

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, February 7, 2017/Magha 18, 1938 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy
(AYUSH); Civil Aviation; Corporate Affairs; Defence; Finance; Health and
Family Welfare; Minority Affairs; Youth Affairs and Sports)**

Total number of questions — 160

Patenting of Unani treatment of vitiligo

477. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Unani Medicine under the Ministry has discovered an effective remedy to treat vitiligo;

(b) if so, why the medicine is not available on large scale to the public;

(c) whether there is any problem to take patent rights for Unani medicines, if not, the reasons therefor due to which initiatives are not being taken for securing patent rights of useful Unani medicines; and

(d) how many patent rights of Unani medicines are taken so far?

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new drugs developed and new medicines introduced in AYUSH system of medicines along with research works undertaken in this regard during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government has taken note of slow progress in development of new drugs in AYUSH stream in view of enforcement of clinical trial method system as followed by modern medicine and the lack of institutional mechanism for AYUSH; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto?

Setting up of Ayurvedic Research Institute in Kerala

Development of new drugs under AYUSH system

478. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

479. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA

AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry will provide all help to the initiative of Government of Kerala to establish an Ayurvedic Research Institute in the State;

(b) whether the Ministry recognizes importance of promoting high quality research in various areas of Ayurveda like Panchakarma, Ksharakarma, Netrachikitsa etc. through short term PG Diploma courses for doctors; and

(c) whether it will promote setting up of an Institute of inter-disciplinary research in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals?

Unani Centres in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura

480. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Unani Centres under the Ministry in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura;

(b) if so, how many and where;

(c) how many patients these Centres serve daily; and

(d) whether there exist any hospital facilities for the patients under Unani treatment in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura?

Overcoming deficiency in expanding scope of AYUSH

481. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry

is unable to deliver the expected results of expanding the scope of AYUSH to the urban, semi-urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, whether it is due to insufficient Doctors and paramedic staff from the AYUSH system of medicine and funds; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to overcome such deficiency?

Cultivation of medicinal plants in Chhattisgarh

482. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will plant medicinal trees in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh specially Sanna area as the said district has a good weather for plantation of medicinal trees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Status of NAM

483. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of National AYUSH Mission (NAM);

(b) the details of schemes/programmes subsumed in the above Mission;

(c) the present status of NAM with a particular reference to Telangana; and

(d) whether any targets have been set under the above Mission and if so, the details thereof?

Failed projects of the Ministry

484. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:
Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of major projects of the Ministry have failed to take off since their inception and hence the Ministry had to surrender the funds allocated;

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

(c) whether Government has taken necessary steps in identifying the problems causing failure of these projects and for proper implementation of the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of such failed projects, project-wise?

Allocation of AYUSH funds to Chhattisgarh

†485. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM:
Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme-wise details of the funds allocated to the State of Chhattisgarh by Ministry during the last three years and the current year;

(b) out of above, the quantum of funds utilised by the State Government and the quantum of funds remaining unutilised; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government for spending the funds well within time-limit set for the same and if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies in AYUSH institutions

486. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national level institutions under AYUSH;

(b) how each of such National Institute is functioning, institution-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are many vacancies in these institutions; and

(d) if so, the details of strength of each institutions and vacancies existing there and since how long these vacancies are lying vacant and steps taken to fill them?

Enhancing MRO facilities in the Country

487. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) for the Civil Aviation Sector of the Country has not been able to keep pace with the ever growing Sector and lack of such facilities is reportedly forcing airline operators to take their planes to other Countries causing business and foreign exchange losses;

(b) if so, the details of existing MRO facilities in the Country and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance MRO facilities for airlines and increase the business potentials, employment generation and foreign exchange earning of the Country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

VGf for operators under regional connectivity scheme

488. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to provide as much as 30 per cent Viability Gap Funding (VGf) for sub-20 seater planes flying to unserved and under-served airports under the regional connectivity scheme through Ude Desh Ka Nam Nagrik (UDAN) at a fare of ₹ 2500/- for one hour flights;

(b) whether Government will compensate the operators by providing VGf, presently fixed at 20 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of new airports in Uttar Pradesh

†489. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places approved by Government for the construction of new airports in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the detailed account of current draft of the project for airport situated at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a National or International airport; and

(d) by when the work will start along with the duration of the project, whether it will impact the operations of Agra and Delhi airports?

Operation of airbus connecting cities in Bihar

†490. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to operate airbus for the convenience of passengers and for saving time;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been decided to run airbus from various places on the basis of distance covered by it in one hour and the cities of Bihar which have been selected out of the above places, the details thereof?

Flight operations from unserved airports in Odisha

491. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified 43 unserved airports across the Country to have regular flight operations under the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme;

(b) if so, how many of those unserved airports belong to Odisha, the details thereof; and

(c) by when flight operations will start on those selected unserved airports in Odisha?

Opposition of CAR to discipline pilots

492. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the recent move by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) coming out with a draft Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to discipline pilots who feign sickness, has caused resentment and opposition by three pilots unions;

(b) whether many airlines violate Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) with impunity due to the CAR on FDTL being open to interpretation;

(c) whether many airlines to not hire enough pilots and offer more lucrative terms to fly overtime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction and modernisation of airports in the Country

493. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any programme for construction of new and modernisation of existing airports in the Country to give further boost to aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereupon including the time-line firmed up for modernisation of existing airports and construction for new ones?

Financial crisis of Air India

494. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India is reeling under financial crisis and so is looking out for financial assistance from banks for its administrative capital;

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

(c) the measures being taken by Government to strengthen Air India?

Purchase of new air buses

†495. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to purchase new air buses/planes for Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Air India flight from Ranchi to Delhi

496. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government is planning to start Air India flight in the evening after 6 p.m. for Ranchi which, will be back to Delhi next morning by 11 a.m.?

