opened, as also the performance monitoring mechanism, if any, of these accounts?

Judges belonging to SC and ST category

2187. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in different High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) the details of posts filled with Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in higher Judiciary during the last three years;

(c) whether proper representation has not been given to Judges belonging to SC and ST Category in the appointment to higher Judiciary; and

(d) whether Government has devised any policy in this regard?

Electronic Voting Machines with printing devices

2188. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE

be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per guidelines of the Supreme Court, Electronic Voting Machines with printing devices will be made available prior to the next General Elections;

(b) whether coming General Elections of 2019 would be conducted with old machines or new machines with printing devices;

(c) if so, the details of the procurement process; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cases pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court

2189. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending at present in the Punjab and Haryana High Court; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the pendency?

Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

2190. SHRI RITABRATABANERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in the coming days, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the State Governments are being consulted in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Online railway accident insurance scheme

‡2191. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received from passengers so far by companies engaged in accident insurance under online railway accidents insurance scheme;

(b) the number of accident claims received during this period and the amount paid by insurance companies against them to the passengers or the families of the passengers and the number of claims still pending; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways are suffering losses but online railway insurance companies are earning exponential profit because of wrong policies and the profit that Railways should earn is going to these private companies?

Dynamic fares in select trains

2192. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring dynamic fares, for travelling in some selected trains, when the trains are not fully booked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would be restricted to Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duronto Express trains only or for all Express trains; and

(d) by when this would be introduced in Railways?

Revenue earned through flexi fares scheme

2193. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue earned by Railways through flexi fare scheme since its inception;

(b) whether Government is planning to tweak flexi fare scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has planned this move in the wake of travellers complaining of high fares, which was also leading to several seats going vacant due to the cost; and

(d) whether Government is planning to introduce flexi fare scheme in mail express and superfast express trains also, if so, the details thereof?

Zero-accident mission

2194. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of accidents on railway tracks are on the rise, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have launched a zero-accident mission envisaging renewal of railway tracks, more railway bridges, better signalling and rolling out of accident-proof coaches and engines, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Railways have prepared any plan to generate resources to implement the zero-accident mission, if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Policy for promotion of Group 'B' officials

2195. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI VEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy adopted in Railways for promotion of Group 'B' officials;

(b) whether restructuring of Group 'B' officials in Railways has taken place during last three years;

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

(d) whether there is no career progression scheme for degree holders who joined Railways in level-7 in the pay matrix under 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC); and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Railway line between Haldwani and Ritha Sahib

†2196. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Railway has assessed the possibilities of construction of railway line from Haldwani to Ritha Sahib *via* Chrogaliya in Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether survey for this railway line is likely to be started in future, if so, by when;

(c) whether it is also possible that fund will not be sanctioned for the construction of this railway route even after conducting survey, as happened in the case of two railway routes of Kumaun region; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Requirement and purchase of rails by Railways

†2197. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rails, in tonnes, required by Railways in the current financial year and the total quantity of rails in tonnes, to be supplied by SAIL;

(b) the quantity of rails in tonnes, that Railways would purchase from alternate sources other than SAIL to meet its requirements along with the details thereof; and

(c) the details of difference in prices of rails purchased from SAIL and other alternate sources during last two years including current year?

Speed of trains from Amritsar to New Delhi

2198. SHRI SHWAI MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to boost the speed of trains running from Amritsar to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of maximum speed adopted by Government to boost the speed of trains?

Meeting of energy requirement from renewable sources

2199. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to meet at least 10 per cent of its energy requirement from renewable sources;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the action plan by Railways;
- (c) whether Railways are harnessing green energy currently;
- (d) if so, the quantum of energy generated through green sources currently; and
- (e) whether Railways have done energy audit and are working on more energy efficient systems and if so, the details thereof?

