

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 28, 2018/Pausha 7, 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

Threat of Fall Armyworm on farming

1761. 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 Fall Armyworm or Pesky worm, a global farm threat that knocks on India's door;

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

(c) the precautionary measures Government proposes to take to counter the threat?

'Save fisheries' campaign

1762. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fisheries farmers bear huge loss every year due to sizzling temperature and water shortage in summer season across the country resulting in stunted growth, deaths of fishes and thus reduced production;

(b) if so, the details of estimated loss incurred by fisheries farmers during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to launch a 'save fisheries' campaign by educating farmers to follow certain tips to maintain base level of their farm pond?

Production of paddy, vegetables and fish in the country

1763. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving due

importance to produce more paddy, vegetables and fishes in different States; and

(b) if so, the amount of paddy, vegetables and fishes produced in different States in the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and upto November, during 2018-19?

Development of fisheries sector

1764. SHRI T.G VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to augment the fisheries production and provide sufficient infrastructure facilities for development of fisheries in the country and earmarked ₹ 7,522 crore for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds being provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for this purpose?

Land rights of farm widows in Maharashtra

1765. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of non-recognition of land rights of widows of farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra, and in other States where farmers' suicides are reported;

(b) if so, whether Government conducted a study on the same, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) Government policy towards women farmers and widows of deceased farmers, especially to recognition of their land rights, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to address land rights and social security of women farmers in general, and widowed women farmers in particular, in Maharashtra and other States?

Production of fruits and vegetables in Uttar Pradesh

†1766. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of fruits and vegetables during last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(c) the contribution of Uttar Pradesh in production of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) whether efforts are being made by Government to encourage the farmers of Uttar Pradesh for increasing production of fruits and vegetables?

Availability of fodder in the country

†1767. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether enough pasture land and fodder for cattle is available in country;

(b) if so, the area of pasture land and quantity of fodder available at present, State-wise; and

(c) the per cattle fodder availability in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

CAG audit of NDDB

1768. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a settled law by a Judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in 2010 that the CAG has jurisdiction and the right to carry out audit (including performance audit) of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(b) if so, whether the CAG has carried out any audits of NDDB, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has the intent to arrange for expeditious CAG audit of NDDB, if so, the details thereof?

Audit of NDDB and NDP by CAG

1769. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has jurisdiction and the right to carry out audit of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(b) whether NDDB and National Dairy Plan Scheme of Central Government with an outlay of ₹ 2241 crore, being implemented by NDDB since 2012, have been duly audited by CAG, if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government has intent to CAG audit of NDP and NDDB, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether Government's Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund with an outlay of more than ₹ 8000 crore being implemented by NDDB since 2016, is also being duly audited by CAG, if so, the details thereof?

Assistance for setting up of cold storage in Gujarat

†1770. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided any assistance for establishing cold storages in Gujarat, especially in districts of South Gujarat, during last three years in order to avoid the deterioration of foodgrains and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of above assistance, year-wise?

Drought in the country

1771. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any existing mechanism to ascertain and declare drought in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of States reeling under drought at present, district-wise;

(c) the measures taken by Government to tackle drought in the country;

(d) whether there has been any progress on the proposed National Disaster Mitigation (Drought) Action Plan, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes for women farmers in the country

1772. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government runs any

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

specific schemes to address the challenges faced by women farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of women farmers in the country at present?

Provision for landless and tenant farmers

†1773. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers across the country at the same rate and whether this rate is different in various States;

(b) if the rate is different in various States, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government proposes a separate provision for the landless and tenant farmers?

Soil and its nutrient contents in the country

1774. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any complete data-base regarding soil and its nature after it started issuing soil health cards to farmers across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has arrived at any conclusion regarding nature of soil, its nutrient contents, level of chemicals contained etc., in order to migrate towards organic farming across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drought in Maharashtra

1775. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a report to the Central Team stating that the State is facing the consecutive droughts;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of small, marginal farmers who have been hit by drought condition during Kharif season, crop-wise; and

(c) if so, by when the Central Team would submit its report to the Government reflecting the miserable condition of farmers in drought-affected districts in the State?

Soil Health Cards to farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra

1776. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soil Health Card scheme plays a vital role in enhancing agricultural production in a sustainable manner in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana, advocating the farmers to adopt soil test based fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers of these States during the last four years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assistance for dairy sector

1777. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to various States for setting up of dairies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the schemes for the purpose along with the amount of assistance provided by Government to various States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has any scheme for training of milk producers in the use of new techniques for developing the dairy sector with upgraded technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Central Potato Research Sub-Division under CPRI at Hassan in Karnataka

1778. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka requested for establishment of Central Potato Research Sub-Division under CPRI, Shimla at Somanahalli Kaval, Hassan (Karnataka);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has considered and given approval for the same; and

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

Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1779. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in just concluded Kharif Season, nearly 30 farmers committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and the figure in last four years is 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that suicides are mainly due to farm debt and State Government's failure to waive loan as promised by it, and MSP, etc.;

(c) if so, Government's stand on farmers' suicides in Andhra Pradesh which remains unabated year-after-year and the plan to help farming community in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) by when Central Government would rescue farmers in Andhra Pradesh and steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop farmers' suicides?

Encouraging farmers to grow cash crops

†1780. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any special action plan for encouraging farmers of country to grow cash crops like vegetables and fruits; and

(b) if so, the details of format of this action plan and the increase in production of these crops recorded under this plan during last four years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Benefits to farmers under crop insurance schemes

†1781. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the farmers are not getting benefits of the crop insurance in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the procedure through which insurance companies are giving benefit to farmers; and

(c) the details of the assistance that is given to farmers by the insurance companies keeping in view their input cost and labour?