Air India services connecting cities of Rajasthan

†497. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of increase in number of passengers travelling in flights operated from major airports of Rajasthan in the year 2016-17, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to start Air India services connecting major cities of Rajasthan with each other?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Aviation activities in Tamil Nadu under UDAN Scheme

498. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to revive/utilize airports/airstrips in the State of Tamil Nadu under Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date on which aviation activities will be undertaken in these airports?

Ban on release of human waste near airports

499. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the menace of human waste/excreta being splattered on houses/residential colonies near airports by the aircrafts while landing across the Country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any preventive action in this regard so far; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to issue guidelines to all ground handling services and airlines to ensure that they do not release waste from human waste tanks while landing or anywhere near airports/terminals?

Progress of airline services in Jharkhand

†500. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable

progress in airline services in Jharkhand during last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that various schemes are proposed for development of airlines in Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof?

Compliance violation report by DGCA

501. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the compliance violations reported by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) during the last year and the current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that every third day there is a reported irregularity by airline pilot/crew/security;

(c) the reasons due to which IndiGo and SpiceJet flights came face to face on runway, at Delhi and there was also an incident at Goa airport; and

(d) what are the reasons behind this alarming increase in the number of instances of near misses and steps taken/proposed to be taken by DGCA to tighten things?

Commercial use of vacant land around airports in tier-II cities

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to use vacant lands lying unused around airports in tier-II cities commercially to get adequate funds to start the Regional Connectivity Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government would consider formulating a comprehensive policy on the issue of utilizing vacant airport land on commercial basis given the growth of aviation industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how would there be transparency if each case is dealt with on ad-hoc basis?

Operation AI flight from the functional airports in the country

†503. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of functional airports in the country;

(b) whether Air India operates its flights for these airports; and

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

Upgrading air safety to avert near-misses

504. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MAJEED MEMON:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a Mumbai bound Jet Airways flight skidded off the runway at Dabolim airport in Goa while aligning for take-off;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a major mishap was averted at Delhi airport when an IndiGo and a SpiceJet aircraft came face to face on the same run way;

(c) how many persons were injured in these two near misses incidents; and

(d) whether near-misses and other mishaps highlight the need for upgrading air safety and the details thereof?

Appointment of foreign national as CEO by Jet Airways

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign national has been appointed to the post of Chief Operating Officer by Jet Airways without obtaining security clearance, defying the guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which has created a threat of leakage of confidential information and jeopardized the security of the travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Jet Airways has not complied with the mandatory requirement of obtaining clearance before appointing any foreign national to such sensitive posts; and

(c) the details of the action taken in this regard?

Study on implementation of CSR

506. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any structured study of the impact of the enforcement of the Act pertaining to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);

(b) if so, the details thereof, what are its major findings;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, whether Government will consider undertaking any such study;

(d) whether Government has come across any cases of companies not abiding by the provisions of CSR Act, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what kind of measures Government has been contemplating to make companies abide by the CSR Act?

Welfare and rehabilitation schemes for ex-servicemen

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare and rehabilitation schemes, financial assistance provided to ex-servicemen by Government through various agencies;

(b) the total amount distributed for the welfare of ex-servicemen under Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund (RMDF) and the number of beneficiaries, in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the main activities of Kendriya Sainik Board and how they are beneficial to ex-servicemen and their families, and the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made to activate Grievances Redressal Mechanism and to expedite redressal of grievances of ex-servicemen?

Complaints against company supplying ECHS smart cards

508. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints

received against a private company which had been nominated for supplying smart cards/software to Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

Army hospitals equipped with Ayurvedic and Unani treatment facilities

509. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions made for providing medical facilities to personnel of armed forces including ex-servicemen and their dependents;

(b) whether medical facility under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine has been introduced in Army hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the hospitals where the medical facility under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine is available for personnel of armed forces, ex-servicemen and their dependents?

Special innovative defence projects

510. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any special innovative projects for the development of indigenous production of gadgets and equipments in the Country for defence purposes, if so, the details thereof;

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

(c) whether Government has provided

any funds to DRDO projects for the development of innovative, intelligent and state-of-art technology gadgets in the Country, in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the list of projects pending for approval in the last three years?

Inquiry into accidents involving naval vessels

511. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of operational accidents involving naval vessels have been reported from various parts of the Country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of persons died/injured in each of such accidents during the said period;

(c) whether Government has conducted any inquiry in each of such accidents during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the number of officials held responsible in such accidents and action taken against them so far?

Agreement with Japan on defence aircraft purchase

512. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Japan to buy aircraft for the use of Navy and Coast Guard, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the decisions taken by Defence Acquisition Council in its last meeting; and

(c) what is the unit price of an aircraft offered by Japan?

Bank account for accepting donations

513. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an Army Welfare and Battle Casualty Bank account in the Canara Bank through which the Army Welfare Organisation is accepting donations;

(b) if so, whether that account has been notified through Gazette notification and, if not, why; and

(c) how much donations has been received through that account and how much of that has been spent and for what purposes?

Change in policy on blacklisting of firms

514. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has blacklisted any firms, which resorted to unscrupulous means to grab defence deal, so far, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government felt any need to bring in change in policy of blacklisting of firms which resort to unscrupulous means to grab defence deal; and

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

Import of defence equipments

515. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has to import most of its defence equipments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is working out on any action plan to make the Country self reliant in the field of defence equipment productions, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any plan to include private sector in the production of defence equipment on a large scale?

Indo-US Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement

516. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US has signed a Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said agreement does not offer Indian bases to US, if so, the details thereof?

Offence of breach of command responsibility

517. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Justice Verma Committee in its report of Criminal Laws in 2013 had recommended introduction of 'Offence of breach of command responsibility' with respect to sexual offences committed by armed forces personnel;

(b) if so, whether such an offence exists at present under any of the laws in India governing armed forces personnel;

(c) whether this is a settled principle of law internationally; and

(d) if such a liability does not exist at present, whether the Ministry proposes to suitably amend the laws to this effect, if not, reasons therefor?

