

## RAJYA SABHA

---

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, February 3, 2017/Magha 14, 1938 (Saka)*

---

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;  
Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;  
Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing  
Industries; Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs;  
Railways; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 160

#### Drought in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a detailed report on the drought occurred in the State during Kharif season requesting to release suitable financial assistance to the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any action has been taken on the request to release assistance to Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

#### Setting up of cold chain

†158. SHRILAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for setting up a cold chain has been formulated by the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Food Processing Industries;

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

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

#### Sale of vegetables by farmers below the production cost

159. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers growing vegetables are compelled to sell their produce, particularly perishable articles like tomatoes at 50 paise per kg due to non availability of buyers after demonetization of currency notes, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government would announce any special package for compensation to those farmers who have suffered severe losses due to selling of their vegetables at the price much below the cost of production; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Benefits for farmers under PMFBY**

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

(a) whether wide changes have been made in old crop insurance scheme by reconciling the discrepancies under recently introduced new Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to enable farmers to get maximum benefits, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the amount of premium paid by farmers under PMFBY has been substantially reduced and also the cap on payment on insurance has been withdrawn, if so, the details thereof?

**Production of Kharif and Rabi crops**

161. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production figures of foodgrains in Kharif and Rabi seasons during 2015-16;

(b) whether floods/drought are expected to affect their production this year, if so, to what extent;

(c) the Kharif crop production this year; and

(d) the expected Rabi season production?

**Impact of demonetization on farming sector**

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure minimum damage to small farmers due to demonetization;

(b) whether Government has conducted or planning to conduct any study to understand the nature of impact of demonetization on farming sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when Government is planning to conduct such a study?

**Introduction of new Agriculture Policy**

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

(a) whether Government is introducing a new Agriculture Policy for providing more incentives to farmers to increase agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Promoting fisheries sector**

164. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fisheries is not considered as a main agricultural activity by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rate of interest for agricultural loans is less than that for fisheries; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to promote fisheries?

**Mechanism to provide remunerative price to farmers**

‡165. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers were not getting even production cost for their produce like potato and tomato due to demonetization and incidents like leaving their agricultural produce in the farms and dumping on the road has come to light; and

(b) if so, whether Government would announce minimum support price or develop any mechanism for procuring potato from farmers in potato producing season in line with crops like paddy, sugarcane, wheat and other so that farmers get reasonable price for their produce, the details thereof?

**Organic farming under PKVY**

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

(a) whether Government was able to mobilize 50 acres of land with fifty or more farmers to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) across the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

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

**MSP for foodgrains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S.Swaminathan had recommended for fixing of Minimum Support Price of foodgrains at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of productions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the MSP for foodgrains announced by Government for 2016-17 met this recommendation, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Measures taken for growth in agriculture sector**

168. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take measures for pushing growth in agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to promote the income of farmers in the country by ensuring that they shift towards high value agricultural produces?

**Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra**

169. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per official statistics, 80 per cent of farmers' suicides are due to debt, loans from banks and not money lenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Maharashtra; and

---

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government to correct this situation?

**Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**

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

(a) the allocation made, funds released and utilized for Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during last two years, State-wise;

(b) the status of physical progress under the said Mission in the State of West Bengal during last two years, district-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry maintains data of the beneficiaries of various components under the said Mission; and

(d) if so, the details of beneficiaries receiving benefits under the said Mission in West Bengal during last two years, district-wise and component-wise and if not, the reasons for not maintaining such data?

**Impact of demonetization on farmers' income**

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

(a) the details of net loss in farmers' income due to dropping prices in November and December due to demonetization, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been an increase in farmers' income in the previous year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the impact on farmers' income due to restrictions on co-operative banks to exchange or deposit demonetized currency?

**Schemes to boost income of farmers**

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

(a) the average income of farmers in the country in the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry is taking any steps or implementing any schemes for farmers to boost their incomes, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking any steps to help farmers obtain credit or cash for labour, fertilizers and seeds in the light of the recent demonetization, if so, the details thereof?

**Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra**

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

(a) the number of farmers' suicides recorded in each of the last ten years in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the number of cases found eligible for compensation and amount of compensation paid, district-wise and year-wise for 2014, 2015 and 2016;

(c) in how many of the last ten years, drought has been declared in Maharashtra, district-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the amount of money spent since 2014 on farmers' suicide prevention in Maharashtra excluding compensation, the details of different schemes applicable and respective disbursements?

**Compensation to farmers for loss due to demonetization**

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

(a) the average prices of major agricultural commodities including pulses, cereals, grains and vegetables as on 8 November, 30 November, 15 December and 30 December, 2016;

(b) whether the Ministry will undertake a study to determine the effect of demonetization on prices of various agricultural commodities;

(c) if so, how and when, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether farmers would be compensated for loss in income due to fall in prices of their produce in the open market after demonetization; and

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

**Guidelines on Bt. cotton seed market**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Seed Association of India has opposed the draft guidelines on the Bt. cotton seed market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the existing Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act has adequate provisions to regulate the cotton seed market and other future technologies in the agriculture sector; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no need for licensing agreement from the

technology provider and even trait fee can be fixed by the plant protection authority?

**Rabbit rearing by tribal and poor people**

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

(a) whether ICAR-Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar (Malpura) Rajasthan has stopped producing the breed of rabbit which was made available to the rabbit rearing tribals and poor people thereby depriving continuance of their profession; and

(b) if so, the strategy of Government to revive this for the benefit of tribal and poor people?

**Scheme to improve agricultural system**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to prevent wastage of fruits and vegetables and the resultant loss, Government is considering to enhance capacity of godowns and cold storages in the country;

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

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

**Reduction in cultivable area**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cultivation in the country has been drastically getting reduced over a period of time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is because of less interest shown in agriculture and growing urbanization; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to arrest this trend?