Guidelines in Drought Manual 2016

1782. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the interest that has prompted Government to change guidelines in Drought Manual 2016;

(b) whether the guidelines of Drought Manual 2016 effectively prevents any State Government from declaration of drought without approval of the Central Government;

(c) if so, the response of Government to the States that have raised objection on Drought Manual 2016; and

(d) the reasons as to why Government insist on using satellite based data in deciding drought when the accuracy of satellite based data is less than the earlier process?

Setting up Embryo Transfer Technology Centres

1783. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up Twenty Embryo Transfer Technology Centres (ETTCs) across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'Kangayam' breed has also been included for 'Embryo Transfer Technology' programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Menace of bacteria blight on pomegranate crops in Maharashtra

1784. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that bacteria blight has adversely affected pomegranate quality in Maharashtra resulting in steep fall in its prices, causing huge losses to its growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Central and State Government has taken to provide relief to the producers and eliminate the menace of bacteria?

Decline in enrollment under PMFBY

1785. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total funds allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the total number of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

beneficiaries under the scheme, year-wise and State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of new beneficiaries under the scheme in 2017-18 from 2016-17, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure bringing all farmers under the ambit of this scheme?

Increase in the duty discharge allowance of Krishak Mitras

†1786. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the current status of the sanction/implementation of the proposals regarding increase in the duty discharge allowance of the Krishak Mitra, amendment in the cost norms of Pico project, ravines reclamation and mechanisation and modernisation of the farms, which were sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Central Government during the last three years?

Compulsory enrollment under PMFBY

1787. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) total collection of premiums and disbursement of insurance pay-outs carried out under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Punjab;

(b) whether farmers who avail of any loan facility, especially through Kisan Credit Cards, are compulsory enrolled into the PMFBY;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details

of such compulsory enrollments of farmers in the State of Punjab;

(d) whether bank or any such lending organisation have the first claim on compensation amount/insurance pay-out, in the event of crop failure, in the case of farmers who have availed loan facilities; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Assessment of drought in Karnataka

1788. SHRI G.C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of amount of fund assessed by the Central Government team that visited drought hit areas of Karnataka in November, 2018; and

(b) the demands, estimates and the amount of fund released by the Central Government towards drought relief measures to Karnataka at present and in the past five years?

Implementation of recommendation of Expert Committee on use of pesticides

1789. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to implement the recommendation of the Expert Committee constituted to review the use of pesticides which are hazardous for both human beings and animals;

(b) if so, the number of pesticides reviewed by the Expert Committee and the number of pesticides recommended for ban on their use; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Expert Committee?

Diversification from tobacco farming

1790. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made allocations of certain amount of funds in the budgets from 2015-16 onwards as Central share to diversify tobacco farming in the tobacco-producing States;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated in each budget since then;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that tobacco growing farmers shift to alternative farming options and how many farmers/hectares of land in each State have been shifted from tobacco to other crops; and

(d) the alternative crops identified and adopted for farming in each State?

Implementation of new MSP Scheme

†1791. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any agency or a committee to ensure that the farmers could get Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops as fixed by the Government, for their welfare;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and by when it is aimed to give MSP worth one and half times of the cost of the crop production of the farmers by Government; and

(c) the extent of financial burden which

is likely to increase after the implementation of the new MSP Scheme?

Relief package for the drought affected farmers of Marathwada in Maharashtra

1792. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scanty rainfall during the last two years has made the life of farmers miserable in Marathwada region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the special relief package Government has given to the farmers of the region during the current financial year?

Distress sale of onion by farmers

1793. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in Madhya Pradesh are compelled to sell their onions at the rate of 30 to 40 paise per kg. which is far less than their cost of production, due to non-availability of marketing facilities and agrarian policies of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for ignoring the plight of suicide-committing farmers of the country; and

(d) the immediate remedial measures proposed by the Central Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of Swaminathan Commission report

1794. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether Government has implemented the Swaminathan Commission report and 1.5 times the costs of production are being paid to farmers as MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the cost of production, crop-wise; and

(c) the reasons why more than one lakh farmers have protested/demonstrated against the Central Government in Delhi recently demanding MSP for crops as per the Swaminathan Commission report when Government has already implemented it?

Sustainable farming

1795. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the percentage of farmers who produce enough to sustain themselves;

(b) whether Government has schemes to help farmers who are below that level, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various steps taken by Government in the past have made agriculture and industry more unequal; and

(d) whether Government intends to take corrective measures in this regard?

Subsidy on organic fertilizers

1796. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers engaged in organic farming are unable to afford input cost which is expensive; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to reduce the cost of organic fertilizers and encourage them to use microbes and supply them at subsidised rates?

Improvement in system from seeds to market for farmers

†1797. 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 proposing to improve the system for the farmers right from seeds to market;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to take any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these steps would be undertaken and if not, the reasons therefor?

Challenges of climate change, depleting natural resources, etc.

†1798. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to take some concrete steps to overcome the challenges of climate change,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

depleting natural resources, shrinking agricultural land and decreasing prices of agricultural produce which agriculture is facing;

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

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

Condition of tobacco growing farmers

1799. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco occupies unique position in Indian agriculture as it provides direct and indirect employment to over 40 million people and earn more than ₹ 6,000 crore as foreign exchange;

(b) whether Government is aware that due to strict restrictions imposed by Government, coupled with stiff global competition, the socio-economic condition of tobacco growing farmers is going from bad to worse;

(c) the reasons that tobacco growing farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce due to forming of cartel by traders; and

(d) the manner in which Government is going to break this cartel and protect tobacco growing farmers?