Border incursions along McMohan Line

518. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many incidents of border incursions have happened on the McMohan line that divides India and China, during 2009-2011;

(b) what are the corresponding figures for the same during 2014-2016; and

(c) what has been the set mechanism of responding to and resolving issues when Indian troops observe that there have been incursions from the other side?

Achieving self-reliance in Defence manufacturing sector

†519. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the claims made that Country has become self reliant in every sphere, the Indian armed forces are still depending on foreign countries for latest arms, ammunition and equipments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Country has not achieved expected success in matters of defence research and innovative

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

devices according to circumstances and requirements;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India does not have a realistic vision in the area of defence research; and

(d) if so, details thereof and point of view of Government in this regard?

Quality of food served to soldiers

520. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS
BAIDYA:
SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of frequent complaints by soldiers about the poor quality of food served to them, there has been no improvement in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the guidelines about the food served to soldiers and the details thereof?

Expanding defence manufacturing base in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

521. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand manufacturing base in the defence establishment including manufacturing arms, wheels etc. in Jabalpur as it has a very large area engaged in ordnance manufacturing and therefore, Madhya Pradesh has immense potential in that area; and

(b) if so, manufacturing of which item is to be expanded and indicative time for expanding such establishment?

Speedy clearance for delayed Defence projects

522. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI:
SHRI MD. NADIMUL
HAQUE:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that make in India programme has been delayed for the defence sector and projects under the said programme are pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and measures proposed for their speedy clearance;

(c) the projects that have been allocated for private players, DRDO and Defence PSUs by Government in the Defence sector;

(d) whether the entry of private companies in Defence affect the role of DRDO and Defence PSUs in Defence sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

Raising retirement age of doctors in the Armed Forces

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the doctors employed in armed forces are being retired at the age of 58 years at present;

(b) if so, whether Ministry is considering to implement the decision of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to extend the retiring age to 65 years, as applicable in case of doctors working in civil and other institutes, to those working in army also; and

(c) the details regarding shortage of doctors in armed forces at present and steps taken to fill up those vacant posts and details thereof?

Grievance redressal mechanism for the jawans

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is monitoring the way in which various jawans of security forces are posting their grievances regarding various problems online or social media sites;

(b) whether the experts are saying that the jawans are resorting to this method as their problems are suppressed and not redressed in time; and

(c) whether in view of this, the Ministry will create any grievance redressal mechanism through which problems could be expeditiously solved; and if so, the details thereof?

Indian food inflation higher than global average

525. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food inflation of India is much higher than the global average, and is a key contributor to India's overall inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the supply of food items has remained weak due to poor irrigation and rural infrastructure, sub-optimal use of fertilizers and conversion of agriculture land into alternative uses in the Country; and

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

Decrease in housing loan interest rate post demonetisation

‡526. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with heavy inflow of old currency notes after demonetisation, the lending transaction cost of banks has decreased significantly; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the effective interest rates on housing loans have been decreased after the announcement of concession of 3 to 4 per cent on housing loans by Prime Minister on 31st December, 2016 which will decrease further after reduction of interest rates by banks; if so, the details thereof?

Hike in service tax

527. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is mulling to hike service tax if GST roll out is delayed; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Ministry is taking to expedite the GST and to take the concerns of the States on board?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Insufficient ATMs of PSU Banks

528. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Public Sector Banks do not have sufficient number of ATMs in commensuration with the number of their branches working in a city or town;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of sufficient ATMs the customers of these banks have to depend upon the ATMs of other branches causing addition cost to the customers; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to ask the Public Sector Undertaking Banks to install ATMs in commensuration with their number of branches in each town and city?

Deadline for exchange of old currency notes

529. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assured public that old ₹ 500/- and ₹ 1000/- notes can be surrendered to RBI upto 31st March, 2017;

(b) whether it is a fact that RBI office in Delhi and in other places are not accepting old notes;

(c) the reasons for contradictions on such issues between RBI and Government which have created problems for middle classes and poorer sections; and

(d) the steps proposed to help lower income groups to access RBI?

Special Development Grants to Telangana

530. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has released funds under Special Development Packages to the State of Telangana, if so, the details thereof along with District-wise break-up;

(b) whether these grants have been utilised by the State Government strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry, if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has noticed any deviation in the utilization of these funds by the State Government, if so, the details thereof?

Tax evading notices by DRI

531. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of show cause notices issued to various firms by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for evading taxes in the last three years and the current year;

(b) the follow up action taken thereon and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the quantum of money that is likely to be recovered through the process?

Involvement of bank officials in money laundering

†532. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of bank employees have been found indulging in money laundering and other unfair practices during the phase of demonetisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any action against them; and

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

Value of LIC of India

533. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LIC of India would be the most valued Company, if it is listed;

(b) whether Government has any such plan for listing it; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that LIC is the largest investor in the Nation's growth with over 4 lakh crore in investments in key sectors of the economy, if so, the details thereof?

Board of directors of SEBI

534. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the power and function of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) whether Government is aware that there is no women Director on the Board of SEBI;

(c) if so, when Government would appoint women Director on the Board of SEBI;

(d) the total number of members of SEBI along with the names of whole time members and part time members of SEBI; and

(e) the name of independent directors of SEBI?

Various schemes for cashless payment post-demonetisation

‡535. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of demonetisation the country's economy has become almost free from parallel economy run by fake currency and black money, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the result of various schemes that have been started after demonetisation with an objective of facilitating cashless payment are very encouraging; if so, the details thereof?

Making the list of corporate loan defaulters public

536. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed the Centre to make public the list of the corporate loan defaulters who owe ₹ 500 crore or more to banks in four weeks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken thereon; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is made public, if not, the reasons therefor?

Raising borrowing limit of Telangana under FRBM

537. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request of the Telangana Government on the matter of raising the limit of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) is pending with the Central Government for approval, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has recently acceded to the request of Telangana Government on FRBM and relaxed the guidelines and given approval for the same, if so, the details thereof?

