

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, January 4, 2019/Pausha 14, 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

Procurement of crops under MSP

2561. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study or has any statistics about the quantity of his produce a farmer is selling on MSP and how much through middlemen and through distress sale;

(b) the manner in which Government is planning to avoid middlemen and implement schemes/programmes to buy produce from farmers directly;

(c) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has recommended to procure farm produce directly from farmers;

(d) if so, the action Government has taken on the above recommendation; and

(e) whether any consultations have been

held with States in this regard, and if so, the outcome of the same?

Merger of CMFRI, Mumbai Research Centre with CIFE

2562. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is likely to be merged with Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a plan to merge CMFRI, Mumbai Research Centre with any other institute;

(c) whether this merger may hamper its current function of providing research support to fishermen and coastal

communities of the State, if so, the details thereof; and the reasons for the proposed merger;

(d) whether fishermen of Maharashtra have opposed the merger; and

(e) if so, how the Ministry would address their concerns?

Benefits to farmers under crop insurance policy

2563. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been benefitted through the crop insurance policy in the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there have been instances of farmers giving up their crop insurance;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to promote the scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether crop insurance would be considered under doubling farmers' income scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Selection of insurer organisations under PMFBY

2564. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of all private and public sector banks and other such organisations, enrolled as insurers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) the criteria to select and vet the organisations listed under PMFBY; and

(c) the manner in which a farmer selects the organisation/insurance company to avail

the insurance facility under the PMFBY?

Registration of farmers under e-NAM

2565. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for compulsory registration of all the farmers on electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to sell their produces without any middleman and to increase the number of regulated mandis under e-NAM platform in various States of the country, including West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the approximate number of farmers expected to be benefitted by expansion of the programme and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Development of agriculture in Tamil Nadu

2566. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to allocate funds for the development of agriculture and agro products in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government provides adequate research and development facilities to ICAR and its related departments in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount disbursed till date by the Centre, year-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to increase the income of farmers in Tamil Nadu?

Implementation of recommendations of NCF

2567. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations made by the National Commission for Farmers (NCF);

(b) the status of implementation of these recommendations;

(c) whether farmers are still facing problems despite the follow-up action taken by various stakeholders on the recommendations of the Commission;

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

(e) the comprehensive measures taken by Government to address the various problems faced by the farmers?

Insurance claims under PMFBY in Odisha

2568. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of farmers in Odisha covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) since its inception, Rabi and Kharif season-wise;

(b) the details of total claim made by the farmers, claims approved and claims paid under PMFBY during the aforesaid period in Odisha;

(c) the average delay in settlement/ payment of claims to the affected farmers in Odisha; and

(d) whether Government has taken some steps and remedial measures to reduce the delay, if so, the details thereof?

Integration of Mandis with e-NAM

2569. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wholesale markets/ Mandis integrated with the e-market (e-NAM) platform, State-wise; and

(b) the reason and concerns expressed by States who have not joined the platform and the steps taken by the Central Government to address them?

Amendment to Seeds Act

2570. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has embarked on amendment of the Seeds Act with a view to safeguard the farmers from duplicate seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the changes being included in the list of amendments and sops being given to the farmers in this regard?

Incorporation of Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd.

2571. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board and its subsidiary companies had arranged for incorporation of Bapudham Milk Producer Company Ltd. on 12 April, 2017 in Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar; and

(b) whether within less than 3.5 months of its incorporation, the National Dairy Development Board sanctioned an amount of ₹ 33.39 crore to the said milk producing company, including Central Government grants under the National Dairy Plan (NDP) scheme amounting ₹ 22.28 crore and subject to the condition that the said company will contribute ₹ 11.7 crore, if so, the details thereof?

Investment in agricultural research

2572. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agricultural research would help to reduce dependency on imports and add to the export capacity of the country;

(b) whether Government has designed an action plan to attract investment in agricultural research; and

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

Cloud seeding experiments

2573. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 2006, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, then President of India had suggested to carry out cloud seeding experiments for 5 years to tackle drought; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the experiments so far?

Promotion of vocational education in agriculture

2574. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to promote vocational education in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dependency on imported fertilizers

2575. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep rise in the prices of fertilizer during the last two years which had adversely affected the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India is overwhelmingly dependent on import of fertilizer to meet the requirement of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to explore innovative ways to increase self-reliance?

Strategy for tackling impact of delayed monsoon

†2576. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternative strategy for crops has been formulated for the States, affected by the delayed monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the income of the farmers through other methods?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Proposals of Government of Gujarat
for dairy development**

†2577. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted proposals regarding dairy development schemes with regard to districts of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the abovesaid schemes, scheme-wise and the results thereof?

**Research on traditional agricultural
produces**

†2578. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to safeguard and promote the traditional agricultural produces in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to promote research work to improve existing local varieties of agricultural produces and seeds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

**Procurement of soyabean, groundnut,
pulses and oil seeds**

2579. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given the target for procurement of soyabean, groundnut, pulses and oil seeds for the Kharif season this year, if so, the minimum support price for these crops; and

(b) the expected production, and out of that, how much quantity of these crops has been procured by National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)?

**Exodus of farmers from drought hit
Maharashtra**

2580. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is exodus of farmers from drought hit parched villages of Maharashtra whose Rabi crop is severely hit and farmers are migrating for jobs abandoning their livestock and homes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to prevent the exodus of farmers by providing necessary relief and rehabilitation measures to them on war footing?