Change of design in rolling stock

2200. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have started exploring a design change in its rolling stock to see if coal and other minerals can be carried in covered wagons instead of open ones to prevent coal dust from flying into the environment and also to expand the use of wagons;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Railways took a note of reports appeared regarding transportation of coal in open wagons and the issues concerning environmental damages; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Quality of meals in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains

†2201. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the complaints lodged with Railways regarding the quality of meals provided in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains during the last three years;
- (b) the details of action taken on these complaints; and

- (c) whether Railways propose to do away with the compulsory booking of meals in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains, if so, by when?

Survey for railway projects in Rajasthan

2202. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have carried out any survey in Rajasthan for laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion of old lines and electrification, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the Government's plan for the current year for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification in Rajasthan?

Empanelment of Medanta Hospital

†2203. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Medanta Medicity Super Speciality hospital of private sector has been empanelled for treatment of railway employees of some railway zones;
- (b) if so, the zones where such facility is being provided to the employees and zones where no such facility is provided to employees and the reasons for this discrimination; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to consider providing this treatment facility for employees of all the zones?

Private freight trains

2204. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken/going to take a policy decision to permit some of the private companies to run their own freight trains;

(b) whether companies from any sector have come forward to have their own fleet, terminals, etc.; and

(c) how can Railways permit private freight trains to run on its own rails at a time when the load factor has reached more than 100 per cent of its capacity?

Sabari railway line

2205. SHRI JOYABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inordinate delay in finalizing the alignment of the proposed Sabari railway line covering Kottayam district has put the concerned land owners in utter confusion and has caused them untold sufferings and agony for decades;

(b) how many proposals are pending before Railways regarding the alignment of Sabari railway line, covering Kottayam district, along with the details thereof; and

(c) whether Railways have formulated a time-frame for completion of the ongoing survey works?

Mission Raftaar

†2206. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average speed of goods trains and passenger trains at present;

(b) to what extent the average speed of trains will be increased under 'Mission Raftaar', along with the details thereof;

(c) the names of routes identified under 'Mission Raftaar', its percentage to total railway traffic of the country, along with the details thereof; and

(d) the capacity of manufacturing MEMU and DEMU train coaches at present and the number of MEMU and DEMU train coaches required to fulfil the 'Mission Raftaar' in prescribed time-frame, along with the details of roadmap drawn for this purpose thereof?

Hi-speed network to interconnect metros

2207. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes hi-speed network to interconnect metros of the country by the year 2020;

(b) if so, the proposal details in this regard;

(c) the appraisal of the NITI Aayog therefor;

(d) the action taken by Government for maintaining time schedule and entire electrification thereof; and

(e) the plan project of Government on blueprint of funding therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Proposed construction at Balamau Junction railway station

2208. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1585 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28 July, 2017 and state:

(a) whether Government has allocated funds for proposed construction of platform, booking office, enquiry office and circulating area etc. on Balamau Junction railway station;

(b) if so, by when the proposed platform and other facilities will be commissioned for public use; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government will address these urgent needs as thousands of passengers face imminent danger on daily basis because of no proper entry/exit from/to the railway station on south side as confirmed by the Ministry itself in its reply?

Electrification of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2209. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any railway lines to be electrified in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to complete the electrification of these lines in a fixed time-frame?

Speed of trains on different routes in Kerala

2210. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum speed of Express and other fast trains on different routes in Kerala is substantially lower than that in other parts of the country;

(b) whether loop line speed of 15 kilometers per hour at stations in Kerala is half of speed elsewhere;

(c) whether steps would be taken to increase these speeds so that the time to travel from one end of State to the other end can be reduced up to 3 hours; and

(d) whether diesel shed at Ernakulam will be converted into an electrical shed since there are only four diesel engines plying in Kerala?

Elephants killed on railway tracks in West Bengal

2211. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants killed on railway tracks by trains in West Bengal during the last five years;

(b) whether Railways have fixed any responsibility therefor and whether any action has been taken against any railway staff for such incidents; and

(c) whether Railways have worked out ways to minimize such incidents in the future?

