

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, December 21, 2018/Agrahayana 30, 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

Effect of fertilizers on health of farmers

1281. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers the effect of fertilizers on health of the farmers and on the resultant crop before approving its manufacturing and usage;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria used to assess the effects of fertilizers; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to educate the farmers about the right type and right quantity of fertilizers to be used, and if so, the details thereof?

Declining milk production in the country

†1282. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerns have been raised on declining milk production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether price of milk has risen in the recent past in wake of possible shortage of milk in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

Training to farmers for pisciculture

1283. SHRI AHMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm ponds developed under Government schemes for the period of 2015-17, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure made for the promotion and training under pisciculture for welfare of farmers during the said period; and

(c) whether Government provides interest subsidy on purchase of source products for pisciculture, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Inventory of practices adopted under organic farming

1284. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organic farming is in the syllabus/curriculum of all Agricultural Universities/Colleges across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has created any inventory to include the practices that are being adopted in organic farming across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Facilities to fishermen of coastal areas

1285. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for the welfare of fishermen of the coastal areas, State-wise;

(b) whether Government provides any sort of facility to fishermen for boats, nets and vessels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Selection of companies under PMFBY

1286. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance companies that have been given the tender of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) the criteria under which these insurance companies have been selected;

(c) whether Government's PSUs have been considered for PMFBY, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total amount that has been given to these companies for insurance of Kharif and Rabi crops; and

(e) the total amount that have been claimed against the loss of crop from each of these insurance companies in the last one year along with the details of the insurance claim?

Training to women farmers

1287. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started any scheme to provide facilities to women farmers for development of the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of funds allocated and utilised during the last two years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to impart training to women farmers on the latest agricultural techniques, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the share of women farmers in agriculture sector is less than 30 per cent; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to increase their share in agriculture sector?

Exploring possibilities for doubling the income of farmers

1288. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the rise in income of

farmers during the last four years and the current year;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has explored any possibilities for doubling the farmers' income by resorting to better and new technological solutions to increase the farm production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has allocated any additional funds to the States for the said purposes, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Record production of foodgrains

1289. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set a target of record 285.2 million tonne foodgrain production in the 2018-19 crop year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that country harvested a record 284.83 MT of foodgrain in the 2017-18 crop year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite patchy monsoon rains, Government is expecting higher production in current Kharif season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of PM-AASHA Scheme

1290. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last year or so, prices of most of the crops including pulses and oilseeds fell below the support prices announced by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers continue to face rising indebtedness, lesser financial inclusion and lack of insurance; and

(d) if so, whether the new scheme Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) has not helped the farmers for better returns?

Bringing vegetables, fruits and flowers under PMFBY

†1291. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether perishable produces like vegetables, fruits and flowers are covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) whether vegetable production will be brought under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) category as vegetable prices drop to one rupee, two rupees or three rupees and farmers do not get even their production cost; and

(c) whether Government has any plan in this regard so that small farmers can get relief?

Insurance claims under PMFBY

1292. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in 2016 to provide timely insurance and premium subsidy to the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

farmers for their produce and insurance claims for crop failures;

(b) if so, the details of the number of farmers and the amount of insurance claimed under the scheme in the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the insurance companies registered under the PMFBY and the claims given by each of them, company-wise and year-wise since 2016?

Subsidies given by insurance companies under PMFBY

1293. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United India Insurance company has given claims worth ₹ 1406 crore only to farmers against its total premium amount of ₹ 19314 crore;

(b) whether Agriculture Insurance Company of India has given claims worth ₹ 12707 crore to farmers against its total premium amount of ₹ 21136 crore;

(c) if so, the detailed account of the premium subsidy claimed and given by all associated insurance companies during last two years, year-wise; and

(d) the detailed account of the total amount of subsidies left with the companies during last two years, year-wise?

Unrest among farmers

1294. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and most of the State Governments have failed to pay adequate attention to pricing, procurement and public distribution to

address the problems being faced by farmers of the country thereby creating unrest among farming community;

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken in the last one year to remove the increasing unrest among farmers; and

(c) the steps being taken for making farming economically viable and attractive by giving adequate Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

Availability of milk in the country

1295. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milch cattle in the country and the quantity of milk these cattle produce daily;

(b) the quantity of milk available in the market;

(c) whether the quantity of milk available in the market is much higher than the ideal milk production capacity of the milch cattle in the country, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether this excess milk is contaminated milk, if so, the details thereof?

MSP for organic produces

1296. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is mulling bringing organic produce under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime to promote the pesticide-free farming in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering offering 20 per cent higher MSP for organic produce over

traditional produce and procuring a minimum 10 per cent of organic produce as the way forward to promote pesticide and fertilizer-free farming;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these proposals were discussed with the representatives of the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of commission to mitigate agriculture related problems

1297. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking into consideration various problems of agriculturists in the country, Government proposes to constitute any commission to mitigate the problems of agriculturists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Achievement under Blue Revolution

1298. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being taken to achieve the targets under Blue Revolution;

(b) whether the adequate fisheries infrastructure facilities have been created for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Karnataka?

Rising premiums under PMFBY

1299. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Pradhan

Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) including private sector banks enrolled for the scheme;

(b) the details of all financial transactions carried out under PMFBY, including value of annual premium, per farmer from 2016-18, aggregate collection of premiums and total disbursement of insurance pay-outs, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons behind increasing the value of premium, between 2016 and 2018?

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1300. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated special measures to address climate change impact on agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of central schemes for both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change for farmers?