Suicide rate of farmers

2581. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are still facing huge problems across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of farmers who committed suicide during the past six years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any State in the country where State's new policy on waiving farmer loan has resulted in lower suicide rate of farmers; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Jobs in agriculture sector

2582. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed that jobs in agriculture and allied sector have reportedly declined during past four years;

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

(c) the details of number of jobs created during 2014-15 to 2017-18 in agriculture sector?

Damage of coconut crops in Tamil Nadu

2583. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government deputed any officials/experts from Coconut Development Board to delta districts of Tamil Nadu to help or assist farmers particularly coconut growers whose crops and coconut trees were severely damaged in recent Gaja Cyclone; and

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

Production of oilseeds in the country

†2584. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from where Government imports edible oils and oilseeds and amount spent on it;

(b) whether there is any plan of Government to reduce such imports and to produce more oilseeds in the country itself; and

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

Area under cultivation of paddy in Kerala

2585. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under paddy cultivation in the State of Kerala is decreasing every year;

(b) if so, the area decreased during each of the last three years and the reasons for the decrease; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

2586. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sent any Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to Andhra Pradesh to assess the extent of damage in 9 districts covering 347 mandals which were declared drought hit during 2018 Kharif season;

(b) whether Government has received any report from the Central Team in this regard; and

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

Practical solution for agrarian distress

2587. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agriculture is

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

confronted with high price volatility, climate risks and indebtedness, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the farmer's welfare/ supporting programmes and schemes are disjointed and function independently of each other, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any practical solution for reviving the agrarian sector which would reduce the agrarian distress, if so, the details thereof?

Role of States in implementation of PMFBY

2588. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments play important role in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the role of State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in finalising insurance companies for clusters, payment of premium subsidy, crop cutting experiments, submission of data of crop yield to insurance company, etc.;

(c) the details of premium paid to insurance companies since inception of scheme in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, State-wise and Kharif and Rabi crop-wise; and

(d) the planning of Ministry for more effective implementation of scheme and to bring States on board, since they are the implementing agencies?

Agriculture policy

†2589. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agriculture policy of the country and if there is no policy, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether farmers do not get the proper prices for their produce due to absence of agriculture policy;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the farmers and their produce from the middlemen of the market?

Non-calling of AGM by Board of Kendriya Bhandar

2590. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) is aware of the fact that the Board of Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar) has failed to convene annual general meeting (AGM) under Section 39 of Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 within six months of the closure of the accounting year 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by CRCS as per the provisions of Section 39(2) and 43(2)(b) of MSCS Act, 2002; and

(c) the details of letters received by CRCS from MPs during the month of December, 2018 along with action taken on each letter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Construction of cold storages in Bihar

†2591. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of cold storages have been constructed by Government for the conservation of vegetables and fruits;

(b) whether outline of the plan has been formulated for the expansion of cold chain in rural areas of the country;

(c) whether the facility of cold storage has been provided by Government for farmers of Bihar for conservation of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) if so, the names of the districts of Bihar wherein Government has constructed the cold storage?

Failure of genetical engineered Bt. Cotton

2592. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that genetically engineered Bt. Cotton has failed in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has failed as a sustainable agriculture technology and therefore also failed to provide livelihood security for cotton growing farmers who are mainly resource poor, small and marginal farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Utilization of funds under MIS

2593. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

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

(a) the details of fund allocated, released and spent during 2017-18 and 2018-19 till 31st December, 2018 under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether onion, tomato and potato produced in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are covered under Market Intervention Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of procurement under this scheme, State-wise during the current year and last year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Creation of Credit Guarantee Trust for Agriculture

2594. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government of Odisha for creation of Credit Guarantee Trust for Agriculture (CGTA), submitted to Hon'ble Prime Minister *vide* DO Letter No. Um-1/2018-CM dated 16 June, 2018 of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha has been processed by the Ministry of Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the present status of the above proposal?

Procurement of pulses and oilseeds

2595. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procurement of pulses and oilseeds by Government during the last four years; and how does this procurement compare with the previous corresponding period; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of proposed procurement of pulses and oilseeds under the new scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan?

Fall in sale prices of onions

2596. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prices of onion in Tadepalligudem market have fallen to as low as ₹ 1 recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that if farmers gets price between ₹ 10 and ₹18 only then it becomes remunerative for them;

(c) if so, whether Government has thought of buying onions from farmers of Andhra Pradesh under Market Intervention Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Rashtriya Gokul Mission

2597. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government implements Rashtriya Gokul Mission in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the projects approved/implemented in various States, since inception of the Mission, State-wise/project-wise?

Diversion of funds for Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation (BGTRR)

2598. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 7 years only ₹ 129.50 crore was utilised out of the ₹ 272.75 crore allocated by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation (BGTRR)

(b) whether it is also a fact that ₹ 85.87 crore was diverted from the remaining ₹ 143.25 crore to construct roads, parks and drains; and

(c) if so, the reasons why the Ministry agreed to divert the funds meant for the rehabilitation of gas hit survivors to other purposes on March 23, 2018?

Import of fertilizers

2599. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is importing fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the policy of Government for import of fertilizers;

(c) the quantum and value of fertilizers imported along with the names of importing companies and the countries from which these fertilizers were imported during each of the last three years and current year, fertilizer-wise;

(d) the monitoring mechanism put in place to check quality of fertilizers being imported by the said companies; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

Impact of PMBJP

2600. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana since its inception; and

(b) whether there have been any modifications in the scheme since its inception?