Unearthing unaccounted income of shell companies

538. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 200 shell companies have come under IT lens;

(b) if so, the details of those companies which have evaded tax; and

(c) what action Government is taking or has taken against those shell companies to unearth non-filers and huge amounts of unaccounted income?

Committee for the Multiple digital payment options

539. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Chief Ministers who are members of the Committee of Chief

Ministers to chart a road map for rollout of digital payments; and

(b) the recommendations/decision of the Committee for the multiple digital payments options?

Raids and seizures by different agencies post demonetisation

540. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post-demonetisation the ED, Income Tax Department and Police have made huge seizures of new currency notes and gold;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted by I.T. Department in various parts of the country from 9th Nov. to 30th Dec. 2016;

(c) the total volume of new bank notes in wads of ₹ 2000 and ₹ 500 as also gold seized by agencies such as ED, the Income Tax Department and Police, State-wise and the number of persons booked;

(d) whether the seized new bank notes are back in circulation, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these enforcement agencies have sufficient number of officials to deal with the situation and if not, the reasons therefor?

Total currency distributed post-demonetisation

541. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total value of currency circulated to the banks by the RBI from November, 10, 2016 to January 10, 2017 *i.e.* two months since demonetisation, both in the

500 rupees denomination and 2000 rupees denomination;

(b) total value of currency distributed to each State and Union Territory, during the first two months of demonetisation; and

(c) estimated time period for replacing the old high Denomination Notes with new currency, if any?

Monitoring system in NSE and BSE trading

542. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data on the total volume of money invested in various stocks in NSE and BSE trading;

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

(c) whether Government has initiated any check and monitor system on the veracity of financials/performances of companies listed in NSE and BSE, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the various steps taken by Government to protect the investments made by common people in various stocks?

Deposit and withdrawal from Jandhan accounts

†543. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of banned 500 and 1000 currency notes deposited in Jandhan accounts throughout the Country;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of withdrawal limit set by Government huge

amount of money has been withdrawn from Jandhan accounts;

(c) if so, the amount of money withdrawn from Jandhan accounts till 20th January, 2017; and

(d) whether the amount deposited in Jandhan accounts belonged to the account holders?

Banned currency notes deposited post demonetisation

†544. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount deposited in banned currency notes till 31st December, 2016;

(b) the share of black money in it;

(c) the value of banned currency notes yet to be deposited; and

(d) the total value of new and old currency notes seized till date?

Change in norms for top PSU banks' posts

545. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering new norms for the top Public Sector Undertaking Bank posts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the leadership roles in PSU banks would only be given to those with at least six years of service left; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the PSU banks employee's compensations would become more competitive in 2017-18 with

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

increases in variable pay component; if so, the details thereof?

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

546. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana will be kept open till March 31, 2017;

(b) the total number of assesses who have so far taken benefit of the said Scheme;

(c) the total amount that Government gained under the said Scheme as on date; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to continue the Scheme even after the said deadline?

Currencies in circulation before and after demonetisation

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

(a) the total number of currency notes of all denominations including coins minted by RBI and in circulation as on 08th November, 2016;

(b) the total number of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 notes deposited/exchanged in banks and post offices as on 30th December, 2016 after their de-legalisation;

(c) the total number of ₹ 2000/-, new ₹ 500/- and other smaller denomination notes printed and circulated post demonetisation; and

(d) whether there is any proposal with Government to de-legalize or rescind the new ₹ 2000/- notes?

Externally Aided Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

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

(a) whether Government has received any proposals for the approval of Externally Aided Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from June, 2014; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of projects cleared by Government and the funding pattern; and

(c) the details of ongoing Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

ATM installed after demonetisation

549. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bank ATMs newly installed after the declaration of demonetisation;

(b) the number of Bank ATMs modified or re-designed after demonetisation; and

(c) the financial liability of the Public Sector Banks to re-calibrate the existing bank ATMs?

Sharing of personal data for revenue generation

550. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all private companies increase their revenue by sharing the data available with them and they use it for knowing the trends and for predicting the market;

(b) whether Government also has in its possession huge data and is it not possible that Government increase the revenue by sharing data without disclosing identity of the persons; and

(c) if done already, how much revenue has been generated through this process?

Declaration of black money by tax payers

551. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 per cent of the black money in India is in cash as of November, 2016;

(b) whether certain tax payers in the country have declared their black money during the last financial year;

(c) if so, the details of the number of such tax payers and the revenue earned by Government thereof;

(d) whether the said tax payers also include such persons who have black money stashed abroad; and

(e) whether the Ministry has made any efforts to bring back all the black money to the country, if so, the details thereof?

Protection of consumer's interests in digital mode of payment

552. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to impose charges or taxes, including Merchant Discount Rates, on digital and online payments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is taking steps to protect consumer interests in digital modes of payments, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to

set up a payments regulator under the Reserve Bank of India, if so, the details and deadline thereof?

Misuse of Jan Dhan accounts post Demonetisation

553. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people died in the country since 9th November 2016, region-wise, due to stress related issues and standing in queues outside banks;

(b) the details of number of 500 and 1000 rupee notes that were deposited in banks during the month of November and December, 2016, State-wise, bank-wise, and account type-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any information regarding misuse of Jan Dhan accounts; and

(d) the details of deposits in Jan Dhan accounts State-wise for the past three months?

Demonetisation of old 500 and 1000 rupee notes

554. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had been planning to demonetise currency since March, 2016;

(b) the details thereof of the steps involved in the planning of demonetisation and the reasons which led to it with relevant data;

(c) whether help/advise from private firms/think tanks was sought for the planning of this move and if so, the details of the people involved in the planning; and

(d) the details of amount of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 notes deposited in banks during

three months pre and post demonetisation, month-wise?

Delay in sanction for prosecution of Public Sector Bank officials

555. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption and financial irregularities filed against the Public Sector Bank officials in the last two years;

(b) the number of cases for which the Central Vigilance Commission is awaiting sanction for prosecution;

(c) whether there have been cases for which the sanction for prosecution has been delayed for more than three months; and

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

Speedy recovery of NPAs by PSBs

556. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans classified as NPAs by the Public Sector Banks as on 2017;

(b) the recovery rate of the NPAs in the PSBs in the last two years, the details thereof, bank-wise;

(c) whether there has been a slowdown in the recovery of NPAs in the last two years, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure speedy recovery of the NPAs by the PSBs?