Electrification of railway tracks

2212. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the railway track which requires electrification, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey on these tracks for hindrances

that may cause delay in the work, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) the details regarding the budget proposed for this entire project along with the method of calculation of budget;

(d) whether the Ministry has conducted any study regarding the requirement of electricity for the smooth running of the trains post project completion, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) details of companies/PSUs which will be involved in this project?

Mapping of railway land

2213. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government to locate and map railway land;

(b) whether ISRO facilities are being utilised for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken for development of infrastructure on railway land, commercial utilisation and monetisation of such land?

Buxi Jagabandhu train

2214. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would introduce a new train, named after Buxi Jagabandhu, from Bhubaneswar/Khurda to Mumbai, as per the proposal of the Chief Minister of Odisha; and

(b) by when would Railways introduce Janashatabdi Express train service between

Howrah to Nayagarh and an Intercity Express from Nayagarh to Visakhapatnam, as the Chief Minister of Odisha has requested for introduction of Express trains to the newly commissioned Nayagarh town railway station?

Railway line from Mandir Hasaud to Kendri

†2215. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a broad gauge railway line is being constructed from Mandir Hasaud to Kendri in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Railways would sanction the narrow gauge railway line service from Kendri to Dhamtari *via* Rajim in the first phase; and

(c) whether sanction would be accorded for developing Bhilai 3 (Charoda) railway station in Chhattisgarh and providing a stoppage for Express trains at this station?

Contractual staff in Railways

2216. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract staff are increasingly employed in Railways, for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the contract staff appointed in Railways during the last three years, year-wise?

Discount fare

2217. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce discount fare in the railway network;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the plan details of Government and initiatives taken so far therein; and

(c) the results along with comparative chart for last five years of railway earnings on base fare and high rated flexi fares?

Integrated software for improved data analysis and usage

2218. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways undertook a major IT initiative for an integrated software which can optimize about ₹ 50,000 crore for the national carrier over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed integrated software envisages timely availability of actionable information for authorized persons at place of use and enable improved data analysis and usage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

CCTV cameras in railway coaches

2219. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of installation of CCTV cameras in railway coaches and how many trains have been fitted with CCTV cameras as on date;

(b) the reasons for delay in installation of CCTV cameras in all coaches to improve safety and security of passengers including women; and

(c) by when all long distance trains and Express trains would be provided with

CCTV cameras in all coaches, the details thereof?

Expanding the capacity of coach factory in Rae Bareli

2220. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to expand the capacity of the modern coach factory in Rae Bareli from 1,000 coaches to 5,000 coaches every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the next four to five years, the ICF coaches would become history;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to expand the production of LHB coaches at ICF factory in Chennai to over 6,000 coaches a year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Pending proposals received from State Government

2221. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for railway projects received from various State Governments still pending with Railways, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the details and the present status of proposals which have been approved during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) the details of funds earmarked/ allocated for implementation of such approved projects, State-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the time-frame set for the completion of these projects?

Progress of railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

†2222. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of approvals granted and progress made with regard to construction of proposed new railway lines, under construction railway lines, construction of the railway over bridges and underpasses in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

Periodic overhauling of railway coaches

2223. DR. V. MAITREYAN: 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 hundreds of railway coaches have not been overhauled or serviced periodically;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has allocated any funds for the periodic overhauling/servicing of railway coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken in this regard;

(d) the steps taken by Government to replace the old damaged and outdated rail coaches with new ones; and

(e) the details of the rail coaches replaced in the last three years, Zone-wise?

Staff crunch in Railways

2224. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise details of vacancies of staff under the safety category, as of October, 2017;

(b) whether Ministry has taken any steps to fill these vacancies, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Ministry specifies optimum number of hours that employees should be working per day to ensure safety, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether railway employees have been working beyond duty hours due to staff crunch and raised this concern at the Joint Consultative Machinery, if so, the details thereof?

Purchase of train coaches

2225. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision to purchase train coaches from China; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Cost-benefit analysis of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train

2226. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thailand recently approved a 3000 kilometer Chinese bullet train to link Bangkok with China for 5.5 billion US dollars while India approved a 500 kilometer train for 17 billion US dollars;

(b) whether Government has done a thorough cost-benefit analysis before committing itself to the Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed link; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether apart from China and Japan, the Ministry is exploring other options for adoption of 'Bullet train' technology on other routes?