#### **Drip irrigation system in Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that use of drip irrigation system augments cultivable area on average by 8.41 per cent with same source of water, if so, whether on farm water management scheme has been started as a component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture for promoting micro irrigation;

(b) if so, the number of districts of Maharashtra that have been connected under this scheme; and

(c) the total number of farmers in Maharashtra that have been benefited from this scheme during the last three years?

#### **Suicide by farmers**

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

(a) whether farmers are committing suicides due to economic crisis;

(b) if so, the number of such cases coming to the notice of Government since last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the measures taken by Government

to provide special assistance to farmers having small land holdings; and

(d) the details of outcome with regard to measures adopted for providing assistance?

#### **Compensation given by insurance companies to farmers**

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

(a) the State-wise details of the amount of premium paid by farmers, Central and State Governments to insurance companies and the number of farmers and the amount of compensation given to them after the launch of new agriculture insurance policy;

(b) the additional amount of premium having to be paid by farmers under new agriculture insurance policy, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of high risk States and the increase in amount of premium in those places, the details thereof?

#### **Budgetary provision for women farmers**

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make budgetary provision for women farmers to meet their specific needs and to achieve socio-economic and technology empowerment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30 per cent for the benefit of women farmers under all centrally sponsored schemes for development of Agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has conducted any study on women participation and their contribution to agriculture in the country, if so, the outcome thereof?

**Soil testing labs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that even a single Soil Testing Lab (STL) has not been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the criteria adopted in sanctioning of Soil Testing Labs and Mobile Soil Testing Labs; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States have been sanctioned more STLs, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Use of space technology and Geo informatics for assessment of damage to crops**

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

(a) whether Government has launched a pilot project called Kisan Crop Insurance using space technology and Geo informatics, if so, the salient features of the project;

(b) the names of States covered under the said Pilot project;

(c) whether the project will help in assessment of damage to crops of apple, pear, mango, peach, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to cover Himachal Pradesh under the project; and

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

**Shortage of organic manure for farming**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mechanization of farming has led to a decrease in domestication of cattle by farmers resulting in insufficient availability of cow dung manure for farming;

(b) whether cow dung manure has scientifically proved to be better than chemical fertilizers for crops and soil both; and

(c) the special incentives Government has planned to meet the shortage for domestication of cattle by farmers in large number, not only to have milk and its by-products, but also organic manure in sufficient quantity to be used in agriculture?

**Assistance to Himachal Pradesh for promoting fruit crops**

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

(a) whether Government has fixed any target for production of fruits and vegetables in various States of the country, including Himachal Pradesh, during the current Five Year Plan period, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the fruits and vegetables production in various States, including Himachal Pradesh, during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of assistance likely to be provided by Government to Himachal Pradesh for promotion of fruit crops during the current Five Year Plan period?

**Promotion of fruit production in Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is far behind in fruit production, except for banana, oranges and grapes in organized manner in comparison to other States despite potential, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has initiated any programme/scheme for increase in fruit production in Maharashtra or there is something in store for the near future, which may go a long way in further improvement of the economic condition of the farmers?

**Scheme for development and production of fodder**

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme/programme for the development and production of animal fodder, especially in the context of prevailing widespread drought in various States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether pasture land in villages is on the decline on account of degradation and/or encroachment resulting in scarcity of animal fodder, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of rural pastures/grazing land, State-wise, along with action taken

for removal of encroachment on such land at the earliest?

**Monsoon failure in Tamil Nadu**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the monsoon failure in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any evaluation has been conducted to assess the damage caused due to drought in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there was no prior forecast of monsoon failure by IMD, if so, the action taken thereon?

**Unscientific and excessive use of pesticides**

190. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problems associated with the unscientific and excessive use of pesticides have not been addressed properly by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the system for registration of pesticides does not address the systemic deficiency; and

(c) whether Government is considering to review the Insecticides Act, 1968 as the pesticide sector needs better regulation to safeguard the environment and public health, if so, the details thereof?

**Decline in production of foodgrains due to drought**

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

(a) whether foodgrains production has



come down during the last two years due to drought conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of reported farmer's suicides during the last two years, State-wise?

**Providing market intelligence to farmers**

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

(a) whether several State Governments have submitted a memorandum to Central Government to provide market intelligence to farmers to help them to get remunerative prices for the agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether a demand has also been made for setting up an Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) unit in the region to study and solve the problems of farmers in the country?

**Distress sale of pulses**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in Kharif production of pulses has resulted in sharp drop in their prices, falling even below the MSP in several mandis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of effective procurement mechanism, the farmers are compelled to distress sale of their produce; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to set in place an

urgent procurement mechanism to avert imminent misery to farmers growing pulses?

**Adoption of scientific and modern farming**

194. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve technical competence of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken, if any, to promote scientific farming and adoption of modern approach to agriculture by farmers?

**Throwing away of potatoes and tomatoes by farmers**

195. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that agricultural produces like tomato and potato are being thrown away by farmers in some parts of the country as they are not getting even handling charges of their produce, due to demonetization;

(b) if so, the details of Government plan to protect farmers' economy; and

(c) if not, whether Government wishes to find out about poor marketing system of agriculture produce to ensure farmer's interest in tune with Government's commitment to double the farmers' income?

**Suicide by farmers in Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether spate of farmers' suicide in

Vidarbha, particularly in Yavatmal and Pimpri Buti is on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of suicides taken place in Maharashtra in the last two years; and

(c) the concrete steps Government is taking to address the woes of debt ridden farmers whose crops have failed in the region?