Regulation of Bitcoin currency in India

557. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of the surge in e-commerce, since demonetisation interests in Bitcoin has picked up in India which is an online currency produced using cryptography programme;

(b) whether the (RBI) has not yet accorded Bitcoin currency status while China has emerged as the largest market for Bitcoins;

(c) whether there is a threat of crime syndicates involved in spreading terrorism shifting to Bitcoin if it remains unregulated; and

(d) whether experts feel that Bitcoin can be regulated the way SEBI has strengthened regulations of P-notes in the capital markets?

Reduction in limit of crop loans by Co-operative banks

558. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the refinancing limit by the NABARD for disbursement of crop loans by the Co-operative banks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this move is expected to adversely impact the interest of the farmers; and

(c) if so, the rationale behind such a move?

Diversion of Cess collected under various names

559. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than a Quarter of Cess collected under various names remains Unutilized for the intended purpose and said amount diverted for other purposes;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether it is difficult to stress whether the amount of Cess collected has either been used for the intended purposes or diverted for some other expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken for the easy tracking of such amount collected and its expenditure?

Recovery of black money after demonetisation

560. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total value of currency of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 denomination in circulation in the country as on 8.11.2016, the day demonetisation policy was declared by the Hon'ble Prime Minister;

(b) the amount deposited in all types of banks upto 30.12.16 in old currency notes of denomination ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 since 8.11.2016.; and

(c) the total amount of black money so far recovered by Government after the demonetisation policy was announced?

Conversion of Kisan Credit Cards into Rupay Cards

561. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to convert Kisan Credit Cards into Rupay Cards;

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

(c) how the above conversion helps farmers in getting more access to money and credit?

Old Indian currency notes in neighbouring countries

562. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any estimates about the number of Indian currency notes of ₹ 500/- and ₹ 1000/- denominations (old), which was in circulation in the neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NPAs declared by commercial banks

563. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) declared by various commercial banks, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of NPAs, which the corporate sector owes to various commercial banks; and

(c) the list of top ten corporate defaulters who owe the maximum amount of NPAs to commercial banks?

Uniform policy on lending rate by Public and Private Sector Banks

564. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has directed

the RBI to give instructions to the banks to slash their rate of interest on home and vehicle loans dispersed by them;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that despite a considerable cut in the rate of interest by the SBI on their lending, many Private Sector Banks have not yet followed suit yet; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that a uniform policy is adopted on lending rates by both public and Private Sector Banks in India?

Indian's Gross Capital Formation

565. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the World Bank Data mentioning that India's Gross Capital Formation has shown declining trend, since 2014;

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

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

Measures to increase demand for Corporate borrowing

566. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rising number of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and sluggish economic growth sparked about 60 per cent decline in corporate borrowing, since last few years in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the demonetisation has made banks flush with funds;

(c) if so, the details of funds accumulated

with the banks after demonetisation, as on date; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase the demand for corporate borrowing, which is already sluggish, for utilisation of the extra funds available with the banks, post demonetisation?

External loan burden of India

†567. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the external loan on this Country as on date;

(b) India's position among the indebted countries of the world;

(c) per capita debt of the external loan at present;

(d) the details of amount of principal and interest paid to lender Countries in last three years, Country-wise, Institution-wise, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to lighten the country's loan burden?

Action against deposits of ₹ 2.5 lakh in Jan Dhan accounts

568. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey about the deposits made in Jan Dhan bank accounts after the demonetisation of currency in Nov. 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof before and after demonetisation; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take against such persons who deposited ₹ 2.50 lakhs and more in their accounts?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Curb on counterfeit currency and black money

569. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post December 30, 2016 black money has come to an end in the country, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of counterfeit currency recovered by the demonetisation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that post December 30, 2016 there is no counterfeit Indian currency; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there was no consultation in the Ministry before the announcement of demonetisation, if so, the reasons therefor?

Purposes achieved through demonetisation

570. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on November 8, 2016 in his address to the nation, Prime Minister said secrecy was essential for the demonetisation which will purify the Country of corruption, black money, fake currency and terrorism;

(b) if so, to what extent Government has achieved these purposes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Consultations before announcement of demonetisation

†571. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets behind demonetisation of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 currency notes carried

out by Government and data regarding fulfilment of these targets, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Finance Minister or Chief Economic Advisor had been consulted before announcement of demonetisation on 8th of November, 2016, if not, the reasons therefor, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of minutes and agenda of the meeting of Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India and the copy of Cabinet note placed before Cabinet in respect of demonetisation announced on 8th November, 2016?

Impact of demonetisation on growth rate

572. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product of the country is on the verge of decline after the demonetisation of currency notes of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to this assessment the growth in per capita income is also expected to decline in the Country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the impact of growth rate on common people against the annual inflation rate of 9 per cent in the Country is also being assessed?

Loan frauds at SBI, Chitbaragaon

573. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Part (a) of UQ 1519 dated 29 November, 2016 and UQ 212 dated 6 August, 2013 and to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the reasons for FIR No. 486/2016 dated 2 August, 2013 against fraudsters by SBI, Chitbaragaon Branch, Ballia for securing loans in 2008 and again in 2013 on property already mortgaged with Purvanchal Bank, Narahi branch and on fake NOC, when SBI has not declared the loans under KCC as fraud;

(b) the reasons for false reply and the action Government would take against the guilty officials for misleading the August House; and

(c) the details of action Government has taken against officials of SBI and Purvanchal Bank for not mentioning fraud while furnishing NOC/No Dues to Union Bank, Chitbaragaon in 2014?

Money laundering by Co-operative banks

574. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of cooperative banks have been found involved in manipulating and laundering unaccounted money post-demonetisation; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against these banks?