Suicide by farmers

1800. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicide of farmers in

the country during the last five years and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme of Central Government to grant compensation to the family of the farmers committing suicide for agricultural reason, if not, whether Government would consider such proposal; and

(c) whether it is a fact that pesticide ingestion causes death as reported by Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention (CPSP) and it has recommended for ban of several pesticides, if so, whether Government is considering the suggestion of CPSP and whether such bans would affect the agricultural production?

Promotion of organic fertilizers

1801. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a strategy in place to promote balanced use of fertilizers;

(b) whether the present fertilizer subsidies include subsidies on liquid fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and farm manure; and

(c) whether Government is considering to give subsidy to promote organic fertilizers?

Functioning of NPPA

1802. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures being taken

to make the functioning of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) more transparent;

(b) whether any studies have been undertaken or sponsored with respect to pricing of drugs and pharmaceuticals and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the NPPA is considering to bring in more medicines under its control as a part of measures to provide relief to patients, and if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on fertilizers

1803. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy being given by Government on urea-based and non-urea fertilizers, as on date;

(b) whether Government proposes to slash the subsidy on non-urea fertilizers by twenty per cent, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment of the likely impact on the economic condition of farmers due to the reduction of subsidy on non-urea fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Increase in supply to power sector

1804. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India claims to have increased supplies to the power sector by nine per cent between 1 April to 12 October, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether increased demand for coal has forced some 11,500 MW generation capacity to remain idle for several days;

(d) whether 3,300 MW generation capacity has been lying idle due to lack of power purchase agreements; and

(e) if so, the steps Ministry is taking to improve the coal supply to the power plants and to conclude power purchase agreements so that plants do not remain idle?

Production of coal by re-allocated coal mines

1805. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less than 15 of the 33 coal mines re-allocated in 2014 have started production, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such a long delay is attributable to bureaucratic lethargy and lengthy clearance processes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country had to import 10 per cent of the total domestic coal demand in the current fiscal despite having adequate reserves; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to plug the shortfall and cut down on import dependency?

Licensing of coal mines

1806. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal mines in the country, at present;
- (b) the number of new coal mines given license since 2014;
- (c) the measures taken by Government to control illegal mining activity; and
- (d) whether Government is spending any amount for coal import, if so, the details thereof?

Production of coal by CIL

1807. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited (CIL) has been unable to increase the production and sale of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether less production of coal is directly affecting the power production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by Government to increase the production of coal and the outcome thereof?

Efficient transportation of coal

1808. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the new technologies being used by the Ministry to transport coal from one place to another which are more efficient than the usual ways of transport; and
- (b) whether the new technologies used are cost efficient and reliable, if so, the details thereof?

Standardization of skills and training

1809. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry or any of its subsidiaries have taken any steps with National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Centre (NSDC) under Skill India Mission of Central Government for standardization of skills and training and assessment of their employees as well as of contractual workers, Project Affected Persons (PAP), youth and women in its command area to bring them in line with NSDC qualifications;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of funds allocated for the project and targeted number of beneficiaries to be trained and current status of the same?

Import of coking coal

1810. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country currently imports about 85 per cent of its coking coal demand;
- (b) the present demand of coking coal in the country and the extent to which it would grow by 2022;
- (c) whether National Steel Policy forecasts coking coal demand of 161 mtpa by 2030-31;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) whether the country has to heavily

depend on imported coking coal for its plan to produce crude steel?

Disruption on cellular networks

1811. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to stop disruption during talking on cellular phone while travelling; and

(b) whether cellular network providers have taken any steps towards solving this problem?

Losses in telecom sector

1812. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom sector is likely to experience three more quarters of losses, hurt by high levies and unsustainable tariffs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 2018-19 would certainly be a tough year in terms of financial performance of the industry, as the high incidence of levies like licence fee and spectrum usage charges, compounded by upfront payment for radio waves, have added to the operators' woes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Ill effect of GM food

1813. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of production and usage of GM seeds in the country;

(b) whether studies were carried out by the Agricultural Universities and Research

Institutes about the ill-effects of GM food on human beings;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect citizens from the ill-effects of GM food?

Civil works in BSNL Exchanges of Nellore

1814. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from Nellore SSA for allocation of funds for some capital civil works in some of the BSNL Exchanges in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the action taken by Ministry so far on the same?

BharatNet project to provide e-health and e-governance services

1815. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BharatNet project to extend high-speed broadband connectivity infrastructure to the remaining 1.25 lakh Gram Panchayats, out of the total 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, would be completed in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the broadband connectivity would offer e-health and e-governance services to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Blocking of websites

1816. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has ordered Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block several websites and web-links and URLs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has issued any specific guidelines to ISPs to restrict websites and web-links featuring inappropriate content?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of impact of it on the curbing of pesky calls and messages, so far;

(d) whether Government plans to bring changes to existing regulations for curbing pesky calls and messages;

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

(f) whether Government plans to use blockchain technology for curbing pesky calls and subscribers, if so, the details thereof?

Quality of services provided by BSNL and MTNL

1817. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the services of BSNL and MTNL have deteriorated badly in the last few years, with the quality of services, voice calls, internet connection performance, process of disconnection and connection of telephones, both mobile and landline, are at an all-time low as compared to the private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve the performance of BSNL and MTNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Curbing pesky calls and messages

1818. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains a list of registered telemarketers;

Focus on service delivery under BharatNet

1819. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the final phase of BharatNet project would be completed as per the scheduled date of March, 2019;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BharatNet has now shifted its focus from network deployment to service delivery, as it has touched nearly 50 per cent of the country's Gram Panchayats or village blocks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Hiring of non-Government consultants by TRAI

1820. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI hires non-Government consultants for performing some of their functions, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether consultants were hired for drafting the TRAI Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016 and if so, the details of each consultant and the fee paid to each; and

(c) the list of other consultants hired and fee paid to them for other projects?