Design contest for developing railway stations

2227. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to conduct a design contest for developing three railway stations across the country;

(b) whether Railways invited global proposals to develop these stations according to international standards;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited has been mandated with developing new railway stations and redeveloping existing ones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Result of RRB, Ranchi

2228. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware of the long pending cases with regard to result of Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Ranchi, if so, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof;

(b) whether stammering cases are considered against reserved vacancy, if not, the laid-down rule in this regard; and

(c) whether any such cases of stammering are pending for recruitment, if so, by when and the reasons for long pendency?

Restructuring of Group 'B' Officers

2229. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any policy on restructuring of Group 'B' Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the restructuring of Group 'B' Officers of Railways has not taken place since long;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(e) whether Railways have any proposal to review its policy to give room to Group 'B' Officers too?

Reports of enquiry committees on train accidents

†2230. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reports of enquiry committees, set up after train accidents, are never made public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of reports of the enquiry committees constituted to investigate train accidents that occurred during the last three years?

Global tender for procurement of rails

2231. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have floated a global tender to procure rails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways expect annual demand for steel rails to rise to 1.5 million tonnes in the year ending March, 2017 from about 800,000 tonnes in the prior 12 month period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Maintenance of quarters at road-side railway stations

†2232. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATICHHAYAVERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released during the last three years for the maintenance of quarters of railway employees, situated on road-side stations in North Eastern Railways, division-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper maintenance, majority of railway quarters of the road-side stations are in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of Nautanwa railway station

†2233. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATICHHAYAVERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to upgrade

Nautanwa railway station under North Eastern Railways, near Nepal border and making it a terminal; and

(b) the number of trains currently operating from this station for Delhi and Mumbai and whether there is a plan of operating more trains from there in view of the load of the passengers at this station?

Hotel facilities at all major railway stations

2234. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to start hotel facilities at all major railway stations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of staff in Railways

2235. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway employees had raised safety issues long before a series of railway accidents, at a meeting of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) on 3 May, 2017;

(b) whether the staff side had warned Government at the meeting that the railway employees were working long beyond duty hours, amid a staff crunch forced by a ban on recruitment;

(c) whether Government had denied a ban on recruitment but admitted that the hiring process is slow; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether no new posts are being created when a new service or train is introduced?

Review of old railway bridges

2236. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges collapsed in last ten years till date;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured separately as a result of bridge collapses;

(c) whether there has been a delay in sanctioning and completion of sanctioned bridge works resulting in risk of bridge collapse, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has ordered a review of old bridges in need of repair, if so, the details thereof and the timeline fixed by Railways to repair all the old railway bridges across the country?

Increase in crimes in Railways

2237. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2016 stating that the crimes under Indian Penal Code witnessed an increase of over 34 per cent in two years from 31,609 in 2014 to 42,388 in 2016 in Indian Railways, making travelling by trains getting riskier; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the crimes registered by GRP in these two years

and the action being taken to check the crimes in Railways effectively?

Social sector subsidies of Railways

2238. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are looking for ways to do away with its social sector subsidies of about ₹ 30,000 crore a year;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations received by Railways on segregation of the Railways' social responsibility from its operational finances;

(c) whether Railways posted its worst operating ratio in 16 years, at 96.9 in 2016-17;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to mitigate the losses; and

(e) whether the Centre has approved Railways' proposal for a sector regulator, a Rail Development Authority?

Purchase of train tickets by cash

‡2239. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now, purchase of train tickets is done directly through cash;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to implement cashless scheme for the purchase of railway tickets; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Patti-Makhu rail link

2240. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected date of commencement of work for laying of Patti-Makhu rail link;

(b) the main reasons for the continuous delay in implementing this project; and

(c) the details of funds sanctioned by the NITI Aayog therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th December, 2017
Pausha 9, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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