Minimum living income for farmers

1301. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly income of a farmer in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average agricultural debt per household;

(c) the steps taken by Government to write-off the loans of farmers in the country during the last five years and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government intends to constitute an Income Commission that

could suggest ways to ensure a minimum living income for farmers; and

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

Doubling Farmers' Income

1302. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is examining ways to double the farmers' income by 2022 and so set up a panel to evolve the ways and strategy to double the farmers' income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the panel has submitted its report to the Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the recommendations made by the panel in this regard?

Guidelines for early payment of insurance claims

1303. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced several operational guidelines that eases insurance claim rules for early payment to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details of operational guidelines introduced to make timely payment of insurance claim by farmers under the scheme;

(c) whether Government has set year-on-year target for insurance companies to enrol non-loanee farmers under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Percentage of farmers in the country

1304. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of farmers to India's population at present;

(b) the number of farmers involved in farming of cash and non-cash crops;

(c) the number of farmers having farming land of area more than 10 hectare out of the total farmers in the country;

(d) in what manner Government differentiate between farmers and agricultural workers and the criteria for that; and

(e) the total number of agricultural workers in the country, at present?

Support to dairy farmers

1305. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk prices have reduced by 20 to 30 per cent and dairy farmers are suffering from low prices, whereas consumers are paying high prices for the same;

(b) if so, the details of milk production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of Government policies in support to dairy farmers?

Distribution of new variety seeds to farmers

†1306. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is fully committed to provide all kinds of assistance to the farmers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of assistance being provided to the farmers;

(c) whether new varieties of seeds are being made available to the farmers timely in every block and village; and

(d) if so, the details of the new varieties of seeds provided to the farmers in the last three years?

Agrarian crisis in the country

1307. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take to restrain the farmers in distress from committing suicide;

(b) whether any special long-term plan is being worked out to incentivize the farming and farmers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the demand raised by various States on resolving agrarian crisis in the country?

Agricultural markets in Rajasthan

1308. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure;

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

(c) the details regarding agricultural marketing projects launched or likely to be launched in Rajasthan;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to augment storage facility for agricultural produces in Rajasthan; and

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

Allocation of funds to Andhra Pradesh for agricultural schemes

1309. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated under various agricultural schemes for the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds released under various schemes of the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds yet to be released to Andhra Pradesh under these schemes?

Compensation to farmers under PMFBY

1310. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private companies are involved in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of compensation paid by the private companies along with the premium received by them, company-wise and State-wise; and

(d) whether any compensation to be paid to any farmers in the State of Haryana by the private companies or Government companies is due till date?

**Functioning of Department of
Farmers Welfare**

1311. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the stated objectives behind setting up of an independent Department of Farmers Welfare at the time of its inception;
- (b) the concrete actions that have been undertaken by this Department so far;
- (c) whether there has been any review of its functioning and the value that it must have added; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of such study?

**Assessment of drought by Inter-
Ministrial Central team**

1312. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a ten-member Inter-Ministrial Central team had visited Karnataka in November, 2018 to assess the drought-hit region and resultant farmers loss;
- (b) whether any such team has visited the other parts of the country including the State of Odisha to assess the drought and resultant farmer's loss; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Closing down of CPCRI at
Kayamkulam in Kerala**

1313. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to close down the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute

(CPCRI) at Kayamkulam in Kerala under the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR);

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has opposed this move as this 80-year old centre caters to the interests of the coconut growers in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Central Government thereto?

**Implementation of Blue Revolution
Mission**

1314. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Blue Revolution Mission has been able to achieve success in doubling the farmers' incomes in the last four and half years;
- (b) the amount released for the implementation of the same in the last 4.5 years and funds provided to West Bengal;
- (c) the details of area, in hectares, provided for aquaculture and for the benefit of fishermen;
- (d) whether Government has provided any funds for fisheries and aquaculture development; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and estimated benefits from the scheme in West Bengal?

**Formulation of New National
Agriculture Policy and
Agricultural Produce
Price Policy**

1315. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether keeping in view the

increasing incidents of suicide among farmers, Government proposes to formulate a "New National Agricultural Policy";

(b) whether Government also proposes to formulate "Agricultural Produce Price Policy" to ensure remunerative price for farmers' produce which will be determined on the basis of cost incurred thereon; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to (a) and (b) above?

Setting up of Seed Committee for Horticulture in Karnataka

1316. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal in 2016 to constitute a Seed Committee for Horticulture in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons behind pendency of this issue with the Ministry for so long; and

(c) by when the Ministry is going to approve this proposal?

Implementation of recommendations of Swaminathan Commission

†1317. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

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

(a) the steps taken in the direction of reducing the agriculture cost value and the details of the initiative taken to implement

the recommendations of MS Swaminathan Commission;

(b) the suggestions of the said Commission on which action has been taken, so far;

(c) the details of the demands being raised by the farmers' associations from time-to-time for the redressal of the problems related to agriculture and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the different problems of the farmers submitted before the Government which are causing them loss along with the action being taken for their redressal?

Protest by farmers

1318. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

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

(a) whether more than one lakh farmers have demonstrated in Delhi on 29th and 30th November, 2018 against the agricultural policies of Union Government demanding MSP 1.5 times the cost of production and waiver of farm loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of response of Government thereto along with the measures Government would take to fulfil their specific demands?

Establishment of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund

1319. SHRIMATI VIJILA
SATHYANANTH:
DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a ₹ 7,552 crore fund for establishing Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the move would help to boost annual fish production up to 20 million tonnes by 2022-23 and generate over 9.40 lakh employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of agricultural produces below the MSP

1320. SHRI HISHEY
LACHUNGPA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR
DHOOT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent of markets in the county are still procuring agricultural produces below the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to improve the situation at the ground level in providing, at least, the MSP to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Prevention of farmers suicides

1321. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS
BAIDYA:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that number of suicides by farmers has increased during last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by Government to prevent suicide by farmers and also to help the families of farmers who committed suicide?