#### **Training in modern farming technology**

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

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan for adopting advanced farming keeping in view the small land holdings of farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has been running any scheme to impart training to farmers with regard to farming with the help of modern technology in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Rabi and Kharif crops claims under Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

198. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of claims received under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme during Kharif 2015 and Rabi 2015-16 from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that not even a single claim has been settled during kharif 2015 in the above two States, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the status of above claims during 2015-16?

#### **Training to farmers for scientific cultivation**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made several announcements to promote the agriculture, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has provided training to farmers for scientific cultivation; and

(c) whether farmers have been informed in this regard, if so, the names of districts of Bihar wherein this programme has been implemented by Government, the details thereof?

#### **Milk production in Himalayan States**

†200 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of milk being produced in Himalayan States at present;

(b) whether it is sufficient for supply to the States;

(c) if not, whether Government will provide funds and other facilities to increase the milk production in these Himalayan States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Cashless transactions in Agriculture sector business**

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to introduce/promote cashless transaction in Agriculture sector business in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any transaction fee waiver has been proposed on cashless transactions?

**Ban on use of certain pesticides**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee headed by a Professor of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has recommended to ban some pesticides in the country as they involve risk to humans and animals; and

(b) if so, the details of those pesticides, for what purpose they are being used and the measures being taken for banning them with immediate effect?

**Agreements with foreign countries to strengthen agricultural ties**

203. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into agreements with foreign countries to strengthen agricultural ties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Pricing of stents**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the recent directive of the High Court of Delhi to fix price for stents which otherwise are not controlled as per the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013;

(b) if so, the steps the Ministry has taken to fix the price of stents in the country; and

(c) how domestically manufactured stents are comparable with imported stents from United States and the European Union?

**Dependence on China for APIs**

205. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China supplies 70 per cent of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacture of drugs in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether interrupted imports from China may lead to a plausible scenario of drugs shortage in the country; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to produce APIs in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Subsidy on fertilizers**

206. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether farmers are getting requisite

benefit of subsidy on fertilizers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some companies resort to tactics of indicating lower production capacity and on the basis of percentage production obtain huge subsidy;

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

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the poor and marginal farmers get the maximum benefit of subsidy?

#### **Direct Benefit Transfer in Fertilizer sector**

207. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would undertake a pilot project in 16 districts across the country to introduce Direct Benefit Transfer in Fertilizer sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether unlike the DBT in LPG and other schemes, it cannot be introduced easily in Fertilizer sector, if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Closure of pharma PSUs**

208. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government has decided to close down the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

#### **fulfilment of Government assurances**

209. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of

assurances given by Ministers on floor of the House in the last three years;

(b) the details of the number of assurances that have not yet been fulfilled and are pending;

(c) the reasons for such pendency; and

(d) the steps being taken to follow-up with respective Ministries for fulfilment of pending assurances?

#### **Funding of PCPIR project in Odisha**

210. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) Policy envisages funding for Viable Gap Funding (VGF) under the PPP mode;

(b) whether the Ministry has received proposal from the Government of Odisha for funding the same in the shape of grant instead of VGF for successful implementation of the PCPIR project at Paradeep in Odisha; and

(c) whether the Ministry would furnish the status of the request?

#### **Growth rate of Indian drug formulation market**

211. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian drug formulation market grew by 15.3 per cent in August to ₹ 9643 crore over the corresponding month last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth was driven by 9.1 per cent expansion

on volumes, 2.9 per cent rise in prices and 3.3 per cent in new launches; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian companies grew by 17.1 per cent against 9 per cent growth for multinational companies, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Revival of defunct fertilizer plants**

212. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive and constructive plan to revive the defunct fertilizer plants of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL); and

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

#### **New system in place of NPPA**

213. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a major overhaul of the country's drug policy, Government has taken a decision to disband the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and set up a new system in its place; and

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

#### **Bringing stents under NLEM**

214. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has added coronary stents to the National List of

Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015 by bringing them under price control;

(b) if so, the details of price formula fixed by Government for various types of stents in the country;

(c) whether manufacturers/suppliers of stents have opposed this price formula for stents;

(d) if so, the details of their objections and Government's response thereto; and

(e) the details of further steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making affordable and quality stents available in the country?

#### **Digital India**

215. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps Government has taken for cashless payments and Digital India;

(b) whether only 3 per cent of the population has access to the internet;

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

(d) how Digital India is possible without access to internet?

#### **Debt of MTNL**

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

(a) whether it is fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is facing serious debt problem and is borrowing money to meet its day to day requirements;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has been going slow in upgradation of equipments during the last four to five years due to severe financial problems; and

(c) whether due to non-investment in access network of fixed lines, there are service quality issues, if so, the details thereof?

**Telecom and internet connectivity in Naxal-affected areas**

†217. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to promote the connectivity of telephones, mobiles and internet in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of mobile towers presently operating and the number of such towers required in Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh and, whether any steps are being taken by Government to meet any requirement of additional towers, if so, the details thereof?

**Porting out of MTNL**

218. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have ported out/opted out from GSM mobile service run by MTNL during the last three years;

(b) whether a large number of complaints have been received by MTNL regarding poor coverage of its mobile service network which has deteriorated further during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has taken or contemplating any action to improve the 2G, 3G and 4G services at the earliest for the benefit of its subscribers?

**Proposals for release of commemorative stamps**

219. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in receipt of a large number of proposals in connection with release of commemorative stamps recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of decisions taken on the proposals received so far; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to prune the guidelines for releasing of commemorative stamps, if so, the details thereof?

**Changing the name of Postman as Postmaster**

†220. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMINICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has changed the designation of Postman distributing letters in villages to Postmaster;

(b) whether this change in designation has been done only in the State of Rajasthan or it has been done at national level;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pay scale of Postmaster ranges from ₹ 4500 to ₹ 13,000;

(d) whether this pay scale remains even lower than that a Central fourth class employee; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide proper pay scale to Postmaster distributing mails from one village to another?