Government directions to RBI

575. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India gave any directions to the Reserve Bank of India between 1st November and 8th November, under section 7 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank of India was consulted in the matter by the Government; and

(c) if so, the contents of the communication of consultation?

Disinvestment of PSUs

576. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector companies that disinvested by Government in the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the reasons and justification for disinvestment of each PSU; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in the last week of December, 2016, Cabinet approved closure of IDPL, Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., if so, the reasons therefor?

Warning of RBI on sharp rise of NPAs in PSU banks

577. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has recently released Financial Stability Report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that RBI has warned about a sharp rise in NPAs from 9.1 per cent in 2016 to 9.8 per cent by March, 2017, and 10.1 per cent by March, 2018;

(c) how Ministry looks at this since PSU banks are mainly hit due to this trend; and

(d) to what extent demonetisation has added fuel to higher NPAs in the coming years?

Time-limit for exchange and withdrawal of old currency notes

578. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how did Government arrive at the conclusion that a 50 day period would be sufficient to exchange and withdraw 86 per cent of the currency in circulation;

(b) the details of the deliberations which took place for arriving at the 50 days figure; and

(c) the details of the case studies explored by Government where similar exercise had been carried out over a period of time as short as 50 days?

Concurrence of RBI in demonetisation

579. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demonetisation proposal was mooted by Government and the concurrence of the Reserve Bank of India was sought thereon, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details regarding examination of the proposal by the RBI, including the time taken by the Central Bank and the recommendations given, if any, thereon?

Reintroduction of ₹ 1000 denomination note

580. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reintroduce ₹ 1000 denomination note; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of MSME sector

†581. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last fifteen years cases of NPAs related to large industries and Corporates have increased significantly in comparison to MSME sector as a result of non-payment of banks loans, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote MSME and to improve the loan re-payment by Corporates?

Cess collected for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

582. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of cess collected till now for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan with details thereof;

(b) the specific projects under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for which these funds are used with details thereof;

(c) the percentage of total funds collected through cess which have already been used, the details thereof; and

(d) how long Government is planning to keep imposed cess for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan with details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amendment to Chit Fund Act to curb Ponzi schemes

583. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Ponzi schemes floated by firms in different States in the country;
- (b) whether many of these firms have cheated the small investors;
- (c) if so, the details of these schemes particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to amend the Chit Fund Act to protect the small investors, if so, the details thereof?

Pending cases before DRT, Visakhapatnam

584. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons behind cases before the DRT, Visakhapatnam, going up year-after-year from 530 in 2013-14 to more the 1,000 in 2015-16;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the DRT and the Ministry to quicken the process of completing the cases;
- (c) what is the average number of cases that DRT, Visakhapatnam, is able to dispose of in a year in the last five years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Presiding Officer selected has resumed office of DRT; and
- (e) if not, how much more time will it take to fill up the vacancy?

Special Development Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

585. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Development Assistance (Financial Package) announced by the GoI to the fledgling State of Andhra Pradesh has been approved by the Cabinet;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in approval; and

(c) whether the Special Development Assistance also covers Metro Rail projects in the cities of Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada as mandated by the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, if not, the reasons therefor?

Defective ₹ 2000 notes

586. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that printing of some new currency notes of denomination of ₹ 2000 was incomplete and image of Mahatma Gandhi on notes was not there;

(b) if so, the number of such notes that were reported to be under circulation; and

(c) the details of steps taken by RBI to ensure that this kind of error do not happen in future?

Printing and circulation of fake currencies in the country

587. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in spite of all security measures adopted in design of new currency notes lot of fake currency is printed and circulated in the Country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop printing and circulation of fake currency in the country?

Increase in deposits of banks pre demonetisation

588. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total deposits in the months of August, September and October, 2016 in various scheduled commercial banks, RRBs and co-operative banks, bank-wise and month-wise;

(b) the percentage of increase in total deposits in above banks in September and October, 2016 in comparison in August, 2016;

(c) the details of deposits in above banks as arrear of Seventh CPC and voluntary disclosure scheme in August and September, 2016; and

(d) the reasons for steep rise in deposits in September and October, 2016?

Collection of EPF deposits by private banks

589. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to give its approval to private banks to collect EPF deposits, if so, the details thereof?

Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

590. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched Unified Payment Interface to address the problems being faced in mobile payments, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by which time it would be implemented for the use of customers, the details thereof?

Problem faced by rural people post demonetisation

591. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the problems being faced by people of the Country after the demonetisation of the currency notes in the country, particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to alleviate the problem of common man in this regard?

Committee on demonetisation

592. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government ordered the Reserve Bank of India on November 7th, 2016 for demonetisation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government constituted a

committee which recommended demonetisation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of rationale of Government to recommend demonetisation;

(d) the details of eminent people/economists/officials the Government consulted before announcing demonetisation and details of the consultation process, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that demonetisation was decided by the Prime Minister, if so, the reasons therefor?

Tax relaxation to the maturity value of NPS

593. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on giving a tax relaxation to the maturity value of the amount deposited under National Pension System like PPF, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the SEBI has also recommended to this tax relaxation in the recently held FSDC meeting, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

Containment of price-rise

594. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unbearable price-rise can be checked by curtailing taxes in the Country;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have been requested to provide relaxation in the local taxes, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard along with the steps taken in this direction so far?

Cost of printing and issuance of new currency notes

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of currency with each denomination, and the percentage of currency that was demonetised had come back into banking system as on 31st December, 2016;

(b) the total value of new currency issued through banks, including ATMs up to 31st December, 2016;

(c) the total cost incurred by RBI in printing the new 500 and 2000 rupee notes; and

(d) whether situation due to demonetisation has come to normal, if not, by what time, cash crunch is expected to be over, with details thereof?