Regulatory mechanism for selection of location of mobile towers

1821. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of mobile towers are being added every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of mobile towers added during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any regulatory mechanism is in place to keep check on the telecom companies in selecting the locations for their mobile towers so as to minimize the mobile radiations, especially in residential areas; and

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

Achievements in communication sector

1822. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major achievements of Government in communication sector during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the targets set in the

said sector during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the action plan formulated by Government for the next two years to strengthen the aforesaid sector?

Provision for last mile connectivity under BharatNet

1823. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a provision has been made for last mile connectivity under BharatNet in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats through viability gap funding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that every Gram Panchayat would have, on an average, five Wi-Fi access points, including three meant for public institutions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a tender for provisioning of Wi-Fi services has been floated by BBNL, after consultation with telecom service providers and Internet Service Providers, for wider participation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Internet shutdowns across the country

1824. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of internet shutdowns in the past five years, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to engage with the States where cases of internet shutdowns are comparatively high; and

(c) whether Government made any arrangement for alternative means of

communication and transaction for the people in the region or not?

Seeking of inputs by TRAI

1825. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, TRAI meets the CEOs of telecom firms to seek inputs for the priorities for the next financial year;

(b) if so, whether such inputs are also sought from the consumer groups, civil society and the general public;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of all the stakeholders that have provided input to TRAI for the next financial year, if any?

Low tele-density of mobile network in Odisha

1826. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific plan for the State like Odisha to improve the connectivity, which is having low tele-density, if so the details thereof;

(b) the number of villages not covered by any mobile network in the State of Odisha, and the steps being taken by Central Government to provide mobile connectivity in such villages; and

(c) whether the Ministry is having any plan to improve the quality of data connectivity in the mobile network in rural areas?

Problem of call drop

1827. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for problem of call drop in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to impose any penalty on telecom companies for increasing number of call drops and if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme to resolve the problem of call drop and if so, details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to install additional mobile towers in the country and if so, details thereof;

(e) whether said problem is common in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh; and

(f) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor, along with corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

Procurement of foodgrains

1828. SHRIRAVIPRAKASH VERMA: SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the details of total procurement of foodgrains by Government agencies like FCI etc., during the Rabi season and Kharif season in 2018, season-wise, foodgrain-wise and State-wise;

(b) the rate at which foodgrains have been procured under MSP, grain-wise; and

(c) the details of the percentage of procurement *vis-a-vis* total production, State-wise; and grain-wise?

Procurement of green gram in Karnataka

1829. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested to procure 23,000 tonnes of green gram from its farmers at MSP under Price Support Scheme;

(b) if so, the quantity of green gram procured from farmers of Karnataka so far; and

(c) by when the entire green gram would be procured?

Benefit of Aadhaar seeding with PDS

1830. 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 seeding of Aadhaar with ration cards have revealed more than three crore fake ration cards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Aadhaar-seeding is really helpful to the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)?

Procurement of paddy in Andhra Pradesh

1831. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by paddy growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh in the current

Kharif season as public procurement centres, millers and middlemen in the State are fleecing the farmers;

(b) whether Government is also aware that millers and middlemen are not adhering to the limits of moisture and other specifications and reducing the price of paddy even below MSP after taking paddy to mills; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to intervene in the matter, and procure paddy from farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States?

Impact of ABBA on PDS

1832. SHRI RITABRATABANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted or is aware of any study on the impact of Aadhaar based biometric authentication (ABBA) on public distribution system, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government has recognized that ABBA has often led to increased hassles for poor, such as repeated trips, longer queues and even deaths, if so, steps Government plans to provide relief to the beneficiaries;

(c) the reasons for insisting on ABBA despite large social costs associated with it;

(d) whether Government has considered the technology of Smart Cards for disbursement of ration, like in Tamil Nadu, if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Storage capacity of foodgrains

†1833. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether new godowns have been constructed to augment the foodgrain storage capacity in the country during the past four years; and

(b) if so, the current foodgrain capacity augmentation in the country, as against the capacity that existed, before 2014, the details thereof, State-wise?

Opening of Procurement Centres

1834. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had followed the definition of Minimum Support Price as recommended by Swaminathan Commission Report while procuring crops in the last four years;

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

(c) the details of procurement centres opened and the details of the crops collected by Government in the last four years, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has any mechanism to control the market forces which rig prices and force the farmers for distress sale, if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of crops

1835. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 23 crops every year; and

(b) if so, whether Government has made effort to procure each of the 23 crops on MSP, if so, the quantity of crops procured in the last five years, crop-wise and the percentage of the crops procured on MSP, out of the total crops procured in the country?

Package for sugar sector

1836. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the fourth time in the last five months, Government has approved incentives to help the cash-starved sugar mills to clear thousands of crore in arrears of payment to cane-growing farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has cleared ₹ 5538 crore package which includes higher production assistance to farmers as well as transport subsidies for mills trying to export sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of agricultural commodities by private players

1837. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to allow private agencies into procurement of agricultural commodities, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the basic features of new procurement policy of Government and how it would protect the interest of farmers; and

(c) the role of States in the new policy?