**Failure of public sector telecoms to provide quality service**

†221. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector telecom companies have failed in providing quality services to their consumers because the number of complaints made by the consumers with regard to call drops, poor connection and the relatively slow speed of broadband is increasing, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to install towers along borders of States as roaming charge is being levied due to low network in border areas of all States, including Maharashtra?

**Penalty for breach of license conditions**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought Attorney General's opinion on whether it has the authority to impose penalty for breach of license conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that DoT may not make any move on setting up internal committees to examine the matter from commercial and technical aspects till such time it receives Attorney General's

opinion on the larger issue of its authority to impose penalty, if so, the details thereof?

**Call drop**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has finally accepted that it is not possible to curb call drops completely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that call drop is a global phenomenon; and

(c) whether Government and TRAI are taking all possible steps with the help of telecom operators to address the problem of call drop and bring it down within the permissible limit, if so, the details thereof?

**Growth of mobile subscriber base post demonetization**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that demonetization has affected the growth of mobile subscriber base, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that demonetization has cut mobile phone growth forecast, as per study of a research firm in the field of telecommunications, if so, the details thereof?

**Recovery of dues from telecoms**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recover the dues from telecom companies, which misreported their income and paid less amount to Government, as indicated by CAG, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to identify such type of mis-reporting by companies in future?

#### **BSNL towers in Rajasthan**

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

(a) the district-wise number of BSNL towers in Rajasthan along with the number of towers non-operational and by when these towers would start working; and

(b) whether BSNL proposes to install new towers, if so, the number of towers proposed to be installed in Rajasthan?

#### **Distribution of foodgrain under TPDS**

†227. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were lots of discrepancies and irregularities in the process of identification of poor beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) that have been completely resolved now, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether foodgrain is being distributed to all the poor beneficiaries of TPDS without any discrepancy or irregularity, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Wastage of onion, tomato and potatoes due to lack of storage capacity**

†228. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of onion, tomato and potatoes go waste every year for want of sufficient storage capacity due to which farmers don't get even the production cost, while at the same time prices of these vegetables become uncontrolled due to difficulty in supply, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is going to introduce a new National cold storage policy for solving these problems, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Wastage of wheat and rice**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that huge volumes of wheat and rice stock get wasted on account of poor storage capacity, if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken, during the last two years, to ensure that the wastage is reduced to the minimum and by when it is likely to be stopped completely?

#### **Inclusion of AAY cardholders in food security law**

†230. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) whether it is a fact that only AAY cardholders have been included under the ambit of food security law, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the details of those who are included under the food security law; and

(c) the details of existing number of APL, BPL and AAY cardholders in the country?

#### **Achieving “Zero Hunger” target**

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

(a) whether eminent agriculturists have urged the Government to review the country's food policy, especially the distribution system, to achieve Zero Hunger across the country, if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and

(b) whether people living in rural areas have to depend on the Public Distribution System due to fluctuation in the environmental conditions of the country such as severe heat, rains and drought?

#### **Protection of consumer rights under e-commerce**

232. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:  
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumer rights and protection with respect to the e-commerce, are not effectively being dealt within the existing Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details in this regard along with the measures taken by Government to protect the rights of e-consumers; and

(c) how Government is planning to address the issues such as the place of business, jurisdiction, non-availability of common dispute resolution system, etc.?

#### **Lack of storage facilities**

†233. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of foodgrains get rotten due to lack of storage facilities in the country, including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of provision of funds for this purpose during the last three years and the amount spent out of this by December, 2016, State-wise; and

(c) the provision of funds made by Government for warehouses in 2017-18 Budget and the steps taken for suitable storage of foodgrains?

#### **Availability of essential commodities at affordable prices**

†234. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential commodities along with sugar, edible oil, cereals and vegetables are rising continuously inspite of the efforts made by Government for controlling their prices due to which the difference between inflation rate and *per capita* income is increasing considerably; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to provide more powers to pricing regulatory authority and take steps to improve the availability of essential commodities and control their prices ?

#### **Import of wheat**

235. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has relaxed wheat import norms, if so, the details thereof indicating the increased quantum of imports allowed during the current year in comparison to the previous years; and

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is holding surplus stock of 29 million tonnes of wheat as against its obligation of 20 million tonnes under the Public Distribution System during the current year, if so, the details thereof along with the fate of remaining stock in view of import of cheaper wheat?

#### **Disposal of non-issuable foodgrains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains procured by FCI has become non-issuable due to various reasons, including negligence in handling, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is taking proper precautions in disposing these foodgrains to avoid re-circulation; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains declared non-issuable and disposed of during the last five years, year-wise?

#### **Allocation of foodgrains to Kerala**

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

(a) the current allocation of foodgrains to Kerala by Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) the allocation of foodgrains, including ad-hoc allocation to Kerala before implementation of the National Food Security Act; and

(c) whether Government is considering additional allocation of foodgrains to Kerala to adjust the deficiency in supply of foodgrains?

#### **Availability of commodities under PDS**

238. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the quantity and number of items available through Public Distribution System (PDS) after demonetization to strengthen PDS and make better availability of commodities to public; and

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

#### **Cashless transactions in ration shops**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is going to equip all ration shops for cashless transactions before March, 2017, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of plan of action since cashless payments are mandated only in 38,000 ration shops out of the total 5.27 lakh shops across the country; and

(c) whether any consultations have been held with State Governments in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof?