Inadequate investment in agriculture sector

1322. SHRIMATI SHANTA
CHHETRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate investment by the previous Governments is the key reason for agrarian distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present Government has pumped in more resources into rural areas to improve agricultural productivity and the quality of lives of the people in villages;

(d) if so, the details of investment pumped in the last four years in the agriculture sector; and

(e) the reasons that despite big investment, farmers' suicide have not abated?

Coverage under PMFBY

1323. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of premium collected by insurance companies and the total amount of compensation paid under

the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), since its inception in 2016 till date, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 84 lakh farmers exited the scheme after just a year since its inception;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of total number of persons covered under the PMFBY, year-wise; and

(e) whether Government is undertaking any measures to ensure optimal coverage of the PMFBY scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of agricultural universities

1324. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce agricultural universities in the country especially in the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Non-intimation of General Meeting of Kendriya Bhandar

1325. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister and Central Registrar have received information from MPs and members of Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar) that Returning Officer has not sent intimation about the date, time and place of the general meeting to each of the members of Kendriya Bhandar residing in the State of UP, Gwalior, Chandigarh etc. by (i) local

delivery; or (ii) under postal certificate; or (iii) by publication in the newspaper having wide circulation concerning election of delegates held on 6 September, 2017; and

(b) the reasons for not declaring the said illegal election as null and void?

Monitoring activities of Indian Pharmaceutical Association

1326. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to take adequate steps to check and control the prices of important and life saving drugs and make them affordable and available for the common poor people;

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

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to check and monitor the activities of Indian Pharmaceutical Association and its 13,000 pharmacies across the country?

Differential pricing of pharmaceutical products

†1327. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Indian pharmaceutical products are much cheaper in foreign market than those prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of important medicines exported in huge quantities and the comparative prices of those medicines in foreign market *vis-a-vis* the domestic market;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

earned by Government from the export of these pharmaceutical products in the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure better indigenous market for Indian medicines?

Differential pricing of life saving medicines

1328. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of pharmaceutical companies have been selling life saving medicines, to hospitals and stockists way below Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) while patients have to pay nine-times of the prices; and

(b) whether Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and action taken against such companies?

Impact of fertilizer policy on survival of fertilizer industries

1329. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fertilizer industry is currently struggling for its survival;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the fertilizer policy has adversely impacted the viability of the industry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fixed cost of urea units have not been updated for the last fifteen years or so; and

(d) the steps being taken to make a vibrant fertilizer industry?

Absence of Janaushadhi Kendras in rural areas

†1330. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that generic medicine stores, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras, have not been opened in much needed rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

Self-sufficiency in raw chemicals and APIs

1331. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is preparing to achieve self-sufficiency in raw chemicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients and to increase the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan made in this regard and whether any task force has been commissioned for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force and the steps being taken by Government to achieve self-sufficiency in raw medicines?

Closure of fertilizer production units

1332. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the decrease in production and non-availability of fertilizers due to closure of fertilizer production units in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for the sickness and closure of fertilizer units under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and

(c) the measures initiated by Government to revive the ailing fertilizer units in this regard?

Increase in Price of fertilizers

1333. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the continuous increase in the price of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to tackle rising prices of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers and measures to check its balanced utilisation by farmers?

Demand of fertilizers

1334. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual demand of different fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether this demand has been fulfilled by indigenous production;

(c) if not, the manner in which this gap would be bridged; and

(d) whether Government has any specific plan for starting new urea and other fertilizer plants in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Increase in production of fertilizers

1335. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the

production of fertilizers till date, and if so, the extent of increase thereof;

(b) whether new fertilizer plants are being set up as per the growing needs of the future and if so, the number of plants that would be set up; and

(c) whether there is any shortage of fertilizers in the country?

Setting up of fertilizer rake points in Madhya Pradesh

†1336. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for opening of fertilizer rake points at Shujalpur, Garoth, Shahdol, Dalauda, Salamatpur and Obedullaganj in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when such rake points would be opened?

Sulphur in imported coal

1337. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported coal produces four times more sulphur than the Indian coal during burning and causes more pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the real-time demand of coal in the country and the quantity being mined from Indian mines and imported during the last five years?

Release of claims

1338. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement has been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

made for transfer of ₹ 560 crore payable by M/S HINDALCO on account of TALABIRA-1 to the State of Odisha; and

(b) if not, whether a suitable advisory would be issued for release of the claims of the State Government at the earliest?

Setting up of medical and engineering colleges in mining areas

1339. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited has proposed to set up medical as well as engineering colleges in mining areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of hospitals in many mining areas, the employees working in those areas are deprived of medical benefits; and

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

Technology upgradation and expansion

1340. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom companies, including those owned by Government, are still far behind in technology upgradation and expansion for efficient mobile and internet network, at par with international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy Government has formulated to improve the efficiency of mobile and internet network in the country?

Targets set and achieved under BharatNet

1341. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money disbursed under BharatNet, State-wise and year-wise, since 2014;

(b) the targets set and achieved, for providing internet-connection to Gram Panchayats, State-wise and year-wise, since 2014;

(c) the reasons for cases where envisaged target could not be achieved;

(d) the number of village panchayats, State-wise, where physical infrastructure for commercial broadband connection has been laid and those which have a running and functional commercial broadband connection;

(e) the details of speed of internet connection in each such village panchayat; and

(f) the details of average rate of data being used per connection in a day, in each such village panchayat?