Online filing of complaints in consumer forums

1838. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for computerisation and networking of all consumer forums;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for online filing of e-complaints before consumer forums; and

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

Storage of foodgrains by FCI

1839. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India (FCI) faces immense problems regarding its storage capacity, espacially in Punjab State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of lack of storage, large amount of crops are wasted in Punjab and also in other States; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to undertake major reforms in the functioning of FCI?

Payment of arrears by mills to farmers

1840. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently the sugar mills owe farmers more than ₹ 13,000 crore in arrears, down from a peak of more than ₹ 22,000 crore in May, 2018;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of the previous subsidy announced in May, 2018 has been claimed by mills or paid to farmers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that of the ₹ 1,500 crore announced in May, 2018, nothing has been spent yet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Damage of rice, wheat and cereals due to flood in Kerala

1841. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of godowns containing rice, wheat and other cereals washed away during recent floods in the State of Kerala;

(b) the estimated quantum of rice and wheat washed away in the floods;

(c) whether fresh stock of rice has been released to the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Portabilities of PDS

1842. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce portability of Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the ration cards are seeded with Aadhaar cards; and

(c) if so, the details of ration cards seeded with Aadhaar and the number of bogus cards found, State-wise?

Supply of fake products by e-tailers

1843. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that one in five products sold by e-tailers is fake;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a survey conducted in this regard found that the e-tailers are selling fake products;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take action against these e-tailers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of maize under MSP

1844. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka requested for procuring maize

under MSP without linking it to its distribution under PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has considered the matter and given its approval for the same; and

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

Non-receipt of entitled ration

1845. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of eligible beneficiaries who did not receive entitled quantities of foodgrains under National Food Security Act and the number of people denied foodgrains due to failure of Aadhaar authentication since 2014, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which food security allowance was given since 2014, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the number of cases in which starvation deaths have occurred since 2014, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the number of families which received compensation in such cases?

Setting up of Aadhaar Seva Kendras

1846. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up Aadhaar Seva Kendras, covering 53 cities across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as many as four lakh people update their Aadhaar details every day, while enrolment stands at about one lakh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Consultations on Personal Data Protection Bill

1847. SHRI P. L. PUNIA:
SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU
SINGHVI:

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

(a) the status of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018;

(b) the details of submissions received by Ministry on the public consultation carried out on Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018;

(c) whether comments received through consultation have been made publicly available yet, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government intends to make these comments publicly available now, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether, other than public consultation, any external consultants/ advisors were hired to aid the drafting of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018; and

(f) if so, the details of such consultants including the fee payable to such consultants?

Action on complaints against service providers

1848. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints against the service providers for leaking personal information of customers to business promoters, campaigners and BPOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against this offensive trade practice; and

(c) whether Government has formulated any code for the protection of personal information by service providers and if so, the details thereof?

Authentication by Aadhaar e-KYC

1849. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar e-KYC can be used to authenticate beneficiaries of Government subsidies and welfare schemes while for other customers, physical Aadhaar card can be used for verification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Unique Identification Authority of India wrote to the banks clarifying the instances and modes in which Aadhaar can be used; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Hacking of social media accounts

1850. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked a social media portal to provide an update on the impact of the recent hacking incident on Indian users where about 50 million accounts on the social media portal were affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that hackers had exploited a vulnerability in the systems of the social media portal, impacting upto 50 million accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

e-Governance initiatives

1851. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the different e-Governance initiatives launched by Government in the last four years; and

(b) the impact of these initiatives in the context of ease of life in general?

IT for Masses

1852. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation and expenditure under the scheme 'IT for Masses' for 2015—17 State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any

targeted scheme for IT literacy among marginal and low income groups of society;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government has any proposal in this regard; and

(d) the details of rural population trained and certified under the scheme 'IT for Masses' for the period of 2015-17?

Access of digital services through Common Service Centres

†1853. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Common Service Centres have been established under the Digital India programme, which are access centres for providing various digital services to the villages and in the rural areas across the country, and which are contributing significantly in fulfilling the Government's commitment to ensure an inclusive society from financial point of view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether operating Common Service Centres are working successfully in various States as per set target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Restoration of Aadhaar enrolment and updation services

1854. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether village level entrepreneurs

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

are demanding Government to allow them to restart Aadhaar enrolment and updation services;

(b) if so, the response of Government;

(c) whether banks and BSNL units have been entrusted to offer Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of counters working for Aadhaar services in the country, at present; and

(e) the expenditure incurred by Government on behalf of these units offering Aadhaar services, in the last three years, year-wise?

Setting up of NBFC

1855. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to set up a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) dedicated for funding companies engaged in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed NBFC would be a private company, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

1856. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY);

(b) the details of the funds allocated, released and utilised under the scheme, so far, year-wise and State/UT-wise; and

(c) the details of selected projects and projects under implementation as part of PMKSY, so far, year-wise and State/UT-wise?

Wastage of foodgrains

1857. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is reportedly a wastage of foodgrains worth ₹ 92,000 crore every year due to lack of proper food processing and storage facilities;

(b) if so, measures Government is contemplating to address the same;

(c) the status of Operation Greens project, including the measures taken/to be taken, cost sharing among others;

(d) the details of subsidies that have been disbursed so far for transportation of TOP (Tomato, Onion, Potato) crops from production site to storage; and

(e) the details of storage facilities that have been hired along with the rent paid, cost sharing of the same, during last three years State-wise?

