

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, March 10, 2017/Phalguna 19, 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

#### Damage to crops by wild animals

1117. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased  
to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of crops  
damaged by wild animals during the past  
three years;

(b) whether Government plans to  
include compensation for crops damaged  
due to wild animals under the Pradhan  
Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFSBY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the  
details of alternative compensation plans/  
measures for crops damaged by wild  
animals to address the increasing losses  
faced by farmers due to such incidences,  
particularly for the State of Rajasthan?

#### Excessive use of pesticides in farming

1118. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of  
the use of pesticides on a large scale in  
farming these days resulting in rapid rise  
of serious diseases like cancer, ulcers and  
asthama etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by  
Government to make the farmers aware of  
the ill-effects of excessive use of pesticides?

#### Implementation of RKVY in Odisha

1119. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND  
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds earmarked and  
allotted during the last three years and the  
current financial year under Rashtriya Krishi  
Vikash Yojana (RKVY) in Odisha;

(b) whether deep borewell or micro  
irrigation schemes under the Pradhan Mantri  
Krishi Sinchayee Yojana has been included  
for Odisha; and

(c) the status of comprehensive district  
agricultural scheme prepared in various  
districts under RKVY in Odisha?

**Ban on pesticides**

1120 SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of pesticides that are identified and considered toxic;

(b) whether Government has examined the issue and what are its proposals;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban the use of pesticides which are harmful; and

(d) if so, the names of pesticides which Government proposes to ban?

**Production of vegetables**

1121. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of vegetables is estimated to be lower in comparison to previous years;

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

(c) whether the lower production is likely to escalate prices of vegetables in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken to increase the production of vegetables and to control their prices?

**Impact of erratic climate on agricultural production**

1122. SHRI SAMHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to erratic climatic behaviour the production of food-grains in the country has adversely affected;

(b) the steps Government has taken to combat adverse climatic effect on agricultural production by developing better adaptation techniques using suitable scientific techniques; and

(c) whether agricultural research institutions like ICAR have taken up specific research projects to develop ways and means to overcome effects of the erratic climatic behaviour in the country for different Rabi and Kharif crops, fruits and vegetables?

**Establishment of Cold Storage Centres in Jharkhand and Telangana**

1123. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:  
SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to strengthen cold storage and warehousing infrastructure facilities in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of funds sanctioned for this purpose, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any such cold storage centres are being established in Jharkhand and Telangana, if so, the details thereof?

**Production of milk**

1124. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average per-capita milk production in the country has stagnated and not increased in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of per-capita milk production of cows and buffaloes during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to improve per-capita milk production by way of breed improvement or feed improvement?

#### **Sponsoring Agriculture Extension Personnel**

1125. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry has any proposal for sponsoring Agriculture Extension Personnel/farmers outside the country for exposure and capacity building?

#### **Production of foodgrains in NER**

1126. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of foodgrains in 2016-17 in million tonnes;

(b) the production of rice, pulses, maize, oilseeds in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(c) the total foodgrains production in 2016-17 in the States of North Eastern Region (NER), separately for rice, pulses, maize and oilseeds?

#### **Shortage of cold chain storage facilities**

1127. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge wastage of fruits and vegetables every year in the country due to shortage of cold chain storage capacity;

(b) the total quantity of fruits and vegetables produced in the last three years in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome the shortage of cold chain storage facilities, the details thereof?

#### **Crisis in agriculture sector**

†1128. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture sector in the country is facing acute crisis for the last few years;

(b) whether Government has drawn up any road-map/scheme to bring agriculture sector out of the crisis; and

(c) the allocation made for this sector during the current Five Year Plan?

#### **Farmers' suicide in Telangana**

1129. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per NCRB, 79 out of country's total 160 large farmers committed suicide in Telangana in 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and the reasons behind large farmers committing suicide; and

(c) the status in 2016, in the country in general and Telangana in particular?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on climate**

1130. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government proposes to study the extent of damage being caused and implement schemes discouraging use of chemical fertilizers as they are found to contain substances like methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia and nitrogen, the emission of which contributes to a great extent in the emergence of greenhouse effect threatening the environment with global warming and climate change?

**Assistance to small, marginal and landless farmers**

1131. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 per cent of farmers in hilly States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, have small pieces of land which is insufficient to earn livelihood, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide relief/financial assistance to small, marginal and landless farmers, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to alleviate the sufferings of such farmers and to ensure employment to farm workers in the agriculture sector?

**Setting up of agricultural colleges**

1132. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS

WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing agriculture and agriculture-allied colleges/universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up more colleges in various States of the country, including Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds likely to be allocated by Government for setting up of these agricultural colleges?

**Measures taken to double farmers' income**

1133. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data on farm income has showed that the average monthly earnings of farmers at current prices almost tripled in 2002-03 and 2012-13 period but farmers' suicides did not abate in these ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and keeping these facts in view, what measures are proposed to be taken to achieve the Government's declared commitment to double the farmers' income by the year 2021-22?

**Income of agricultural families**

1134. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of agricultural families in the country has decreased despite increase in country's population;

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

(c) the average monthly income of an agricultural family in the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the action plan of Government for the next five years to ameliorate the economic conditions/living standards of agricultural families?

#### **Income of farmers**

1135. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that income of farmers in the country has fallen drastically *vis a vis* inflation of other items due to meagre increase in MSP and higher increase in cost of production and, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps Government would take to ensure better price and higher income to farmers in view of the above?