Implementation of BharatNet project in Odisha

1342. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would expedite the implementation of BharatNet project in all Gram Panchayats of Odisha for effective rollout of various initiatives under the Digital India programme; and

(b) whether Government would constitute a National Task Force to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in Odisha and similarly placed States?

Regulation of communication service providers by TRAI

1343. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is considering that communication service providers such as WhatsApp, Google Duo and Skype be subjected to regulatory and licensing norms similar to the ones applicable on telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI has invited comments on recalling so-called Over-the-Top service providers, which have so far been unregulated;

(d) if so, the details of the comments received in this regard; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Vacancies in Post Offices

1344. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Post Offices in the country are understaffed adversely, impacting its services to customers;

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

(c) whether Government is considering any action plan to fill up the existing vacancies, and

(d) if so, by when the existing vacancies would be filled up?

Connectivity under BharatNet

1345. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats connected by optical fibre under the BharatNet programme; and

(b) the number of Common Service Centres to provide for Government banking and transaction services under the scheme?

4G services by MTNL and BSNL

1346. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for MTNL and BSNL not offering 4G services to keep up with market competition, when the private companies are offering 4G services at a very cheaper rate;

(b) whether there is any effort by private operators to scuttle the performance of MTNL and BSNL; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Ground Based Towers in rural areas of Nellore

1347. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that in the absence of Ground Based Towers (GBTs) in rural areas of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, BSNL is finding it difficult to provide smooth and fast transmission of mobile coverage;

(b) whether it is a fact that Nellore SSA identified some places for GBTs;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) the progress made in construction of GBTs in the identified areas?

Recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Group on Telecom Sector

1348. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on Telecom Sector has made any recommendations for a relief package for the financially-struggling telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the IMG's recommendations;

(c) whether Government has received any formal representation from the telecom operators for implementation of IMG's recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Under/Non-utilisation of BharatNet infrastructure

1349. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as of October, 2018, 1.15 lakh Gram Panchayats were service ready under BharatNet;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to many reports received, there is lack of connectivity in 80-90 per cent of the Gram Panchayats as well as massive under-utilisation/non-utilisation of BharatNet infrastructure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that though

clear utilisation targets have already been set, the actual utilisation on ground is understood to be less than 10 per cent of the target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Progress of BharatNet project

1350. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BharatNet project seeks to connect 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country through high-speed broadband by March, 2019;

(b) whether Government has instructed both Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) to submit reports every day on the progress made in the BharatNet project;

(c) whether there is an unprofessional shirking of responsibility, along with inability to resolve on-field problems and inter-organisational issues between BBNL and BSNL; and

(d) whether this is not only hampering progress of this vital project but is now threatening to derail even earlier achievements of the past four years?

Action against telecom companies for call drops

†1351. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of increasing complaints of call drops by consumers, Government is not taking any action against telecom companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the directions of Government to telecom companies regarding providing

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

services and the names of the companies against whom action has been taken?

Internet shutdowns

1352. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry maintains data on internet shutdown ordered under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017;

(b) if so, the State-wise data on internet shutdown issued since the rules came into effect, along with the date, time, duration, areas affected and corresponding reasons for the imposition of internet shutdowns;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) number of cases where internet shutdowns were ordered to prevent cheating in exams;

(e) number of cases, State-wise, wherein internet shutdowns exceeded 24 hours; and

(f) steps taken by States to publicise the order of internet shutdowns in advance and inform general public of their imposition?

Promoting traditional method of storage of foodgrains

1353. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent loss of foodgrains in the country during storage and transit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also taking steps to promote the traditional method of storage of foodgrains within the vicinity of farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Establishing working standard laboratories in Kerala

1354. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Decentralized Paddy Procurement Scheme is withdrawn by Central Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request has been received from Kerala Government to re-fix the out-turn ratio from 68 per cent to 64 per cent, if so, details and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any proposal from Government of Kerala has been received to establish working standard laboratories in Kollam and Kottayam; and

(d) if so, the details of fund allocated for the above proposals?

Allocation of rice and wheat to Kerala

1355. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice and wheat released and distributed to the State of Kerala through Public Distribution System under BPL/APL/AAY categories during each of the last three years;

(b) whether in view of recent floods in Kerala, extra quantity of rice has been released; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Gap between wholesale and retail prices of vegetables

1356. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a huge gap between the wholesale and retail prices of vegetables in various parts of the country, which not only hurt the farmers but also consumers; and

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any plan to resolve this problem, if so, the details thereof and by when it would be implemented?

Selection of non-official Members of FCI

1357. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure and criteria for selection of non-official Members of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and their tenure;

(b) whether all the individuals, who apply to be considered for selection as non-official Members of the FCI, are given a fair opportunity to prove their worth for the post or otherwise; and

(c) the level and basis on which decision for such appointment is taken along with the details thereof?

Storage capacity of foodgrains

1358. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the prediction for foodgrains production in 2019;

(b) whether it is a fact that since last so many years a major portion of wheat, pulses and other agricultural produces is destroyed due to improper and insufficient storage facilities;

(c) if so, the foodgrain storage capacity of FCI and other godowns in the country; and

(d) the precautionary measures Government is taking to ensure the safe storage of foodgrains?

Procurement of all crops of farmers in Bihar

†1359. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no crop was procured by Government in Bihar last year due to which farmers were not able to get any benefit from their sale;

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

(c) whether Government would ensure the proper arrangement for cent per cent procurement of farmers' crops under the MSP, if so, by when?

Procurement of all crops of farmers

†1360. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any arrangement for 100 per cent procurement of all the crops of the farmers under Minimum Support Price (MSP) as declared by the Prime Minister;

(b) if not, the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when it would be completed?