Agro-processing in rural areas

1858. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering that 57 per cent of farmers' income comes from sources not directly related to cultivation, especially in drought periods, the steps Government has taken to augment the sources of farmers' income;

(b) whether Government has an action plan on building agro-processing units in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Punjab;

(d) whether this action plan considers the PepsiCo Model in incentivising long-term contract farming for agro-processing;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of educational institutes for food industry

1859. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian-processed food industry accounts for 32 per cent of the country's total food market, 13 per cent of exports and will increase to over 40 per cent of overall intake by 2025—30;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that despite all above, presently there is very limited educational and research programme in management-oriented institutes on food industry; and

(c) if so, proposal of Government to set-up more viable industries, educational institutes and observation with compliance of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) standards with regard to safe and wholesome food for human consumption?

Poor infrastructure for agri-produce

1860. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export-related infrastructure for agri-produce is grossly inadequate, especially at sea ports and airports and more than 30 per cent of the produce from the fields gets spoilt due

to poor post-harvesting facilities and lack of adequate storage infrastructure; and

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

Implementation of NMFP

1861. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

(a) the details of the States where National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) has been implemented; and

(b) by when it would be implemented in all States of the country?

National Judicial Data Grid

†1862. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the figures of National Judicial Data Grid, a total of 2,75,07,972 cases are pending in district and subordinate courts in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the common man of the country is being deprived of justice due to shortage of Judges in courts, if so, who is responsible for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Representation of SC/ST Judges

1863. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC/ST lawyers

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

appointed in Attorney-General panels along with the details thereof;

(b) after the Collegium system came into force, how many Collegiums had representation of SC/ST Judges along with the details thereof; and

(c) the number of appointments made excluding SCs/STs on Collegium along with the details thereof?

Failure in filling vacancies in lower courts

1864. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for failure to fulfil vacancies of lower courts, which is standing at staggering 5000 plus, inspite of time-limit of 153 days for a two-tier recruitment process and 273 days for a three-tier process prescribed by the Supreme Court; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Legal aid for poor and rural areas

1865. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any efforts for providing legal aid to the poor and the people in rural areas of the country, particularly of Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has launched or is planning to launch digital and mobile courts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, particularly for Jharkhand and Gujarat, if any, and the country as a whole?

Appointment and remuneration of panel lawyers

1866. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and procedure for appointment of panel lawyers by legal services authorities at district and sub-divisional levels; and

(b) whether a standard remuneration is given to legal aid lawyers per case for Magistrate Courts, Sessions Courts and Special Courts; and

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

Focus area for reduction in pendency of court cases

1867. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of various initiatives taken by Government, it is unable to reduce the backlog of cases in Supreme Court, High Courts, various district courts and Tribunals in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has zeroed in on any core area(s) which needs much focus/attention to reduce the pendency of cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Impact assessment study of legal aid schemes

1868. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted an impact assessment study of the key legal

aid and employment schemes launched by Government, viz., the Pro Bono legal services, Nyaya Mitra and Tele Law schemes;

(b) if so, the results of the study; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not conducting such a study?

Separate courts for trying criminal cases against MPs and MLAs

1869. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases pending against sitting and ex-Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan; and

(b) whether separate courts for deciding those cases have been set up in these States and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacancies of Judicial Officers and pendency of cases in lower courts

1870. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in lower courts in each State along with the number of vacancies of Judicial Officers in each State;

(b) since when these vacancies have been lying vacant and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

Status of WAN project

1871. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Wide Area Network (WAN) project undertaken by e-Committee of Supreme Court;

(b) whether any district and subordinate Court complexes, located in hilly areas and other hostile terrains, have been left out under this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Loss of voter ID cards in Kerala floods

1872. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special arrangement has been made for the people of Kerala who have lost their voter identity cards in the recent floods; and

(b) whether duplicate voter identity cards would be issued to them, enabling them to cast votes in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections?

Allowing access to foreign law firms

1873. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the dismal working conditions prevailing in prominent law firms in the country;

(b) whether there are any laws regulating working hours in the legal sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government plans to allow foreign legal firms to access the Indian legal market by amending the Advocates Act; and

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

Proxy voting by NRIs

1874. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered NRI voters in the country;

(b) whether any deadline has been set for the registration process, State-wise list thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to allow proxy voting for NRIs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry has defined the process for proxy voting and when would the NRIs be allowed to vote using proxy voting?

Vacant posts of Judges in lower courts of Chhattisgarh

†1875. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in lower courts of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the process of filling up the posts is underway;

(c) if so, by when the process is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government is likely to take any measures to fill the vacant posts of Magistrates at the earliest, considering the large number of pending cases across the country, including in Chhattisgarh?

All India Judicial Services

1876. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any commission to bring all the State Judicial Services under one roof through All India Judicial Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of advance technology to prevent accidents

†1877. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the safety measures being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Ministry to prevent rail accidents at unmanned railway level crossings keeping in view the number of rail accidents;

(b) the type of advanced technology likely to be introduced by Government to prevent accidents and to enhance safety in railway operation and all sectors pertaining to infrastructure; and

(c) by when this advanced technology would be made operational?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Establishment of a bench of High Court of Allahabad at Meerut

1878. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to establish a bench of Allahabad High Court at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, keeping in view the large number of cases of people living in Western Uttar Pradesh, pending in Allahabad High Court and people are facing difficulty due to non-availability of a High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Meerut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail accidents due to fog

†1879. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents that has taken place due to fog or some other reason in last year;

(b) the amount of compensation paid by Government to the kins of persons who died in these accidents; and

(c) the immediate steps being taken by Government to prevent such accidents in future?