Problems of Pharmaceutical industry

2601. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pharmaceutical industry is facing problems like procurement issue, unpredictability in drug pricing, difference in stand taken by NPPA and Department of Pharmaceutical, etc.; and

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

Overhauling drug pricing policy and dismantling NPPA

2602. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to overhaul the drug pricing policy and ease regulatory framework to facilitate smooth business environment for pharmaceutical companies;

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

(c) whether Government has decided to dismantle the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has established any other agency for issuing licences and approval of new drugs and if so, the details thereof?

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras in Himachal Pradesh

2603. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras functioning in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open new Janaushadhi Kendras in the Himachal Pradesh under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the number of such Kendras proposed to be opened in Himachal Pradesh, location-wise; and

(d) the efforts made to set up the said Kendras at the earliest?

Pending fertilizer subsidy payment

2604. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of fertilizer subsidy is pending for payment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when and the manner in which this backlog payments can be cleared?

Measures to ensure availability of quality medicines at affordable price

2605. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking

measures to ensure that quality medicines are available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has opened sufficient number of Jan Aushadi Kendras in all the hospitals;

(c) if so, the number of outlets of Jan Aushadi Medical Stores opened during the last three years, State-wise and district wise; and

(d) whether Government has received any complaints regarding Jan Aushadi Kendras and its unavailability at so many places?

Delay in pricing process of new drugs

2606. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present practice of deciding price for new drugs is causing delay in launch of the new drugs in the market by the manufacturer; and

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

(c) the course of action for expeditious pricing of new drugs as it is the main driver of growth of the industry and provides scope for innovation?

Pricing of essential medicines

2607. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

(a) the details of the methodology adopted to fix the prices of essential medicines;

(b) the likely impact on the prices of essential medicines due to the new drug policy;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure that doctors in private clinics are prescribing medicines from the National List of Essential Medicines;

(d) whether Government has taken steps to implement the Supreme Court directive to stick to cost-based pricing formula; and

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

Sale of unapproved fixed dose combinations

2608. SHRI SAMIR ORAON:
SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of unapproved fixed dose combinations (FDCs) in the Indian markets has been rampant and unchecked, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has banned any FDCs for being unsafe to the public, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure effective and robust post-marketing surveillance programmes of manufacturers of FDCs?

Assessment of the achievements of PCPIRs

2609. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up

Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs);

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government has made an assessment of the achievements of PCPIRs and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government proposes to make any changes in the policy governing PCPIRs, if so, the details thereof?

Certification of fertilizers

2610. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present system of certifying new fertilizers is time consuming;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to establish a Fertilizer Development and Regulating Authority to ensure efficient certification; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of Government's plan to streamline the process of certification, quality checks, innovations, and fixing prices of fertilizers?

Revival of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)

2611. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any financial support to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last 10 years;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government for revival of the Fertilizers

and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kerala; and

(d) the steps taken by Government regarding land monetisation of FACT?

Mining below the Dhanbad-Chandrapura railway line

2612. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved mining plan prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDIL) for mining below the Dhanbad-Chandrapura railway line (DC line) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry of Coal has asked Ministry of Railways to immediately handover the DC line for erecting the excavation projects at the earliest and if so, the details thereof along with their reaction;

(c) whether the National Remote Sensing Centre identified 42 spots which are strongly affected by the underground fire in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with steps taken by Government in this regard?

Independent body for resolution of disputes

2613. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether to resolve disputes and decide penalty in matters related to coal mines auctioned/allotted under Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015, the High Power Expert Committee (HPEC) had recommended that an independent body of external monitors from diverse fields such as mining, law and administration be entrusted with the task;

(b) whether HPEC had also recommended that decisions of the independent body of monitors would be binding on the nominated authority implementing such decisions;

(c) whether Government has decided not to form an independent body to resolve issues as recommended by HPEC; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Total production of coal

2614. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total coal production in the country for the last five years;

(b) the demand of coal during the same period; and

(c) whether there is any dependency on import of coal, if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

Import of coking coal

2615. SHRIN. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coking coal comprises 21 per cent of the country's coal import and that cannot be controlled due to unavailability of the product in the country;

(b) whether 15 per cent of coal is imported by power plants because of the design, which only permits to operate on imported coal with low-ash content;

(c) whether in the April-November, 2018 period, the total coal production in the country was 434 million tonnes, which was 9.8 per cent higher than the corresponding period last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha

†2616. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether new coal mines have been allocated to private or public sector in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha during the last four years; and

(b) if so, the new coal mines for which mining has been permitted and by when the production in these coal mines is likely to be started along with the details thereof, State-wise?

Internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats

2617. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been planned to connect every Gram Panchayat of the country with the internet service;

(b) if so, the State-wise details including Haryana, Punjab and West Bengal, at present;

(c) by when all the Gram Panchayats would be connected with internet;

(d) whether it is a fact that internet does not work smoothly in Gram Panchayats already connected with the internet;

(e) whether Government has prepared any work plan for its monitoring; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of internet shutdowns

2618. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the data as regards the internet

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

shutdowns issued by the Central or State Governments in the previous three years, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has recorded the impact of such internet shutdowns on the social, economic and political environment of the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any necessary steps to provide relief to the people suffering from internet shutdowns in the respective States?

Post office savings accounts

2619. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices and the number of post office savings accounts across the country, State-wise, including Kerala;

(b) the total amount of money deposited in the post office savings accounts, State-wise, including Kerala;

(c) the amount of money remaining unclaimed in these post offices, State-wise, along with the measures taken to utilise the unclaimed money;

(d) the status of the digital banking services for post offices proposed by Government; and

(e) the details of the other services being provided/proposed to such account holders?