#### **Digital Literacy Mission**

240. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Digital Literacy Mission for the rural people of the country with a view to make them digitally literate, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of institutes/labs functioning in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to be shared with companies investing in startup projects to propagate digital literacy and if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Maharashtra?

#### **Electronic System Design and Manufacturing incubation centre in Odisha**

241. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal on Electronic System Design and Manufacturing incubation centre of Government of Odisha is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) by when the same will be approved to start the project?

#### **Digi-Dhan Abhiyan**

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

(a) whether Government has introduced Digi-Dhan Abhiyan programme recently with a view to increase the digital literacy among the public, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the programme has got the expected momentum among the public, the details thereof?

#### **New apps and digital services post demonetization**

243. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new apps and digital services developed so far in view of rising digital payments post demonetization;

(b) how far these apps and digital services ensure cyber security;

(c) whether wallets and mobile banking applications used in the country do not use hardware level security; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard to ensure online transactions to be more secure?

#### **Increase in cyber crimes**

244. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cyber crime cases in the country have increased four-fold in the last three years;

(b) whether Government has any mechanism to guide and fund State Governments to ensure security of digital Government data, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to guard against external cyber-attacks; and

(d) the details of money spent over past three years, State-wise, for improving the cyber security?

**Legislation for protection of data and privacy**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of increasing cyber crimes involving breach of privacy and cheating, if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring legislation regarding data protection and privacy in the digital domain, if so, the details thereof?

**Scheme and projects under Digital India Programme**

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

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

(a) the details of schemes and projects being implemented under the Digital India initiative;

(b) the performance of the above in the last two years, quarter-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to bring more private participation and to speed up digitization and network growth for quick delivery and implementation of e-governance services in rural areas of the country, the State-wise details thereof?

**Delay in release of pension of retired employees of North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur**

247. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a delay in release of pension, revision of pensions, grant of MACP, pay fixation to the employees retired from North Eastern Railway (NER), Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, whether there have been such pending cases of Health Inspectors retired in July, 2016 from NER, Gorakhpur, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations/complaints regarding above cases are pending with Advanced Railway Pension Access Network (ARPAN) and NER; and

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

**Restricting unauthorised access to official information in Government offices**

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

(a) whether the Central Government offices are equipped with standard information security measures to restrict unauthorised access to official information by the hackers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the compliance status of the IPv6 internet protocol system in the country; and

(c) whether Government has taken/will be taking measures to restrict circulation of anti-social information from terrorist outfits like ISIS in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Mega Food Parks in Jharkhand**

249. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to establish Mega Food Parks in Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) the quantum of funds sanctioned and released so far, the details thereof?

**Attracting latest technology in Food Processing Sector**

250. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held meetings with the Ambassadors and High Commissioners in the country to attract FDI into trading of food products;

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

(c) whether Government plans to attract latest technologies in the Food Processing sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/issues considered with regard to raising farmers' income and generating more employment through FDI in the Food Processing sector?

**Promotion of Food Processing sector in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh**

251. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is determined to promote and develop Food Processing sector in the country;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any project in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Orange juice preservation plant in Nagpur**

252. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project in the pipeline for preservation of orange juice or pulp in Nagpur, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, how much is its capacity; and

(c) whether it will be sufficient for Nagpur and surrounding orange growing areas?

**Totaliser machines for ballot counting**

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

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

(a) whether Government has introduced, in consultation with the Election Commission, totaliser machines for the ballot counting in the forthcoming elections, on experimental basis;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure that these findings and statistics do not adversely affect the booth management system of political parties in the elections?

**Regulating finances of political parties**

254. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether Government proposes to regulate the finances of political parties; and

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

**Task Force for 'Judicial Impact Assessment'**

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

(a) whether any Task Force/Committee has been constituted to study 'Judicial Impact Assessment' in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and the composition of such Task Force;

(c) the major recommendations made by the Task Force; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

**Filling up of posts of non-judicial staff in High Courts**

256. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the large number of vacancies in clerical and office Assistant posts in many District and High Courts of the country;

(b) the details of the number of vacancies in clerical and office Assistant

posts, District Courts-wise and High Courts-wise; and

(c) whether these vacancies have led to a large stagnation of cases in many Courts, if so, the steps taken by Government to rectify the same?

**Doing away with Notary system**

257. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

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

(a) whether Government has received any recommendation from any quarters to do away with the system of Notary as it is no longer important to follow in the present scenario, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the stand of Government in this regard?

**E-Services for petitioners**

258. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has introduced or proposes to introduce e-services for petitioners to avail certain legal services, if so, the details thereof?

**Status of Memorandum of procedure**

259. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the bone of contention between the Government and the Judiciary on MoP; and

(c) the changes that the Judiciary wanted in the MoP and the constraints that the Government has to change the same?

**Finalizing Memorandum of Procedure for selection of Judges**

260. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has finalized the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court of India, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts**

261. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 1 January, 2017;

(b) whether steps have been taken to fill up all these vacancies;

(c) the average delay in filling up a vacancy now;

(d) whether this period has increased/ decreased during the last two years; and

(e) if increased, the reasons and remedial measures taken therefor?

**Pending cases and vacancies of Judges**

262. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for disposal in the Supreme Court and each of

the High Courts across the country as on 31 December, 2016;

(b) the present strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and the various High Courts in the country as on date, along with the number of vacancies of Judges in these Courts; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies of Judges and to expedite disposal of pending cases before the Courts?

**Filling up of posts of Judges**

†263. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to fill up large number of vacant posts of Judges in Courts, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the number of posts of Judges laying vacant and those which were filled, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise?