Implementation of PEG Scheme

1361. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme implemented by Government;

(b) whether Government has allocated adequate funds for creating modern storage capacity under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof during last three years and the current year, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to cover every State under the said scheme so as to increase the modern storage capacity of foodgrains, if so, the details thereof along with the present status of such proposal; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

Dues of sugarcane-growing farmers of Uttar Pradesh

†1362. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy for procurement of sugarcane and its payment to sugarcane-growing farmers;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of Government schemes in different States regarding payment for

sugarcane and the steps being taken by Government to curb the arbitrariness of sugar mills;

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

(e) by when the outstanding dues of the sugarcane-growing farmers of Uttar Pradesh would be paid and the steps being taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

Settlement of MSP claims of States

1363. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has settled the pending MSP claims of various States including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons for keeping these claims pending;

(c) whether Government has taken steps for releasing the funds in this regard to the States; and

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

Development of godowns and cold storages in Tamil Nadu

1364. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any efforts to expedite the allocation of adequate foodgrains, pulses, sugar and edible oil to Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total quantity supplied to Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has provided adequate funds for the development of godowns and cold storages in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount of funds disbursed by the Central Government for the purpose during last four years, till date?

Sugar production in the country

1365. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has a huge surplus stock of sugar at present, if so, the net production of sugar in 2018;

(b) the data on consumption and export of sugar as of 2018;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sugar prices have fallen due to surplus production of sugar; and

(d) whether it would affect the sugarcane-growing farmers and producers of sugar in the country?

Packaging policy of consumer goods

1366. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that consumer goods are packed in oversized packet by the companies to lure consumers;

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration to bring packaging policy of consumer goods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Starvation deaths due to denial of ration

1367. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries, under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households identified under the NFSA, as of June, 2018 State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of starvation deaths occurred in the past five years, where the victim have ration cards and Aadhaar number;

(c) the number of suspected starvation deaths where post-mortem was not conducted;

(d) the number of such cases where the victim or his family were denied ration from the ration shops and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of such deaths which were in districts that had a full time DSO?

Shortfall in allocation of rice to Odisha

1368. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware about shortfall in allocation of 99, 960 MT rice to the State of Odisha from November, 2015 to February, 2017; and

(b) whether the Central Government is taking necessary steps to recoup the shortfall in allocation of rice to the State of Odisha under National Food Security Act during the said period?

Supply of defective items by online retailers

1369. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding supply of defective and damaged goods by online retail companies are increasing; and

(b) if so, the details about supply of defective and damaged goods by online retail companies in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Spoilage of foodgrains

†1370. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) the quantum of foodgrains of the foodgrain storage agencies, including the Food Corporation of India, that got spoiled or their quality degraded in the last five years;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains spoiled due to soaking in rain and the extent to which their prices were brought down in the last five years; and

(c) the number of the people who are forced to stay hungry for one time or are forced to remain half-stomached?

Hub for data analysis

1371. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is keen to promote India as a big hub for data analysis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has made it clear to all that India would not tolerate data misuse;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India is already in the process of tightening data safety rules;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has already received a draft Personal Data Protection Bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

1372. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural villages which have registered under the "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (PMGDISHA) to usher in digital literacy in rural areas, along with the details thereof;

(b) the basic definition of "Digital Literacy" in this programme;

(c) the target population of this Abhiyan;

(d) whether this Abhiyan has any fund allocated to improve the basic computer infrastructure in villages, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government plans to accomplish the digital literacy mission through PMGDISHA when a significant number of people in the country are illiterate, as per the last Census?

Use of BHIM-UPI for all digital payment platforms

1373. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

enhancement of the use of State-run BHIM application for digital payment system;

(b) whether Government is planning to make mandatory the use of BHIM-UPI for all digital payment platforms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hiring of consultants by UIDAI

1374. 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 their functions and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the list of consultants hired since 2014, the corresponding projects and the fees paid to them by UIDAI?

Incidents of breach of Aadhaar data

1375. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of incidents/cases where Aadhaar data was leaked/breached;

(b) whether any investigation has been conducted against agencies which were responsible for the breach/leakage of Aadhaar data;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against them;

(d) the extent to which the database of Aadhaar is secured along with the steps taken by Government to ensure the privacy/security of Aadhaar data; and

(e) the mechanism put in place for usage

of Aadhaar data by Government agencies and the accountability of officials in case of negligence on their part in handling of such data?

Life-threatening online challenges on social media

1376. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of dangerous, life-threatening online challenges spread through social media, *e.g.*, the Momo challenge, etc.;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Ministry to lessen their harm; and

(c) the preventive measures undertaken by the Ministry to curb these challenges?

Draft Data Protection Bill

1377. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, responding to the draft Data Protection Bill drafted by Justice Srikirshna Committee, the European Union (EU) has suggested that India should not stress on localisation of data storage;

(b) whether the EU has termed the move as unnecessary and potentially harmful to the cause of data protection, apart from creating unnecessary costs, difficulties and uncertainties that would hamper business and investments; and

(c) whether presently, the EU and the US (with its US CLOUD Act) have overcome the need for local storage of data and if so, whether India could also emulate their moves?

ITIR in Visakhapatnam

1378. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when was the IT Investment Region proposed to set up in Visakhapatnam before bifurcation of the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has now decided to shelve the project; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how far they are justified?

Setting up of Gamma Irradiation Centers

1379. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ₹ 92,000 crore food per annum is lost due to lack of proper food processing in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to setup Gamma Irradiation Centers to increase the shelf life of perishable produces, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the poor supply chain by roping in private players to increase production and improve storage and transportation facilities?