Setting up of an AIIMS in Kerala

596. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN:
SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposal from Kerala suggesting one suitable place for starting an AIIMS in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether a Central team has been deployed to visit the place and assess about the suitability of the place;

(c) whether necessary orders will be issued at an early date so that the institute can start functioning from this year itself; and

(d) whether various factors necessitating early functioning of such an institute in Kerala are being considered to give final sanction for it?

Increase in spread of malaria

†597. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spread of malaria is increasing among the children in many parts of the Country;

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

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

Adulterated honey in domestic market

598. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 85 per cent of the honey in the domestic market is adulterated with corn syrup exported by China or locally available invert sugar or liquid glucose, if so, action taken against the brands selling the adulterated honey;

(b) whether it is fact that HMF (hydroxymethylfurfural) contained in the domestic honey is far greater than international standards; and

(c) the list of brands that failed in the comparative pollen grain analysis of various uni-floral honeys that was conducted according to BIS standards in 2014 and the action taken thereon against those brands?

Containing spread of vivax malaria

599. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-fatal vivax malaria took the lives of many in the Country recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that vivax malaria can lead to severe disease and death due to enlarged spleen; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to contain the spread of vivax malaria in the Country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Legislation to stop discrimination against HIV affected people

600. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to make amendments to a Bill on HIV prevention and control that makes discrimination in employment against people affected by AIDS punishable with two years in jail, fine of ₹ 1 lakh and safeguards the rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) by guaranteeing access to treatment;

(b) whether around 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV in India; and

(c) whether the State Governments are required to appoint ombudsman to inquire into complaints related to violations and penal actions in case of non-compliance, if so, the details thereof?

Urban entries in Delhi under NUHM

601. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of urban entries have increased in Delhi under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), scheme after 1st May, 2013;

(b) if so, the total number of urban entries started in Delhi and the details of facilities available as on date; and

(c) the areas of new entries in Delhi?

Specialized palliative care units

602. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of specialized palliative care units established in India from 2010-2016, State-wise;

(b) the infrastructure built based on National Palliative Care Strategy 2012, State-wise;

(c) the funding provided to improve infrastructure on the basis of National Palliative Care Strategy 2012, State-wise; and

(d) whether study on palliative care has been included in the undergraduate and post-graduate curriculum of medical schools in India, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Non-availability of MRI machine at Dr. RML Hospital, Delhi

†603. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MRI machine for conducting MRI of children is not available in Delhi-based Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it has also come to light that the staff deputed to help patients and to carry them on trolleys remained absent from their duties; and

(c) the action being taken by Government for arranging MRI machine there as Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital is meant for poor and also ensuring that trolley men remain present during their duty time and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Urban Social Health Activists

604. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to employ about three lakhs Urban Social Health Activists under the aegis of ASHA workers in the urban areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by which time these workers are being employed and the details of their wages?

Grants-in-aid released by Ministry

605. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of grants-in-aid released by the Ministry in the last three financial years;

(b) of the total grants-in-aid released in the last three financial years, how much was released to State Governments and how much to other than State Governments; and

(c) what is the total strength of personnel for internal audit in the Ministry?

Performance of population control measures

606. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Ministry to stress the fact that the population growth is biggest threat for the limited resources available and it is threat to environment also and whatever growth is there in food production, opportunities in education, skills and jobs is taken away by population growth;

(b) what is the policy of Government as far as population control is concerned; and

(c) what steps are taken by Government in this regard and the details of statistics of the impact of the execution of the policy, year-wise in last three years?

Districts in UP and Bihar with high TFR

607. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of 23 districts having Total Fertility Rate (TFR) more than 4, 19 are from UP and Bihar, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the target to bring TFR down to 2.1 under Mission Parivar Vikas?

Anaemic cases in India

608. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one in two women in India are anaemic, including 39 per cent having mild, 15 per cent moderate and 2 per cent severe anaemic and about 55 per cent adolescent girls suffer from anaemia in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon?

Child death from diarrhoeal disease

609. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the second most common cause of death in Indian population is diarrhoeal disease which is

responsible for one in every ten child deaths during the first five years of life world-wide and has the highest rate of incidence in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Increase in the number of diabetic patients

610. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per World Health Organisation, there are about 6.5 crore diabetic patients in India and the figure is likely to increase up to 10.5 crore by 2035;

(b) whether it has also been estimated that out of them about 20 per cent patients suffer from retinopathy which is caused due to damage of blood vessels in retina leading to blurred vision and sometimes even blindness; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what special measures Government proposes to take to contain increase in number of diabetic patients and resultant retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract and other problems in eyes in the country?

Preventive healthcare measures to check cancer disease

611. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in cases of mouth, breast and cervical cancer and country is likely to have over 17.3 lakh new cases and over 8.8 lakh deaths due to

disease by 2020 with cancers of breast, lung and cervix;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with number of such cases reported during last two years;

(c) whether Government is considering to create more awareness programmes, treatment plan and preventive healthcare scheme to control these cancers in Country; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Directions to doctors to adopt cashless mode of payment

†612. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to issue directions to doctors to receive their fee in cashless mode in order to prevent the hoarding of black money; and

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

Mortality rate of infants

†613. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost seven lakh infants die every year in the Country including rural areas of Maharashtra due to such diseases which are curable;

(b) whether pneumonia is the biggest cause of deaths of infants;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the total number of deaths of infants in the last three years, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent deaths of infants?

Budgetary allocation to check illegal child abortion

†614. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) keeping in view the fact that child sex ratio is very low in the country including Maharashtra, the total budget allocated by National Health Mission to the State of Maharashtra between the year 2013 to 2016 to check abortion after sex determination of foetus; and

(b) the child sex ratio in the Country including the State of Maharashtra and State-wise details thereof?

Specialized healthcare units in rural areas

615. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Coronary Cardiac Unit/Dialysis unit and Trauma centre in all the Block/Panchayat levels of the Country to take care of the patients of local areas;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructure and procedures to set up such units and the conditions therein;

(c) the project proposals and budget details with Centre-State participations therefor; and

(d) the proposal of Public Private

Partnership (PPP) model, if any, and the conditions therein and if not, the reasons therefor?