**Fast Track Courts**

264. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to establish Fast Track Courts to take up trail of cases involving senior citizens, women and children, physically challenged and persons affected with terminal ailments if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is giving separate funds for this purpose, if so, State-wise details of funds earmarked/ released?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Youth Parliament Competitions in Chhattisgarh**

‡265. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Youth Parliament Competitions organised in Chhattisgarh in the last three years and the current year; and

(b) whether Government has reimbursed any expenditure incurred on organising Youth Parliament Competitions in Chhattisgarh during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

cancelled and delayed, since 15 December, 2016 till date, date-wise;

(b) the details of the number of trains which reached on or before time since 15 December, 2016 till date, Zone-wise and date-wise;

(c) the reasons for unprecedented delay of trains in the year 2016 and 2017, so far;

(d) whether through unofficial message from Railway Board, the speed of trains has been restricted to 60-70 kilometres per hour; and

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

**Equipping railway stations with Wi-Fi facility**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to equip all railway stations in the country with Wi-Fi facility;

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

(c) if so, whether Government is also contemplating equipping the railway stations located in Gujarat with Wi-Fi facility; and

(d) if so, the number of such stations and by when they will be equipped with this facility and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Dearth of coaches in trains originating from Kerala**

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

(a) whether Passenger/Express trains originating from Kerala to distant destinations have often delayed or cancelled in recent months due to dearth of rakes or coaches;

(b) whether non-availability of sufficient number of coaches and absence of a centre in Kerala for repair of coaches is one of the main reasons for this; and

(c) whether Railways will make more coaches available and establish a coach repair yard for the railway divisions in Kerala to avoid repetition of such lapses?

**Details of cancelled and delayed trains**

267. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of trains

**Separate coach for the disabled**

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

(a) whether there is a separate coach for the disabled in all the long route trains

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



running across the country, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the percentage of long route trains having separate coaches for the disabled at present; and

(c) by when Government is planning to increase their numbers and by what percentage, the details thereof?

#### **Derailment of Ajmer-Sealdah train**

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

(a) whether Ajmer-Sealdah Express train derailed near Kanpur recently where more than 40 people got injured and two had died;

(b) if so, whether Railways have identified the reasons for the said tragedy; and

(c) the compensation paid to the victims, including the kins of persons who have died, the details thereof?

#### **Train accidents**

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

(a) the total number of train accidents occurred in the last three years, including the major and minor ones;

(b) the total number of fatalities reported in these accidents; and

(c) the total amount of compensation awarded to the victims of these train accidents in the last three years by the Central Government?

#### **Purchase of power from discoms for train operations**

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

(a) whether Government is purchasing power from various discoms across the country for its train operations, if so, the details thereof, discom-wise;

(b) the details of expenses incurred on purchasing power from discoms, year-wise; and

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to change this system of purchasing power from discoms?

#### **Additional air conditioned coaches in Train No. 18241/42 Durg-Ambikapur Express**

‡273. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to add Ist and additional IInd and IIIrd class air conditioned coaches in Train No. 18241/42 Durg-Ambikapur Express, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposal from the people's representatives in this regard; and

(c) if so, from where such proposals have been received and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Track machine Civil Engineers in RDSO**

274. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether track machine Civil

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Engineers working in Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow with over fifteen years experience need to be utilised in other institutions of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such Engineers;

(c) whether services of such Engineers are required for capacity building of new recruits in training institutes, including Indian Railway Institute of Civil Engineering (IRICEN), Pune;

(d) if so, whether there is need for special posting of such experienced Engineers for three years in IRICEN to improve the safety in Railways; and

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

**Surge pricing on premium high-speed train services**

275. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced surge pricing on some of its premium high-speed train services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the experience gained since introduction of this pricing mechanism; and

(c) whether this price mechanism will divert traffic from Railways to airways, if not, the details thereof?

**Delay and cancellation of trains due to fog**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has completely failed in addressing the

problem of hundreds of trains getting cancelled and running late due to fog every year, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the efforts made by Government in this regard, so far, so as to deal with the above problem?

**Passenger amenities at Tirunelveli railway station**

277. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received recommendations/suggestions to provide some passenger-related amenities at the Tirunelveli railway station in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**Installation of bio-toilets and CCTV cameras**

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

(a) whether Government provided about thousands of crores of rupees to Railways for installation of bio-toilets in trains and CCTV cameras at railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of trains which have been fitted with bio-toilets and the railway stations which have been provided with CCTV cameras, as of now, Zone-wise; and

(c) the target set for completion of installation of bio-toilets in all the trains and CCTV cameras at all the railway stations in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Details of accidents and fatalities**

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

(a) the number of train accidents and fatalities occurred in last three years, year-wise, route-wise;

(b) the report-wise details of Inquiry Commission reports submitted in last three years and action taken thereon;

(c) how many committees have been formed in last three years to look into issues of safety, details of action taken on their reports;

(d) the proposed plans for increasing safety and budgetary allocations for the same in Railway Budgets 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(e) allocation made to the Depreciation Reserve Fund in last three years, year-wise and whether the allocation is sufficient to meet the requirement?

**Complaints received by Government Railway Police**

280. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been registered by Government Railway Police during 2011-15 regarding thefts of passengers' belongings, unauthorised entry and occupation of floor space for overnight travel in sleeper coaches all over the country;

(b) the entity primarily responsible for preventing thefts as well as unauthorised entry and occupation of spaces in sleeper coaches; and

(c) whether the Ministry will consider

appointing TTEs or Coachs Masters in every coach to prevent this, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Bogibeel bridge**

281. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year plan for completion of construction of Rail-cum-Road bridge over Brahmaputra at Bogibeel;

(b) the reasons for delay in completing construction of the bridge; and

(c) the action taken against the officials and contractor responsible for delay in completing construction of the bridge?