Set of stamps and first-day covers

2620. DR. SONAL MANSINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to release stamps and first-day covers of twelve great women classical dancers; and

(b) whether there is any provision to release set of stamps of two women artists, each from folk theatre, folk and folk music forms?

Services offered by post offices

2621. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the services offered by post offices have deteriorated due to shortfall in staff strength;

(b) if so, the details of staff in post offices, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct any special drive to fill-up the existing vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed by Government to arrest deteriorating services in post offices across the country?

Introduction of 5G network

2622. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that introduction of 5G network in the country is taking time due to objections from telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when 5G spectrum would be available in the country?

Broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

2623. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that broadband connectivity has not been completed in all Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of GPs connected through broadband and number of GPs to be connected, district-wise; and

(d) the number of Wi-Fi hotspots provided in GPs of both States?

Support to BSNL and MTNL

2624. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private telecom players are getting the 4G spectrum licenses while the same is denied to the BSNL;

(b) whether Government has given any assurance to allocate the 4G license to BSNL in order to make it more competitive;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate support to BSNL and MTNL to facilitate them to compete with the private players in telecom sector?

4G spectrum for BSNL

2625. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL;

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

(c) the policies, financial assistance and timely expansion of service that Government had undertaken in the last four years to ensure the growth of State-owned telecom company, BSNL?

Processing of mobile number portability

2626. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has proposed processing of mobile number portability request through MNP service provider, instead of telecom operator;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this would curb rejection of subscriber requests to change their network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting aside of TRAI regulation

2627. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal has set aside a regulation brought by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India which prohibited incumbent operators from providing segmented offers to their high Arpu (average revenue per user) subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said tribunal has also struck down the definition of predatory pricing which the regulator had brought through the same regulation, which prevented operators having 30 per cent or

more subscriber and revenue market share, from providing below cost tariff but newer operators were free to offer such tariff till they reached the threshold mark?

Fixing of spectrum usage charge

2628. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had recommended fixing a flat spectrum usage charge for operators at three per cent of their adjusted gross revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the panel of Department of Telecommunications has rejected the said proposal of the TRAI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of 5G spectrum

2629. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to roll out 5G telecom services;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for allocation of 5G spectrum to telecom players;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is considering to delay rolling out of 5G services in view of precarious financial position of telecom companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Postal Life Insurance policies

2630. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Postal Life Insurance (PLI) policies have lapsed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether efforts have been made by Government during last three years to inculcate awareness amongst people regarding procedure and guidelines required to have them reinstated, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) the details of procedure and guidelines required to have PLI policies reinstated;

(d) whether Government would simplify reinstatement procedure so that people do not face harassment in having them reinstated; and

(e) whether Government would make renewed efforts in this regard, including extending grace period for renewal of lapsed policies?

Renaming of Telecom Commission

2631. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to rename the Telecom Commission as "Digital Communications Commission";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Amendment of norms for Interconnection Usage Charge

2632. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposes to amend the norms on Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI has sought views and comments from the telecom industry on the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by TRAI in this regard?

Decline in spectrum usage charge

2633. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) is declining as the tariff war has led to declining of industry's revenue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in financial year 2018, the industry's AGR stood at ₹ 155,680 crore against ₹ 190,658 crore in financial year 2017; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result, Government's revenue from licence fee got reduced to ₹ 112,976 crore from ₹ 15,975 crore and similarly, SUC got reduced to ₹ 5,089 crore from ₹ 7,574 crore a year earlier?

Levies on telecom sector

2634. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to rationalise the levies imposed on the telecom sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the industry has been demanding lower taxes and levies, which add upto about 30 per cent of the revenues;

(c) whether it is also a fact that industry debt is pegged at over ₹ 7 lakh crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Testing of telecom products and equipment

2635. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has started a facility for testing telecom products and equipment to ensure security in digital communications at the national level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this facility would work for security from the national perspective and also facilitate the development of testing and certification eco-system in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Internet telephony

2636. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce internet telephony system in the country and if so, the details and the benefits thereof;

(b) whether the said facility would be available in flights and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecom operators would charge more than the usual for such services and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a consumer has to change SIM card/mobile number to activate the said services and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely benefit the customers would get from this new service and the cost involved therein?

e-commerce site of India Post

2637. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post launched its own e-commerce website to help sellers, particularly rural artisans and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to sell their products across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the small and local sellers, who have been left behind in e-commerce space, would now be able to maximize their reach and retailing power by leveraging the vast physical and IT network of the Department of Posts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Call drop rate

2638. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;

(b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis and the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;

(d) whether Government has allowed the installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and

(e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

Issue of call drops

2639. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the report by TRAI which includes call drop benchmark test for telecom companies, including Vodafone, Idea, Airtel, Jio, amongst others;

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce the rampant call drops taking place;

(c) whether the Ministry has held discussions with the telecom companies regarding this issue and if so, the details and consequences thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry is in process of issuing guidelines on this issue; and

(e) whether any fines have been collected by the Ministry/Regulator from the telecom companies for this issue and if so, the details thereof?