Processing of traditional food products

1380. SHRI AHMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for processing of traditional food products through local co-operative of farmers is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government is considering to launch such schemes;

(c) whether Government is providing subsidy to Food Processing Industries set up by rural co-operatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

FDIs for development of FPIs

1381. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for development of Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which Government was able to attract FDI in this sector; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that a regional balance is maintained while developing the industry, all over the country?

FDI in food processing sector

1382. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to set up an institution to fund food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the food processing sector is attracting more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), if so, the details thereof along with the details of FDI received in this sector during last five years?

Assistance under Operation Greens

1383. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient aims and objectives of Operation Greens;

(b) the details of various strategies to be used for the implementation of this scheme; and

(c) the pattern of assistance provided by Government for the implementation of this scheme?

Setting up of FPIs in States

1384. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Industries (FDIs) functioning in the country, State-wise, including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that proposals from various States for setting up of FPIs are under consideration of Central Government with a view to create jobs in these industries;

(c) if so, the details of these proposals, State-wise; and

(d) the details of proposals approved by Government during the last three years?

Employment opportunity under small and medium FPIs

†1385. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the new small and medium Food Processing Industries

established in the country in the last four years; and

(b) the number of people getting employment directly or indirectly through these industries?

Implementation of TOP Scheme

1386. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) Scheme has been finalised by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds allocated to companies operating in the Food Processing Industry, State/UT/Company-wise;

(c) whether Government has maintained the data regarding post harvest sale of TOP crops, the details thereof, if so, State/UT/date-wise for current season along with the volume of business on per day basis; and

(d) the details of MSP for TOP crops for the last five years?

Promotion of Food Processing Industries

1387. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI P.L. PUNIA:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH
TOMAR:

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

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government in various States for promotion and growth of Food Processing Industries during each of the last three years and the current year,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

scheme-wise, especially in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised by the States during the last three years and the current year?

Implementation of 25th Law Commission Report

1388. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission of India in its 25th Report had recommended that the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be amended to provide for punishment for publishing and abetting the publishing of paid news; and

(b) if so, when does Government propose to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to incorporate these changes?

Reservation in Judicial Service

1389. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received requests/suggestions in favour of reservation for OBCs/SCs/STs/Muslims/Women in Judicial Service;

(b) if so, whether the demand would be considered favourably; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

e-Courts Mission Mode project

1390. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds sanctioned

and utilised under the second phase of the e-Courts Mission Mode project till date;

(b) the current status of the e-Courts Mission Mode project and the allocated deadline for the project;

(c) the total number of Judicial Officers trained under the project so far, and the targets set out under the project; and

(d) the total number of courts computerised in the country so far and the targets set out under the project?

Pendency in High Courts

1391. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge vacancies are a cause of concern for Government as well as the higher judiciary with 40 lakh cases pending in various High Courts; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that 22 per cent of them are more than ten years old?

Hiring of consultants by Law Commission

1392. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

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

(b) the list of consultants hired since 2014, the corresponding projects and the fees paid to them by the Law Commission?

Recommendations of collegium for appointment of Judges

1393. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations of collegium which are pending with the Central Government, as on data, and the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of recommendations of collegium which have not been approved by the Central Government in the last three years, along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of all such persons recommended by the collegium in the last three years for elevation as Supreme Court Judges, High Court Judges and Chief Justice (s) which were not approved by the Central Government?

Integrated Legal Cell

1394. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to create an Integrated Legal Cell (ILC);

(b) if so, the number of cases where State is the litigant in various courts of the country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the draft proposes to appoint legally trained negotiators/advisors for various Ministries in an effort to reduce the cost of litigation on public exchequer, if so, the details thereof?

Uniform Civil Code

†1395. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission is

examining the matters pertaining to Uniform Civil Code under which suggestions/views were invited by the Commission from individuals/organisations (governmental and non-governmental) through a public appeal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the process with regard to verification of matters on Uniform Civil Code has been completed by the Law Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections

†1396. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion/proposal has been received by Government from the Election Commission of India for conducting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken by Government in view of the above suggestion/proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Filling up vacancies of Judges of High Courts

1397. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sanctioned strength of High Court Judges, High Court-wise;

(b) the number of vacancies of High Court Judges which are yet to be filled-in, High Court-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) The reasons for inordinate delay in filling up the vacancies of High Court Judges when it is known well in advance to concerned authorities as to when retirement of Judges would take place and vacancy arises:

(d) whether Government has initiated any step for filling up the vacancies of High Court Judges within reasonable time;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Electoral reforms

†1398. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to bring in electoral reforms;

(b) whether Government proposes to regulate financial management of political parties; and

(c) whether the Law Commission has given its views in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies in lower judiciary

1399. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently expressed concern over the large number of vacancies in the lower judiciary; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the vacancies and the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies?

Augmentation of infrastructure of district courts of Andhra Pradesh

1400. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to augment the infrastructure, strength of Judges and manpower in all the district courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh through any of its Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allowing PIOs and NRIs to vote

1401. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal by Government to allow PIOs along with NRIs to vote in the elections;

(b) if so, the criteria to be allowed for doing so; and

(c) by when this scheme would become effective?

Relocation of Nyayalaya Bhawan to Rewa

†1402. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nyayalaya Bhawan is being relocated to district headquarters at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh and the authorities concerned to issue such an order, and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

relocation of Nyayalaya Bhawan is being consistently opposed by advocates and common people, keeping in view public convenience and delivery of justice to public; and

(c) if so, whether any action would be taken to retain the Nyayalaya Bhawan at the same place in view of public interest?

Seizure of cash during Assembly elections

1403. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRIMATI SHANTA
CHHETRI:

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

(a) whether former Chief Election Commissioner has said that the demonetisation of notes has not helped in controlling black money in the backdrop of recent seizure of humongous cash in the States that are going in for Assembly elections;

(b) if so, the details of seizures made in these states; and

(c) the type of action that has been taken against those who are involved in the transport of black money in the States which are going in for elections?