Pictorial warning on cigarette packets

616. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to put in place 85 per cent pictorial warning on cigarette packets instead of the existing 40 per cent; and

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

MRI scanning facilities for BPL families

617. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to offer Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanning facilities to patients belonging to BPL families across the Country considering the fact that such facilities are generally available only in hospitals attached to Government medical colleges; and

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

Upgradation of medical institutions under PMSSY

†618. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the upgradation of the medical institutions of the Country under Pradhan Mantri

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), if so, the details thereof and the present status of the upgradation project in the State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Government has set any time-limit for starting and completing the task of upgradation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to constitute any kind of monitoring committee to monitor the performance of this scheme upto District level and if so, the details thereof?

Huge patients rush at Cancer Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi

619. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cancer Centre of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi is unable to cope up with the rush of cancer patients coming from various parts of the country;

(b) what is the waiting time for getting chemotherapy in this Centre; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to augment the capacity of this Centre by providing extra infrastructure and if so, the details thereof?

MoU among BRICS Nations for regulatory collaboration on drugs safety

620. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has pressed the need for BRICS Nations for affordable medicines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the

BRICS Nations are considering signing an MoU to work on mutual recognition, sharing information and accelerating regulatory approvals in case of international and national health emergencies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the BRICS regulators have agreed on draft MoU on regulatory collaboration with a view to improving the standards, certification and regulatory mechanisms for drugs and pharmaceuticals and promoting the availability of safe, efficacious, affordable and quality medicines?

Blanket ban of tobacco consumption

†621. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believes that tobacco consumption is harmful for life;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to impose blanket ban on the consumption of tobacco in the Country; and

(c) if so, by when the ban is expected to be imposed and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mandatory rural postings of doctors

622. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) urban and rural classification of the current shortage of doctors and nurses in the country and the steps being taken by Government to help fill this shortage;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to encourage and motivate doctors and nurses to take up rural postings; and

(c) whether Government proposes to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

make rural postings for doctors and nurses mandatory and if so, the details thereof?

Regulating online sale of medicines

623. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage share of medicines being sold online in the Country;

(b) whether a high-level Committee constituted by Government to look into the regulation of sale of medicines online has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the salient features and recommendations of the report and the steps being proposed by Government to regulate the sale of medicines online?

Action against soft drinks companies for toxic contents in their products

†624. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether toxic contents in soft drinks of several companies have been found in excess of prescribed limits during investigation thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the defaulting Companies;

(c) whether Government has made the citizens aware about prevalence of toxic contents in soft drinks of these Companies so that they may avoid the consumption of those soft drinks; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the common men from harm caused by the said drinks?

Survey on diabetic patients in the Country

625. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that diabetes has become a major disease in the Country;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any survey to find out the total number of persons reported to have been suffering from diabetes in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to supply cheap testing kits to diabetic patients and also to create awareness in this regard?

Medical services at concessional rate for diabetic patients

626. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that diabetes has moved from 11th position to 7th position in the cause of deaths in India according to the Global Burden of Disease Report 2015;

(b) if so, what measures Government has taken to spread awareness about the increasing incidence of diabetes in the Country and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has launched any scheme to extend medical services at a concessional rate to diabetic patients in Government hospitals, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Financial assistance to minorities
children in rural areas**

627. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide financial assistance for the education of children of minorities living in the rural areas of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether minority students have been given scholarships during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of the minority students getting the scholarships, State-wise?

**Global tender for air travel of Haj
Pilgrims**

†628. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global tenders can not be given for air travel of Haj Pilgrims under the agreement signed by the Saudi Arabia and Indian Government, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that contrary to the said agreement, Air India awards sub-contracts also to other smaller airlines on lesser rates, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is making efforts to initiate global tender process and to make changes in agreement with the Saudi Arabia Government in order to provide air tickets on cheaper rates to Haj Pilgrims, if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

**Distributed benefits to minorities
under various schemes**

629. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits of various programmes/policies implemented by Government for minorities are not reaching the targeted population particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government have statistics on the distributed benefits to minorities under various schemes for rural and urban areas separately; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Development of minority women

†630. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being run by Government for the development of women belonging to minority communities at present;

(b) whether funds are being provided in the States for their upliftment;

(c) if so, the details of the amount of funds allocated to these schemes from financial year 2014 to 2017; and

(d) the details of the number of women benefited from these schemes, State-wise?

**Development of sporting spirit among
the differently abled people**

631. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to take any steps/schemes to develop sporting spirit among the differently abled people, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has considered to give a greater support in terms of financial and infrastructure amenities to para athletes in the light of recent performance of Indian para athletes in Paralympics 2016, if so, the details thereof?

Development of competitive sports in the Country

†632. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the special measures taken for the development of competitive sports and refinement and selection of sports talents in the Country regarding various games;

(b) the details of the implementation of the action plan for collecting National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) and the achievements made till date; and

(c) the effective policy and programmes to bring 'Hum Honge Kamyab' into effect in international competitions?

Oil PSUs' contribution to NSDF

633. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not contributed at all to National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether they were directly or

indirectly requested for this and the response therefrom; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Progress made under PYKKA in Rajasthan

†634. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no progress has been made in the State of Rajasthan under Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), started by Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Central Government proposes to construct new multi-purpose indoor halls and stadia in the State of Rajasthan under 'Khelo India' scheme, if so, at which places and by when?

New umbrella scheme for empowerment of youth

635. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has restructured a number of youth affairs related schemes into a new umbrella scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objective of the new scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make youth aware of the new scheme for empowerment of youth particularly in rural areas of the Country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Increase in financial aid under
meritorious sportspersons
scheme**

636. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances have come to the
notice of Ministry wherein our athletes
who have won medals at International

Events had to spend their life in poverty
post retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry would consider
revising the financial aid given under Sports
Fund for Pension to Meritorious
Sportspersons scheme keeping in mind the
rising price of essential commodities; and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 1st February, 2017
Magha 12, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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