Advice received from CVC in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone

2640. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1986 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3 August, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Government has received the advice from CVC regarding ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract along with purchase of hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the findings thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay;

(d) whether Government has filed FIR in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Digital Communications Policy

2641. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the draft National Digital Communications Policy would be finalised and put in force;

(b) whether the interests of consumers and unfair competition between service providers would be taken care of in the new telecom policy;

(c) whether internet telephony system for in-flight connectivity would be allowed in airlines, for passengers to communicate; and

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

Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017

2642. DR. ABHISHEK MANU
SINGHVI:
SHRI PARTAP SINGH
BAJWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data of internet shutdowns issued under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017;

(b) whether the Ministry conducted any public or stakeholder consultations prior

to the finalising and publication of these Rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including comments and suggestions received by the Ministry and action taken therein;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether these Rules are different from earlier rules or laws under which internet services could be suspended, if so, the details thereof?

Details of internet shutdowns

2643. SHRI PARTAP SINGH
BAJWA:
SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry maintains records of details pertaining to suspension of internet services in the country during law and order situations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any necessary steps to ensure that people have access to emergency communication services during internet shutdowns, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Internet users in the country

2644. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the second highest user of internet in the world;

(b) if so, whether the people of the country prefer mobiles than Wi-Fi to access internet data therein;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide free data with every recharge of sim card; and

(d) the proposal details of TRAI on price fixing and data usage and control over mobile connection thereof?

Charging of service tax

2645. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that despite GST, service tax is still charged by many businessmen, especially in restaurants;

(b) whether this is allowed under the law;

(c) whether Government has any plan for addressing customers' grievances on service charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Mandatory testing of purity of gold

2646. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of non-Hallmarked gold/ornaments is banned in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would make testing machine for checking the purity of gold, mandatory in jewellery shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any measures to fix the gold rate as one nation, one rate in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Food Security Act in Kerala

2647. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) across the country, including the State of Kerala; and

(b) the details of budget allocated, sanctioned and spent for various schemes under NFSA in the State of Kerala?

Pilferage of PDS ration

2648. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints on pilferage of PDS ration items through fraudulent PoS transactions;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh has registered over two lakh cases of such fraudulent transactions;

(c) if so, the details of cases registered therein; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

Banning of telecom gear

2649. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered banning of telecom gear and equipment made by Huawei in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the use of telecom gear and equipment made by Huawei can compromise national security, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted its own due diligence for determining the security threats posed by equipment made by Huawei, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government has planned any security testing specifications?

Exploitation of farmers by procurement agencies

2650. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that personnel of Government procurement agencies in various mandis of the country, in connivance with private traders, reject the produce of the farmers who bring it to mandis for sale, on one pretext or the other thereby forcing the poor farmers to sell their produce at throwaway prices to the private traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take against such corrupt personnel and save the farmers from being exploited?

Rotting of foodgrains

†2651. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the matter of rotting of a large quantity of foodgrains owing to drench caused by rain has come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to enquire about reasons of rotting of foodgrains; and

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

Option to exit from Aadhaar

2652. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

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

(a) whether UIDAI has received requests for opting-out of Aadhaar scheme, post Supreme Court judgement on Aadhaar, if so, action taken thereon;

(b) whether UIDAI has created an option to exit from Aadhaar scheme, if not, when would it allow such an option as per the judgement, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether UIDAI has prepared plans to delete all Aadhaar data with banks and telecoms under the judgement and details thereof; and

(d) whether UIDAI has stopped use of Aadhaar Based Attendance System to comply with the judgement, to use Aadhaar only for subsidies, if not, reasons therefor?

Internet censorship

2653. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make provisions and amendment to the Act for internet censorship;

(b) whether Government has formulated any law with regard to mobile applications, with special emphasis on adult contents apps and gambling apps; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

My Stamp scheme

2654. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the postage stamps printed under My Stamp scheme so far;

(b) the details of the revenue earned through these postage stamps under the scheme so far, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received cases of misuse of the My Stamp scheme by individuals/entities so far, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of action taken against the above; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to prevent misuse of the My Stamp scheme?

Constitution of Committees on Artificial Intelligence

2655. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Committees constituted in order to create a policy framework and develop Artificial Intelligence in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including composition of these Committees, the number of meetings and the outcomes of these meetings, Committee-wise; and

(c) whether public consultation has been done by these Committees before publishing any policy framework and if so, the details thereof?

Consultants hired by UIDAI

2656. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether consultants were hired for drafting the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and Regulations under the Aadhaar Act and if so, the details of each consultant and the fees paid to each; and

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

Law for data protection

2657. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no law at present for data protection;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enact legislation for data protection;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry constituted a Committee in this regard and the Committee has also submitted its report; and

(f) if so, the recommendations of the Committee and how these recommendations impact Supreme Court's judgement in Aadhaar case?

Curb on dissemination of objectionable videos and contents

†2658. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to prevent dissemination of objectionable videos and contents to the public through the mediums of communication *via* internet;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to gauge the extent of objectionable contents reaching the public through the mediums of communication *via* internet and its ill-effects; and

(c) the details of policy to put a curb on the objectionable contents?

New schemes to boost FPIs

2659. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to start new schemes to boost the Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from various States including Jharkhand and Gujarat for the implementation of various food processing projects and changes in food processing schemes;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(e) whether a number of proposals for setting up of FPIs are pending with the Government and if so, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of FPI in Bihar

†2660. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish Food Processing Industry in backward States like Bihar to promote Food Processing Industry; and

(b) if so, the areas of Bihar which have been identified by the Central Government for the purpose for the current financial year?

Excess production of potatoes

2661. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of the country are facing problem due to excess production of their produce, such as potatoes etc. as farmers are forced to sell their produce at lower prices and thus suffering loss in every produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken to protect the farmers and their produces to overcome their persisting problems?