Construction works and passenger facilities at railway platforms of Madhya Pradesh

†1880. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the construction works under Zonal Railways regarding covering the railway platforms with sheds in Ujjain, Nagda, Khachrod,

Mahidpur Road, Vikramgarh, Alot, Suvasra, Chaumahla, Shamgarh, Tarana, Maksi, Shajapur, Bercha, Kalisingh, Akodiya, Shujalpur, Kala Peepal and extending the passenger facilities there during the last four years?

Delay in station redevelopment proposal

1881. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the redevelopment of 600 stations by Railways and proposal to extend lease from 45 years to 99 years has hit a hurdle as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has refused to take token payment for leasing out its land for the project; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to resolve this issue?

Introduction of stainless steel coaches

1882. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 80 per cent of railway coaches are old, outdated and unsafe;

(b) if so, whether Government is also planning to produce and introduce stainless steel coaches for better durability and safety;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has also fixed any time-frame for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Upgradation of Vallioor and Melapalayam in Thiruvananthapuram Division of Southern Railways

1883. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vallioor and Melapalayam stations would have stoppage of all express trains and upgradation of passenger amenities;

(b) whether these stations would have ticket booking facility;

(c) whether Tirunelveli station would become Divisional Headquarter; and

(d) whether Veeravanallur station will get ticket booking counter for Chennai-Tambaram direct trains?

Railway bridge in Manipur

1884. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway bridge in Manipur is going to be the tallest of such kind in the world, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the construction of the railway line is in full swing at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest projection of timeline for completion of the railway line up to Imphal?

Punctuality of trains

1885. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have seen one of its worst performance with regard to punctuality of trains;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to late running of trains, travel time is extended; and

(d) if so, whether Government would like to review the issue of running of all trains late and ensure timely arrival and departure of all trains?

Seating capacity at railway stations

1886. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seating capacity at railway platforms is inadequate as compared to the number of passengers, causing discomfort to the senior citizens, children, physically challenged persons; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider enhancing the seating capacity at railway stations all over the country, particularly at the platforms from where long-distance trains are operating?

Treatment to Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries in railway hospitals

1887. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to provide treatment to Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries in all railway hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways would add more facilities in its hospitals for treating Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funding for Sabari Railway project

1888. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appeal from Government of Kerala to bear 100 per cent of the cost of Sabari Railway project by Centre, is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether any decision regarding this is in the offing; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving nod to the appeal?

Crime against women in trains

1889. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of harassment, torture, etc. of women in long route trains have increased manifold;

(b) if so, the details of complaints registered during the last two years and the current year;

(c) the number of cases in which action was taken and the culprits were put behind bars; and

(d) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Railway Police to give relief to women passengers from harassment, snatching of gold jewellery, etc.?

Export of rail coaches to other countries

1890. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are working on an export policy which will allow coach factories to manufacture and export coaches to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have exported coaches to any of the foreign countries in the past;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of coaches exported and foreign exchange earned as a result thereof; and

(e) the potential markets Railways are looking at global level?

Railway projects in Maharashtra

1891. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of new railway lines laid during the tenure of the present Government, from 2014 till date in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of pending projects and ongoing projects in Maharashtra;

(c) the number of projects that are held up in Maharashtra due to scarcity of funds; and

(d) by when the pending projects in Maharashtra would be completed?

Setting-up of a sleeper factory in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh

†1892. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting-up of a sleeper factory in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh was declared in 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of work completed, so far, in this regard and the percentage of work completed thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Madurai-Tuticorin rail line

1893. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed the process of acquiring of land for new rail line project, Madurai-Tuticorin *via* Aruppukottai in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to complete the new rail line project of Madurai-Tuticorin *via* Aruppukottai;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Adarsh railway stations in Tamil Nadu

1894. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets for modernising railway stations under the 'Adarsh Station Scheme' have been met;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the additional facilities that have been provided at the stations indentified for the said scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu?

Redevelopment of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh

1895. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to redevelop any railway station in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has entered into an agreement with any authority/ organisation for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cancellation and delay of trains due to fog

†1896. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been completely successful in solving the problem of cancellation and delay of hundreds of trains due to fog every year, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this direction, so far, in order to deal with the said problems?

Modernisation of Railways

1897. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to modernise Railways;

(b) the number of trains running with modern coaches;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bio-toilets attached in trains are not in usable condition in most of the trains;

(d) whether Government is moving forward with the privatisation of different sections of Railways; and

(e) the number of stations in the country handed over to private players?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Special allocation for railway infrastructure development in Tamil Nadu

1898. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any special allocation for development of railway infrastructure in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated under various heads in the last four years, head-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether Government has any plans for the commercial utilisation of railway land and if so, the details thereof?

Vacant SC/ST posts in Railways

1899. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for SC/ST and OBCs which are vacant, as on date;

(b) the reasons for not filling these posts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to fillup these vacancies?

Improvement in punctuality of trains

1900. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is improvement in the punctuality of trains due to recent initiatives taken by Government; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has identified possible reasons for delay in running of trains, if so, the details thereof?

Death of wild animals in train accidents

1901. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of wild and other animals, especially elephants, that get killed in train accidents, has increased substantially, if so, the details of such animals killed during the last four years; and

(b) whether the officials of Railways have worked out an action plan to curb such deaths?

Construction of railway from Lohardaga to Gumala

†1902. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for constructing railway line from Lohardaga to Gumala (Manjhatoli border of Chhattisgarh) in Jharkhand is under consideration; and

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration to include this line in the next railway budget?

Completion of doubling of railway lines in Bihar

†1903. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approval for the doubling of railway line from Hajipur to Ramdayalu in Muzaffarnagar and from Samastipur to Darbhanga was given in 2013-14;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any possibility of doubling work of this line being completed within its time-limit and if so, by when the task of laying the double line would be completed?