Flaw in flexi-fare scheme

1404. SHRI SAMBHAJI
CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while flexi-fare helped Railways to generate more income, it also led to reduction in number of passengers because of higher fare;

(b) whether the scheme has a major flaw

in that as the flexi-fare cannot be reduced even when demand is poor resulting in loss of passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways lost 7,00,000 passengers due to the flaw in the scheme and could only earn ₹ 552 crore additionally in one year; and

(d) whether there is any plan to review the scheme of flexi-fare and if so, how far the passengers shall get benefited by the initiative?

Antyodaya Express on Chennai-Egmore-Kanyakumari route

1405. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey regarding the operation of 'Antyodaya Express' across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to introduce more Antyodaya Express trains on Chennai-Egmore-Kanyakumari route which is one of the busiest/heavy traffic routes in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Doubling of railway lines in Jharkhand

1406. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the current status of the works relating to the doubling of railway lines of 1241 kilometres in Jharkhand which are likely to be completed in the current financial year?

Overcharging for food by private vendors

1407. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is providing meals in the running trains across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with menu list catered in the trains;

(c) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC provides food through private vendors in many trains and never monitors price charged by vendors;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government; and

(e) whether IRCTC constituted a Committee to identify private vendors who are overcharging more than the detailed menu issued by the IRCTC?

Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge

1408. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge is a project under the Railways;

(b) when was the first survey conducted for the Bogibeel bridge, the details thereof;

(c) when was the fund sanctioned and released for conducting the first survey of the Bogibeel bridge;

(d) when was the project inaugurated; and

(e) by when the project would be completed?

Allocation of 'Second Seating General Coaches' to Mail/Express and Super-fast trains

1409. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allocation of 'Second Seating General Coaches' to Mail/Express and Super-fast trains;

(b) whether any passenger load factor survey/analysis has ever been done regarding 'Second Seating General Coaches' allocation to Mail/Express and Super-fast trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken for enhancement of 'Second Seating General Coaches' in Mail/Express and Super-fast trains?

Trains stoppage at Lakhmina station of Bihar

†1410. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains that stop at Lakhmina station of Bihar;

(b) the average number of passengers who take tickets from this station and keeping that in view, the reasons for Delhi and Patna bound trains not halting at this station; and

(c) whether the Government will consider to provide 12-hour reservation facility per day at Lakhmina station for convenience of passengers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Inadequate compensation for
Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet
train**

1411. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as of October, 2018 out of the 1,400 hectares needed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train project, only 0.9 hectares of land have been acquired on account of widespread farmer agitation against inadequate compensation;

(b) if so, whether the project would still be able to meet its completion deadline of 2023; and

(c) the reasons for such widespread agitation and whether Government plans to enhance the compensation being offered and to what extent enhanced compensation would be sanctioned?

**Beginning and expansion of
passenger rail services**

† 1412. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of beginning and expansion of passenger rail services with respect to the declaration made therefor from 2014 to 2018, year-wise?

**Unmanned level crossings and
enhancing safety measures**

1413. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is an urgent need for taking effective measure to enhance safety across its railway network and prevent untoward incidents;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the

railway infrastructure for providing safe and secure experience to passengers;

(c) the steps taken to eliminate unmanned level crossings across the country; and

(d) the total number of unmanned level crossings at present as compared to those in 2014?

**Acquiring additional electric
locomotives**

1414. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to switch to a '100 per cent electrification policy' for the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the Government's plans to do away with the existing diesel locomotives; and

(c) the details of the funds required to acquire up to 5000 additional electric locomotives?

**Running of high speed trains in the
country**

1415. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail tracks in the country, as on date;

(b) whether Railways is planning to run high speed trains in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the routes selected for the purpose, particularly in the eastern part of the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that only 0.3 per cent of tracks are fit to handle trains running at the speed of 160 km per hour;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) the measures taken to repair the tracks first for use of high speed trains like Train-18?

Revamping vendorship licensing process

1416. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to revamp the vendorship licensing process at railway platforms;

(b) if so, the detailed State-wise list of nodal agencies and officers appointed in this regard;

(c) the details about the progress made so far; and

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

Action against corrupt railway employees/officers

1417. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any details about the railway employees/officers being charged for corruption in last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the complete details about the action taken against these employees/officers so far?

Introduction of Railbus in Nilgiri Mountain Railway

1418. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have planned to

introduce Railbus in Nilgiri Mountain Railway under Southern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trial run of Railbus is completed;

(d) if so, by when it would be operationalised for tourists/passengers and from which place to which place; and

(e) the total capacity of a Railbus and the number of Railbuses likely to be deployed, along with details thereof?

Revamping of railway stations

1419. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken up the development of railway stations in the country to make them world class;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the quantum of funds earmarked for this purpose, particularly for the State of Telangana; and

(c) the number of railway stations in the State of Telangana that have been identified to be included in this category along with the details thereof?

Withdrawing flexi-fare system on experimental basis

1420. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is planning to withdraw flexi-fare system on experimental basis in some trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any complaints of

the flexi-fare system introduced in Railways; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to rationalise the flexi-fare system?

Prevention of accidents at unmanned railway crossings

†1421. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at unmanned railway crossings have increased during the last four years;

(b) whether Government proposes to launch a special drive to prevent such accidents at unmanned railway crossings;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been no decline in number of such accidents despite the guidelines issued by Government from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to prevent spread of American pest

1422. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a brand new American pest is affecting maize, sugarcane and other crops in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to prevent the spread of the American pest in the country?