Establishing micro and small scale processing units in the country

2662. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to provide 100 per cent grant to establish micro and small scale processing units in the country;

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

(c) the details of the scheme/guidelines and funding pattern thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Research and development in FPIs

2663. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken research and development projects for development of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(d) the number of ongoing food processing projects in the country and the action taken for timely completion of these projects;

(e) whether India is processing its food only around 15 per cent as compared to 70-80 per cent in advanced countries; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made to increase processing capacity from 15 per cent to atleast 25 per cent by 2020?

Allocation of funds to Andhra Pradesh for food processing schemes

2664. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated/granted to Andhra Pradesh under various food processing schemes during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds released to Andhra Pradesh under such schemes during the last three years;

(c) the details of funds yet to be released;

(d) whether the fund released is sufficient to achieve the desired objectives; and

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

FDI under PMKSY

†2665. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in food processing sector under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY);

(b) if so, the details of the foreign investors who have expressed their interest in it and the sectors wherein they are interested to invest;

(c) the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Government and foreign investors, along with the total amount of investment; and

(d) the benefits likely to be availed by the farmers through such investments and the number of jobs likely to be created in next few years?

Proposal to issue Notary licences

2666. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to issue Notary licences in near future;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard, UT and State-wise;

(c) the details about the final result to be declared so far; and

(d) the details about the time-frame for the completion of the process?

Evening courts

2667. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the States in which evening courts are functioning at present;

(b) the impact created by these courts so far;

(c) whether there are plans to promote evening courts in other States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Judicial performance evaluation of Judges

2668. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system for judicial performance evaluation of the Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate judiciary in the country;

(b) if so, the mechanism by which this performance evaluation is conducted;

(c) whether the National Court Management Systems Committee has been constituted and has given recommendations in this regard; and

(d) if not, whether the Ministry is planning to put in place a judicial performance evaluation system for Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate judiciary and if so, the details of the system and if not, the reasons therefor?

Repeal of obsolete laws

2669. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified as to how many laws have become irrelevant and obsolete;

(b) the number of such obsolete laws

which have already been repealed and the number of other laws which Government proposes to repeal; and

(c) whether the Law Commission proposed any measure to identify laws that are no longer relevant, aiming to make Indian legal system more contemporary, if so, the details thereof?

Pendency in High Courts

†2670. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a total 43,54,021 number of cases are pending in High Courts of the country, as per National Judicial Data Grid;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether shortage of Judges in the courts of the country deprives common man of justice and if so, the authority responsible for this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Telecast of live proceedings of courts

†2671. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make arrangement for live telecast of the proceedings of the courts;

(b) if so, by when this system is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the details of additional financial burden to be borne by Government to start this system?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Case pendency and vacancies in Supreme Court

2672. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the pending cases in the Supreme Court since 2014, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the total sanctioned strength and vacancies in the Supreme Court?

Linkage of Aadhaar with Voter ID

2673. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission (EC) has linked Aadhaar number of voters to their Voter IDs;

(b) the number of Aadhaar IDs collected by Election Commission, constituency-wise;

(c) the number of Voter IDs linked to Aadhaar by EC, constituency-wise;

(d) out of the above, the number of people who provided consent, in writing, for linking Aadhaar to Voter IDs;

(e) whether EC linked Voter ID with Aadhaar without informing the Aadhaar holders, if so, the number of such voters, constituency-wise; and

(f) whether EC indirectly collects Aadhaar data from Government departments instead of voters, if so, the details thereof?

Hiring of consultants

2674. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has used

certain consultants for drafting the 256th Report on Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy, 255th Report on Electoral Reforms, 253rd Report on Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts and Commercial Courts Bill, 2015, 249th Report on Second Interim Report on Obsolete Laws, 248th Report on First Interim Report on Obsolete Laws Warranting Immediate Repeal and 244th Report on Electoral Disqualifications; and

(b) if so, the details of the consultants hired and fees paid to each consultant in each project?

Appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

2675. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a practice of Government writing to the judiciary on appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years with reference to those persons regarding whom Government has offered its inputs on their proposed elevation; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal for changing the present system of appointment of Judges and if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

2676. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether head of the National Legal Services Authority has advocated for setting up of more Gram Nyayalayas in the

country by bringing more accountability in their functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Gram Nyayalayas would achieve the objective of justice reaching every nook and corner of the country; and

(d) if so, the number of Gram Nyayalayas in the country and the steps being taken to increase their strength?

Pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts

2677. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:
SHRI G. C.

CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether large number of cases are pending in various courts across the country;

(b) if so, details thereof, including number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts during each of last four years, court-wise and reasons therefor;

(c) the sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in such courts and action taken to fill these vacancies at the earliest;

(d) whether Government has taken note of delay in delivery of justice to litigants for various reasons; and

(e) if so, the details along with corrective measures taken by Government for expeditious disposal of cases pending in various courts of the country?

Fast track special courts

2678. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has finalised formulation of a scheme for creation of fast track special courts for rape cases, involving girls and women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when the scheme would be finalised and given effect to; and

(d) whether the State Governments and other stakeholders have been consulted before finalising the scheme and if so, the response thereof?

Expeditious disposal of criminal appeals pending before different High Courts

2679. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 3.3 crore cases are pending in the courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the criminal appeals pending before different High Courts of the country; and

(c) the details of the roadmap/framework for expeditious disposal of criminal appeals pending before different High Courts of the country, if any?

Construction of flyover over railway crossing in Katihar

†2680. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan to construct a flyover on the State Highway from Katihar

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in Bihar to Jharkhand via Manihari over a railway crossing in Gaushala, is pending with Railways; and

(b) if so, the time by when the work would start, the details thereof?