Black box facility in Railways

1904. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce black boxes in the railway trains, in line with planes to know the reasons leading to train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this will come into force?

Status of railway projects in Punjab

1905. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of sanctioned and ongoing rail projects in the State of Punjab along with the status of each project?

Raising boundary walls along rail tracks to prevent accidents

1906. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to raise boundary walls at accident-prone spots along the rail tracks to prevent people from crossing illegally;

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

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to conduct awareness drive on regular basis in this regard?

Allotment of retail outlet/kiosk/land/office space units at railway stations

1907. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of agencies like private companies, cooperatives, trusts, societies (NGOs), individuals etc. to whom retail outlet/kiosk/land/office space units have been allotted at each railway station;

(b) the annual turnover of each of these agencies during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 and the revenue received by the Indian Railways on these turnovers;

(c) the number of such agencies owned by the members of OBC/SC/ST categories and their annual turnover during these years; and

(d) the date and year of these allotments and guidelines for reservation?

Appointment of Chief Crew Controller

†1908. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifications prescribed for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

appointment of Chief Crew Controller on deputation basis in diesel lobbies of Railways;

(b) the total number of diesel lobbies in North-Eastern Railway and the number of lobbies in which loco pilots and loco inspectors have been posted on deputation basis; and

(c) the tenure of Chief Crew Controllers and Drafted Crew Controller, in years?

Expenditure under Corporate Social Responsibility by Railways

1909. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Railways and other PSUs under the Ministry in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of amount spent by various sponsoring Entities, corporate-wise and the detailed works undertaken in the Railways like cleanliness and sanitation of stations, provision of passenger amenities etc., especially in the Northern Railways; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to encourage sponsoring entities to undertake more CSR activities for the welfare of railway passengers?

Sanctioned strength of GRP in Karnataka

1910. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY:
SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that sanctioned strength of Government Railway Police (GRP) in Karnataka is 900 since 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been demands from various quarters to increase the sanctioned strength for proper maintenance of law and order, prevention and detection of crime and safety of passengers;

(c) whether Ministry has consulted the concerned Railway Zones in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the same; and

(e) by when the Ministry will give the final go ahead and revise the sanctioned strength of GRP as per the existing requirements?

Expertise of vigilance Directorate of Railways in dealing with cyber crimes

1911. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vigilance Directorate of Railways does not have requisite expertise to deal with cyber crimes;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to provide necessary

infrastructure and expertise to Vigilance Directorate in order to enable them to effectively deal with cyber crimes and software manipulation, e-tendering and e-auction system of Railways and to make them foolproof?

Non-competitive freight rates

1912. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways' freight rates are already higher than those of other modes of transport for several commodities, thereby losing out on automobile and Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCGs) markets which are preferring roads;

(b) whether the share of Railways in the total freight traffic has declined from 83 per cent in 1950-51 to 30 per cent in 2011-12 and is limited to bulk commodities and is heavily dependent on coal transportation; and

(c) whether NITI Aayog noted in 2016 that Railways end up using profits from its freight business to provide for losses in passenger segment with cross-subsidisation, resulting in high freight tariffs?

Constitution of Peninsular Railway Zone

1913. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways is considering the long-pending demand for Peninsular Railway Zone in Kerala by carving out Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad divisions from Southern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any decision regarding this is in the offing; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving nod for this long-standing demand?

Disposable pillow covers

1914. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to introduce new disposable pillow covers and napkins to improve passenger amenities and hygiene standards in trains;

(b) whether a CAG report mentioned that unhygienic condition of blankets, used by several railway passengers during their train journey, was caused because of not washing them for up to six months, even though the directive is to wash them every one or two months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to enhance passenger amenities as well as cleanliness?

Ashram for separated children

†1915. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Ashram for separated children on different railway stations;

(b) if so, the cities and States where such Ashrams would be established, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities that would be provided in these Ashrams; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reassessment of old growth rate figures

†1916. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has conducted the reassessment of growth figures under the previous Government and the said assessment has indicated lower growth rate than what the erstwhile Government had shown;

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

(c) the details of methods adopted in re-evaluating the revised growth rate figures of the previous Government and details of the transparency ensured in this regard; and

(d) the years for which the said reassessment has been conducted, along with the details thereof, year-wise?

Revision in norms for GDP data

1917. SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms for GDP data have been revised through a new series introduced in 2015 by the Government agency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any criticism on the revision has been made alleging that it was done to make the GDP growth a rosy picture; and

(d) if so, whether Government would revert back to the time-tested old series norms?

National Indicator Framework on Sustainable Development Goals

1918. SHRIMATI ROOPA
GANGULY:
DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has constituted a High Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any direct financial implication on implementation of the National Indicator Framework, if not, how respective Ministries are expected to align and strengthen their data systems to facilitate monitoring on the SDG indicators?

Utilisation of MPLADS funds

1919. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPLADS funds can be utilised by MPs for repairing identified black spots in their constituencies;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of all such instances where MPLADS funds have been utilised for repairing black spots; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Ministry would consider making such a provision?

Survey on PM Schemes

1920. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey on Prime Minister Schemes, introduced since 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the PM Schemes have not achieved desired results due to poor funding; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd December, 2018
Pausha 1, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1813, 1834, 1835, 1858,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	1801, 1802, 1803,
Coal	:	1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810,
Communications	:	1811, 1812, 1814, 1815, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	1816, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854,
Food Processing Industries	:	1855, 1856, 1857, 1859, 1860, 1861,
Law and Justice	:	1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1878,
Railways	:	1877, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915,
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920.