Rising number of train accidents in the country

1423. SHRI G.C. CHANDRA-SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of train derailments and accidents occurred in various parts of country during last three years and if so, the number of persons killed and injured in these accidents and the total amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into these accidents and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check frequent rail accidents in future and to ensure the safety and security of the rail passengers?

Electrification of railway tracks

1424. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the proposal for electrification of the remaining 13,675 kilometres of railway tracks at an estimated cost of over ₹12,134 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the electrification is likely to be completed by 2021-22; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Survey of Baramulla-Kupwara rail line

1425. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

survey of "Baramulla-Kupwara" railway line in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for not starting the work with regard to this and whether Government will start work by doing survey at an early date?

Repair and improvement of old coaches

1426. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether old railway coaches need repairs and improvement;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard; and

(c) whether there is need of pest controlling in coaches and cushioning of all old coaches?

Increased brokers' activities in sale of railway tickets

†1427. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in activity of brokers in sale of Railway tickets;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any steps to stop this; and

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

Modernization of railway tracks with latest technology

1428. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to modernise railway tracks in the country to avoid railway accidents, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number and details of sections of the railway tracks that have been modernised with latest technology in the last five years;

(c) whether Government proposes to constitute a team of experts to study and examine railway tracks in the country specially in the vulnerable areas and also to undertake study of railway tracks, latest technology and safety norms of some of the leading countries; and

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

Introduction of AYUSH system in Railway hospitals

†1429. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to introduce AYUSH system of medicine in all Railway hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States in which Railway hospitals have been selected during the first phase of the scheme and by when patients would start getting benefit from this scheme; and

(d) the time-frame for providing the said facility in all the Railway hospitals across the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**POH electric works and engine
repairing workshop at Dabhoi,
Gujarat**

†1430. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of establishing POH electric works and electronic engine repairing workshop factory in Dabhoi region of Vadodara in Gujarat had been approved by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent so far out of ₹ 300 crore allocated in this regard; and

(d) the works executed so far in this regard and the percentage of works completed along with the details of the works accomplished?

Fog safety devices

1431. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway passengers face great difficulty, especially during winter season, as most of the time trains get delayed and cancelled due to fog which creates confusion, and carries risk of accidents due to impaired visibility;

(b) whether the Railways have installed fog safety devices and detonators to solve the problem; and

(c) if so, the details of trains equipped with these devices?

Train-18, the NextGen Shatabdi

1432. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Train-18s, the NextGen Shatabdi, proposed to be manufactured in Integral Coach Factory (ICF), and the number of trains on trial;

(b) the salient features and facilities fitted with this train;

(c) whether trains have undergone mandatory safety checks;

(d) the routes on which these trains would be deployed; and

(e) whether the passenger fares proposed would be comparable with those of Shatabdi trains, and the details thereof?

Framing Goods Shed Policy

1433. SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has constituted a committee to frame Goods Shed Policy as per Public-Private Partnership mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have also decided to outsource a number of goods sheds to private parties to manage them;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether these would be developed to have new infrastructure and to provide modern facilities; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) if so, whether it would be on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model or on long-term lease to the private parties?

Establishment of medical colleges offering postgraduate courses

1434. SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to establish medical colleges offering postgraduate courses, at its existing hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the places selected for the purpose along with the details thereof;

(c) whether Medical Council of India has granted permission for the same;

(d) the subjects that would be offered;

(e) whether MoUs will be signed with local medical colleges and universities for studies and faculty requirements; and

(f) the number of students who could be accommodated in the proposed medical colleges, and the investments that would be required?

Repairing railway tracks

†1435. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on several

railway routes, trains are running more than the capacity of railway tracks due to which adequate time is not given for repairing railway tracks, resulting in accidents;

(b) the names of the railway routes on which trains are being operated more than the capacity of railway tracks;

(c) the number of railway routes on which due to operation of more train traffic, congestion takes place resulting in increased probability of accidents; and

(d) the length of tracks which was expected to be renewed during last five years and the details of the length of railway tracks actually renewed?

Flexi-fare in Rajdhani trains

†1436. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air conditioned first class and second class fares of Rajdhani trains being charged by the Railways are more than the air fares;

(b) the railway routes on which flexi-fare is more than the air fare;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to the excess fare, most of the seats in Rajdhani trains remain vacant;

(d) the loss per year to Railways due to the vacant seats in Rajdhani trains; and

(e) the vacancy position of seats both in Rajdhani and Superfast trains?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cost overrun due to delayed railway projects

1437. DR. K. V. P.
RAMACHANDRA
RAO:
SHRI MAJEED MEMON:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway projects are facing cost overrun due to delay in execution, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the major projects which are in execution by Railways and their estimated cost overrun; and

(c) the reasons for the cost overrun and in what manner the Ministry is planning to reduce these cost overruns in future?

Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh

1438. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh was created in 2017-18 for safety works;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the amount spent so far and safety

measures undertaken especially in Punjab?

MPLADS funds for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

†1439. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide additional funds in MPLADS for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revision of GDP data

1440. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether Central Statistics Office (CSO) has recently revised the GDP growth rate during previous Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the GDP growth rate of previous years has been revised by CSO, so far; and

(d) the rationale for the revision of GDP data by CSO?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th December, 2018
Agrahayana 24, 1940 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	: 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284,1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295,1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303,1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1422,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 1326,1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336,
Coal	: 1337, 1338, 1339,
Communications	: 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370,
Electronics and Information Technology	: 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378,
Food Processing Industries	: 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387,
Law and Justice	: 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403,
Railways	: 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408,1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438,
Statistics and Programme Implementation:	1439, 1440.