Railway projects and operation of new trains in Madhya Pradesh

†2681. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of updated position of railway construction projects and operation of new trains and in terms of implementation of expansion work with reference to Madhya Pradesh as mentioned in the budget of year 2018-19 and as announced from time to time by the Minister of Railways; and

(b) by when each of them would be completed?

Outdated railway tracks

2682. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railway tracks are very old and outdated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these outdated tracks are also the reasons for frequent railway accidents; and

(c) if so, the approximate length of tracks replaced by modern tracks during the last four years?

Derailment of new Farakka Express

†2683. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the inquiry into the derailment of new Farakka Express in Rae Bareli in October, 2018;

(b) the number of rail accidents in Uttar Pradesh in last five years and the number of cases in which human negligence has been a factor;

(c) whether maintenance of railway lines is being carried out by private contractors;

(d) the number of posts of track maintainer (gangman) sanctioned in Railways and number of persons working against them; and

(e) the stretch of track which a gangman has to maintain on daily basis and whether the work is being done as per Engineering Code?

Audio-visual warnings at level crossings

2684. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee on Railways recommended audio-visual warnings to be implemented at level crossings to warn road users about approaching trains but the Ministry has not been able to achieve the target; and

(b) if so, the details of the implementation of such warnings in the last two years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Punctuality rate of trains

2685. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the punctuality rate of Railways has declined considerably in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details as well as the reasons therefor, zone-wise;

(c) whether there has been a change in the criteria for determining the punctuality of trains, if so, the details thereof as well as the impact of it on the arrival and departure of trains; and

(d) the details of other steps taken by Government to improve the punctuality rate of trains without compromising on train safety?

Expenditure from RRSK in Tamil Nadu

2686. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has spent any amount from Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) for various works in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

All-women stations across the country

2687. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have opened all-women railway station at Hijli, West Bengal and have plan to open 29 all-women stations, nationwide; and

(b) if so, by when these 29 all-women stations would be opened in the country?

Appointments in N.E. and E.C. Employees Multistate co-operative Bank Limited

†2688. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of appointing General Manager, Northern Railway as *ex-officio* Chairman and Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer as *ex-officio* Vice-Chairman has been sent by general body of the N.E. and E.C. Employees Multi State Co-operative Bank Limited, Gorakhpur to Central Co-operative Registrar; and

(b) the action taken by Central Co-operative Registrar on above said proposal by general body of the bank and board of directors along with the details thereof?

Status of Bullet train

2689. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Bullet train proposed between Mumbai and Ahmedabad;

(b) whether the land for the purpose has been acquired in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(c) whether project sites have been established for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Redevelopment of railway stations

†2690. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to re-develop the railway stations considered important in terms of urban development and which have become crowded over the years;

(b) whether some foreign countries have shown interest in re-development of these railway stations; and

(c) if so, the names of such countries and cost of re-development of these railway stations?

Accidents due to glitches in train's guiding system

2691. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports concerning rail accidents had stated that a number of accidents happened on account of glitches in train's guiding system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the recent derailment of the New Farakka Express occurred due to the same reason; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Removing unmanned railway level crossings

2692. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 5,000 unmanned railway level crossings across the country had been removed in the past year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways had set a target to make the Railways free from unmanned railway level crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Elimination of unmanned railway level crossings

2693. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings eliminated in the past four years, particularly in Maharashtra State alongwith the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to eliminate unmanned railway level crossings in the country by 31 March, 2019?

Electrification and doubling of railway line between Chennai and Madurai

2694. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of electrification and doubling of railway line from Chennai to Madurai has been completed;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to introduce more new trains on this route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details on introduction of Tejas train from Chennai to Madurai?

Construction of over bridge/underpass at unmanned level crossings

†2695. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to construct overbridge or underpass at all the unmanned level crossings of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is a provision to construct overbridge or underpass at the western end of Karpurigram railway station of Samastipur district and at eastern end of Buxar station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rewa-Singrauli railway project

†2696. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway station has been identified for railway project from Rewa-Singrauli in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the work would be accomplished after identification thereof?

Finalisation of KMA rate of loco running staff

2697. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the genuine demand of finalising Kilometrage Allowance (KMA) rate with effect from 1 January, 2016 and further fixation from 1 January, 2017 in respect of loco running staff is still pending with Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this is undermining the interest of the vital group of staff in Railways and also affecting the retirees and serving members of the locomotive running staff; and

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

Renting out railway stations for wedding functions

†2698. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to rent out its less busy stations for marriage functions and other programmes;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the railway stations would be chosen for such types of functions, along with the details thereof?

Coaches manufactured by Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala

2699. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of coaches manufactured by Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala in Punjab, during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand the factory to cover more spare parts used in rail bogies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rail eco-tourism and Nilgiri Mountain Rail service

2700. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is preparing any scheme for rail eco-tourism;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount spent for Nilgiri Mountain Rail service and the amount of income earned during the last three years along with the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to compensate the loss being caused to this heritage service; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Revision of flexi fare scheme

2701. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have implemented flexi fares for premier trains which has drawn criticism from various quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the trains in which flexi fares were introduced;

(c) whether Railways have taken any decision to scrap/withdraw or revise the flexi fares in these trains; and

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

Introduction of jerk-free journey

2702. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is planning to introduce jerk-free journey for passengers, with modern fittings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all the trains would be fitted with this modern equipment or only specific trains are to be fitted with this equipment?