**Train accidents at unmanned railway level crossings**

282. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the safety measures the Ministry is taking/proposes to take for preventing accidents at unmanned railway crossings in view of the number of train accidents, including at unmanned railway level crossings;

(b) the type of upgraded technology Government is bringing in the country in all spheres of railway operations and infrastructure to prevent accidents and to enhance safety; and

(c) by when this upgraded technology will be in operation?

**Cashless passenger and freight business**

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

(a) whether Railways have made

significant progress in the Government's digitisation push with 97 per cent of its freight business and almost half of its passenger business going cashless;

(b) whether Railways have tied up with the State Bank of India to acquire and operate a large number of PoS machines to cater to the requirement at railway stations, unreserved and suburban ticket counters and parcel offices; and

(c) whether Railways enjoy the advantage of a well-laid out communication system to provide connectivity for the PoS operations?

#### **Formulation of a Suburban Rail System policy**

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

(a) whether most of our mega cities and million-plus population cities will benefit if the existing rail tracks could also be used for city and peri-urban area transportation;

(b) whether the Ministry has formulated a Suburban Rail System policy which when finalised and implemented can add much-needed additional transportation capacities in our urban areas; and

(c) whether Railways propose to look for sourcing of funds for such projects from the beneficiary States/urban bodies?

#### **Increase in train accidents**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of serious train accidents have increased in the country in

2016-17 as compared to the previous years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the kilometres coverage of track renewal in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the progress made in introducing retrofitted coaches improved with anti-climbing and anti-telescopic features in the current year, and by when it would be covered in the entire railway network; and

(d) on which routes train collision avoidance system has been introduced and what is its future plan, the details thereof?

#### **Renting out railway stations for wedding functions**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are weighing a proposal to rent out less busy stations for holding wedding functions and other events;

(b) whether any final decision to this effect has been taken; and

(c) if so, how the selection of railway stations, for holding such functions, will be done, the details thereof?

#### **Talgo coaches for commercial services**

287. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanction, as per extant provisions, is being obtained for introducing Talgo coaches for commercial services, if so, the status thereof; and

(b) the response of the Zonal Railways in this regard?

**Leasing out properties of Railways**

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

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to lease out Railways' properties and buildings to private businesses;

(b) if so, the details in this regard along with the details of rules and regulations to indentify and allot the properties to private entities; and

(c) the other income generating measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to lease out railway properties/buildings to the public and private sector companies?

**Complaints against IRCON**

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

(a) whether Government has received many complaints against IRCON for their mismanagement in project implementation in various parts of the country and abroad during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto, so far?

**Angamaly-Erumeli-Sabari railway line**

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

(a) whether the responsibility for funding Angamaly-Erumeli-Sabari railway line is being shifted to the newly-formed Kerala Rail Development Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the precautions to

ensure smooth continuance of the project are being taken by Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Availability of updated information regarding late arrival and departure of trains**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers had to wait for hours at stations between December, 2016 and January, 2017 as updated information about delayed arrival and departure of trains from Delhi was not being made available;

(b) the details of such trains that were running late by more than six hours;

(c) whether any case, regarding negligence by employees for not updating information about late arrival or departure of trains, has come to the notice of the Ministry; and

(d) whether Railways will make arrangements for sending details of late running trains to mobiles of the passengers, the details thereof?

**Safety-related vacancies in Railways**

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

(a) the total strength of staff in safety category in Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 1.3 lakh vacancies relating to safety are lying vacant in various Zones of Railways, if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the existing staff is working as much as 15 hours a day; and

(d) the efforts Railways are making to have a special drive to fill up all the safety-related vacancies in all the Zones?

**Difference between LHB and ICF coaches**

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

(a) how LHB coaches are different from ICF-designed coaches;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the current pace of production, it will take 30 years to replace the ICF coaches with LHB coaches;

(c) the details of LHB coaches constructed in the last five years and the current year, year-wise; and

(d) whether the Ministry is planning any special drive to achieve the target in a reasonable period, if so, the details thereof?

**Redevelopment of congested railway stations**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is mulling to redevelop railway stations which are at the core of city development and have become congested over time;

(b) whether some foreign countries have shown interest in the redevelopment of railway stations; and

(c) if so, the names of those countries and the cost of redeveloping those railway stations?

**Permanent posts in Railways**

295. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent posts in Railways in each category;

(b) how many employees have been recruited by Railway Recruitment Board during the last three years;

(c) the number of contract employees in each category, and the number of existing vacancies;

(d) whether reservation policy is strictly observed by the Recruitment Board; and

(e) the number of vacancies existing at present which are reserved for SCs/STs?

**Doubling of railway line from Bachhwara to Barauni**

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

(a) whether Government has approved doubling of railway lines from Bachhwara to Barauni junction *via* Hajipur to Patoree under Hajipur Zone, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a time-frame has been fixed for doubling the railway line from Hajipur *via* Patoree, Bachhwara upto Barauni, the complete details thereof?

**New railway line *via* Amaravati**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has received

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any proposal from South Central Railway to lay new railway line from Nambur Junction *via* Amaravati connecting Vijayawada-Kazipet section at Errupalem;

(b) whether survey for new railway line from Amaravati *via* Pedakurapadu and Sattenapalli connecting Narsaraopet in Guntur district has commenced;

(c) if so, the railway stations proposed to come up on the line between Nambur and Errupalem and online connecting Amaravati to Narsaraopet;

(d) the proposed estimates for completion of these two new lines; and

(e) the timelines to complete the new railway lines and commencement of operations?

#### **Separate Railway zone for Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam**

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

(a) whether a final decision was taken in principle to create separate Railway zone for Andhra Pradesh with Visakhapatnam as headquarters, as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014;

(b) if so, the reasons for delaying announcement of separate Railway zone for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any obstacles are coming in the way for creation of a separate Railway zone for Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Ministry is mandated to implement the provision provided under the aforesaid Act to create a separate Railway zone for Andhra Pradesh?