Introduction of Samanta Express

2703. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to run Samanta Express, a special train to mark the 128th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, covering Buddhist sites in India and Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Manufacturing of 'Best in class train sets'

2704. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started manufacturing of 'Best in class train sets' in Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has provided any training to the employees of Integral Coach Factory, Chennai before starting manufacturing 'Best in class train sets';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Renovation/upgradation of railway stations

2705. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations renovated/upgraded across the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of railway stations under renovation/upgradation;

(c) whether Government has fixed any target for the purpose during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of target achieved during the last three years?

Assessment of cleanliness at railway stations

2706. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently conducted a survey to assess the cleanliness at railway stations across the country;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that iconic stations in big cities have been found to have moved down in the ranking and if so, the reasons therefor?

Lalitpur-Singrauli railway project

†2707. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work for Lalitpur-Singrauli railway project has been started by construction company;

(b) if so, the allotment and expenditure of funds during the last three years and progress made thereon and by when the work is targeted to be completed; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons therefor?

Rating of Railway Zones

2708. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to give rating to its various zones;

(b) if so, the details of this move and parameters under which each zone is going to be assessed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that rating of its 16 zones was done by Railway Board between April and December, 2016;

(d) if so, the details of such rating, with particular reference to South Central Railway Zone; and

(e) the manner in which Railways are going to reward the performing zones?

Performance of Train-18

2709. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of India's first high speed train known as Train-18 has been satisfactory and is progressing as per schedule; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its speed limit and the routes on which it is proposed to be started?

Rail connectivity between Hyderabad-Amaravati and Hyderabad-Vijayawada

2710. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new rail lines or new trains have been started between Hyderabad and Amaravati, new capital of Andhra Pradesh, to provide rapid rail connectivity as envisaged under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization act;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to run additional trains between Hyderabad and Vijayawada in view of increasing traffic between these stations?

Broad gauge line between Vadodara and Indore

†2711. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date when a foundation stone was laid for a broad gauge line from Vadodara to Indore via Chhota Udaipur and Alirajpur;

(b) by then the said work was to be completed;

(c) the Government's reaction on the slow pace of work going on from Chhota Udaipur to Alirajpur and at extremely slow pace from Alirajpur to Indore; and

(d) to what extent the said work has been completed and the quantum of funds spent till date?

Categories of reservation quotas

2712. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are still offering berths under reservation quotas;

(b) if so, the details of categories that are entitled for berths under reservation quotas along with the list of such categories;

(c) whether every single berth that is

available in the coaches is put on site for online booking for the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons why the berths available in the coaches are not made available online for the passengers wishing to book and travel?

Cost overrun of railway projects

2713. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are facing a cost overrun of ₹ 2.46 lakh crores;

(b) if so, the list of projects facing cost and time overrun; and

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

Completion of Nadikudi-Srikalahasti Project

2714. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUAMR: SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government is drawn to the matter of Nadikudi-Srikalahasti Railway Project which is pending since a long time for completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in completion of the project;

(c) the status of the project as on date; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to complete the project at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Dedicated rail freight corridor at
Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh**

2715. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. has acquired land in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh for dedicated rail freight corridor, particularly under Mauza Rampur *alias* Karanpur, Paragana Dhoos, Mughalsarai;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with rate of land which has been offered/paid to land holders;

(c) whether fair compensation have been offered/paid to farmers for trees over the acquired lands as per the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with rate of trees offered/paid, tree-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons for violation of the Act?

**Disabled-friendly railway stations and
trains**

2716. SHRI SAMIR ORAON:
SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on making railway stations and trains disabled-friendly over the past five years, region-wise;

(b) whether all trains and stations are disabled-friendly, if so, the details of the facilities provided for the disabled;

(c) if not, the number of stations which are disabled-friendly;

(d) whether the stations and trains under construction are being made disabled-friendly;

(e) whether the train drivers and ticket collectors have been sensitized about the difficulties of the disabled-people; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to make all stations and trains disabled-friendly?

Modernisation of railway stations

2717. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations which are modernised by the Railways in the last three years, especially in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) the number of stations proposed to be modernised during the current financial year along with details thereof;

(c) the reasons for slow pace of ongoing work with regard to modernisation of railway stations; and

(d) the efforts made to expedite the work?

**Methodology used in GDP back-series
data**

2718. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the methodology used and the adjustments made by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the GDP back-series data released by them;

(b) the details of the sources of data taken by the CSO to ascertain the revised GDP figures;

(c) the reasons for the reduced growth rates from the years 2006-2012;

(d) whether any role was played by the NITI Aayog while computing the revised GDP figures; and

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

Study to assess benefits of MPLAD Scheme

2719. SHRI G. C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to assess the utility and benefits accrued due to the implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme;

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

(c) the details of funds allocated, spent and unspent under the MPLAD Scheme during last four years and the current year;

(d) the reasons for the unspent funds during the said period;

(e) whether any concrete and innovative efforts have been undertaken to ensure that the funds allocated under MPLAD Scheme are utilised fully; and

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

Millennium Development Goals and progress report of Twenty Point Programmes

2720. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any Twenty Point Programme (TPP) and when was this programme last updated and progress report last published;

(b) whether this programme has any priorities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, if so, the details of priority programmes;

(c) the programmes implemented by Government towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of poverty eradication, achieving universal primary education and improving maternal health, the data and progress report of last four years in achieving these goals; and

(d) the present rank or status of India globally in achieving Millennium Development Goals?

NEW DELHI;
The 29th December, 2018
Pausha 8, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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