#### **Meetings of North Eastern Railway with MPs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**

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

(a) whether North Eastern Railway organizes meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand for improvement in Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by MPs so far on which positive action has been taken by Railways; and

(c) if no action has been taken on the suggestions given, the rationale of organising such meetings?

#### **Smart railway stations**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to have more than 500 smart railway stations in the country to compete with the smart cities concept; and

(b) if so, the details of those smart railway stations to be developed in different States, including Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

#### **Tickets purchased after 8 November, 2016 using old currency**

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

(a) the total number of tickets purchased post 8 November, 2016 using old currency;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of cancellation of such tickets;

(c) whether it is a fact that booking of railway tickets was being done to exchange old currency with new one, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are only 1000 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof?

**Reducing delays and accidents due to fog**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains that were reported late or cancelled due to fog during this Winter, as compared to previous year and the quantum of loss occurred to Railways as a result thereof;

(b) whether any new technological innovations have been put in operation to reduce delays and accident risks due to fog, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate number of Fog-Safe Devices have been distributed to loco pilots in the fog affected regions, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) any other initiative undertaken for enhancing vision of loco pilots under foggy conditions?

**Bharat Darshan tours by IRCTC**

303. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC, which organises Bharat Darshan tours by

train, has not been able to achieve desired popularity among the tourists; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's plan to make improvements in the facilities/ services and publicity to increase popularity of Bharat Darshan tours?

**Establishment of Visakhapatnam Railway zone**

304. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken a decision to speed up the work of establishment of new Railway zone at Visakhapatnam, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested the Ministry for expediting the work, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of the Ministry in this regard?

**Production of cotton**

305. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Association of India has placed its estimate for the 2016-17 season beginning October, 1 at 336 lakh bales of 170 kg. each; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Institute of Cotton Research, has however, placed its estimate for the said season at 300 lakh bales, if so, the details thereof?

**Opening of Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms)**

306. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES



be pleased to state whether the Ministry proposes to open a Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) at Bhubaneswar and an office of Assistant Director at Koraput considering the handicraft potential of Odisha?

**Beneficiaries from NE States under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana**

307. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many handloom weavers from North-Eastern States have availed benefits under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana in the last five years;

(b) how many handloom weavers have actually been covered till now out of the 26.19 lakh weavers which the Bima Yojana intended to cover during the period 2012-13 to 2016-17; and

(c) if the intended target is not achieved, the reasons for the same?

**Training in handicrafts**

†308. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish institutions in every State in order to provide training to people in various areas of handicrafts, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to promote brand image of Indian handicrafts in global markets, if so, the details thereof?

**Development of textile sector in Tamil Nadu**

309. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided funds for the development of Textile Parks/ Textile Export Processing Zones in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided for the purpose in the last three years;

(c) whether Government has plans to introduce any special innovative technologies in development of powerlooms and textile sector in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the list of projects underway and to be undertaken in the next two years; and

(e) the details of funds earmarked and allocated for such projects in the last three years, year-wise?

**Employment generation in Textile industry**

†310. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment opportunities generated in Textiles industry is far less than the Government target of employment generation in five years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the extent to which employment generation remained less in Textile industry during the last two years alongwith the details of action plan of Government to achieve the stipulated target; and

(c) the decrease in production after demonetisation and number of jobs directly impacted because of it, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Support to Textile industry of  
Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra**

311. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ichalkaranji was used to be known as Manchester of India for having a large number of handlooms for manufacture of quality cotton;

(b) whether Government is aware that majority of handlooms have either been closed down or are on verge of closure because of high production cost and lack of marketing facilities making thousands of craftsmen jobless;

(c) the steps Government plans to take to support the local Textile industry of Ichalkaranji; and

(d) the further action Government proposes to take to establish more handloom clusters in Maharashtra to promote the handloom industry?

**North Eastern Handicrafts and  
Handloom Development  
Corporation**

312. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the primary objectives of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd.;

(b) the annual turnover of the Corporation during 2014-15 and 2015-16;

(c) the total number of artisans benefited directly and indirectly by the Corporation during 2014-15 and 2015-16, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the products being manufactured and traded by the Corporation?

**New Textile Policy**

313. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether creation of jobs and boosting of export is targeted in the New Textile Policy of the Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the main initiatives of the New Textile Policy?

**Development of Sericulture**

314. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to support development of Sericulture activities, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for development of Sericulture activities in the last two years and the current year?

**Welfare schemes for weavers of  
Varanasi**

315. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes announced for the benefit of weavers of Varanasi since 2014;

(b) whether demonetisation has affected the weavers of Varanasi, the details of any estimation of the loss to this industry post 8 November, 2016, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has come out with any scheme to help these weavers, if so, the details of beneficiaries of the schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for this attitude of Government towards these dying industries?

**Welfare of jute workers**

316. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the miserable condition of producers, labourers and artisans engaged in the Jute industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of schemes/programmes drawn for the development of Jute industry, including welfare of jute workers;

(c) the funds allocated, utilised and progress made in improving the quality of life of jute workers during the last three years; and

(d) the various steps taken/being taken by Government to provide them with sufficient marketing facilities for improving their living standards?

NEW DELHI;  
The 28th January, 2017  
Magha 8, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</b>	: 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214,
<b>Communications</b>	: 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239,
<b>Electronics and Information Technology</b>	: 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: 249, 250, 251, 252,
<b>Law and Justice</b>	: 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264,
<b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>	: 209, 265,
<b>Railways</b>	: 247, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304,
<b>Textiles</b>	: 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316.