#### **Implementation of recommendations of Swaminathan Commission**

1136. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether highest number of suicides by farmers have been reported in the States of Maharashtra and Telangana during 2015 as per the data released by NCRB recently;

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

(c) whether non implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission Report regarding remunerative price is the main reason for agrarian crisis and unprecedented suicides by farmers in the country; and

(d) if so, the fresh steps Government would take to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission Report in view of unprecedented suicides by farmers?

#### **Farmers' suicides**

1137. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in farmers' suicide by 42 per cent;

(b) the reasons for this dramatic increase in farmers' suicide in 2015, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that most of the farmers who committed suicide due to debt had taken loans from banks;

(d) the reasons Government did not intervene with the banks and ensure that debt pressure did not force farmers to commit suicide; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the incidents of farmers' suicide?

#### **Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme**

1138. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented in the country;

(b) the number of farmers covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers provided compensation in the event of crop failure, during the last two years, State-wise?

**Strengthening agricultural market infrastructure**

1139. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether Government has launched online National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in the country, if so, the details and objectives thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to modernise the existing mandis, provide the requisite market information to the farmers and strengthen the agricultural market infrastructure in the country, including those in rural areas?

**Import of wheat**

†1140. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat is available in the country as per requirement;

(b) the rates at which import duty is being charged currently;

(c) the details of imports of wheat by Government and individuals from March, 2016 to 31 December, 2016, the rate thereof and the rationale behind fixing the said rate;

(d) whether farmers' associations have opposed import of wheat; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to check decline in prices of wheat in the market and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Insurance cover under PMFBY and irrigation facility**

1141. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the data of beneficiaries covered and the cropped area under insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), State-wise; and

(b) whether Government is taken steps to improve irrigation facility, if so, the details thereof?

**Drought in Karnataka**

1142. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of healthy rainfall in various parts of the country, Karnataka witnessed deficit rainfall in July, August, September and October, 2016, thereby forcing Government of Karnataka to declare 139 talukas as drought-affected;

(b) whether many of the above talukas have consistently been declared as drought-affected for the last six years causing huge economic losses to farmers;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for ₹ 4,702 crore under NDRF; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Central Government so far to release the amount?

**Promoting vertical farming in urban areas**

1143. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conducted by Government to assess the feasibility of carrying out vertical farming in urban areas of the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps being proposed by Government to promote vertical farming in the country?

#### **Suicides by farmers**

1144. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many incidence of suicides by farmers have taken place in the country during last two years, year wise;

(b) in what way drought has affected farmers during 2016;

(c) what alleviatory measures have been adopted by Government to protect farmers and their families; and

(d) the reasons remunerative prices are not offered for their produce?

#### **Bumper production of foodgrains**

1145. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is likely to have a bumper foodgrains production this year, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made any policy interventions to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices during a bumper crop season;

(c) whether farmers have demanded Minimum Support Prices for the bumper crops for this year, if so, action taken thereon;

(d) whether any export promotion steps have been taken to ensure that the bumper produce is not wasted; and

(e) whether steps have been taken to ensure prevention of wastage of perishable items?

#### **Impact of demonetisation on farmers**

1146. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has waived off farm loans across the country as farmers have been affected by the demonetisation policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has not reduced the power bills and provided remunerative prices for farmers' crops;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the proposal of Government for the issues therein; and

(d) the details of report received by Government from various agencies regarding effect of demonetisation on farmers of the country?

#### **Promoting KVKs**

1147. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra was the leader in agricultural reforms in the latest NITI Aayog rankings, and KVKs play a major role in development of the sector, if so, details of steps taken to emulate and promote KVKs in other States;

(b) how has the setting up of e-NAM benefited the sector, the details of growth recorded after the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) whether only 79 APMCs from nine States were integrated with e-NAM scheme as of August, 2016, if so, the steps being taken to increase permeation of e-NAM in

different States, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Setting up of special agricultural zones**

1148. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish special agricultural zones where only farming and agriculture related activities would be allowed;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to check rapid transfer of fertile and prime farm land for construction and urban development?

**Record production of foodgrains**

1149. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of foodgrains has increased in record quantity as compared to the previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise/ foodgrain-wise during this year; and

(c) the incentive measures taken by Government for the welfare of farmers, particularly for the current season?

**Swachhta Pakhwada activities**

1150. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided that

under one flagship scheme Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) one per cent funds will be spent on solid and waste management;

(b) whether Agricultural Research Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) took active part in the Swachhta Pakhwada activities, including cleaning of campuses, residential areas, villages and localities in their vicinity; and

(c) whether each KVK would adopt five villages for undertaking activities related to cleanliness, if so, the details thereof?

**Suicides due to agrarian crisis**

1151. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Crime Records Bureau report says that majority of suicide by farmers is because of bankruptcy and indebtedness;

(b) if so, the details of suicides that took place in each State across the country due to agrarian crisis; and

(c) the action Government is taking to check such suicides and pay compensation to the families of victims?

**Reservation in Ph.D. education in agricultural universities**

1152. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes reservation in Ph.D in agriculture universities of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Revamping of Crop Insurance Scheme**

1153. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced Crop Insurance Scheme stressing the need of advantage to farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of precautions taken by Government to make the scheme a Suraksha Kavach and more advantageous to farmers from getting out of burden of premiums and crop losses;

(c) whether it is a fact that abnormal delays are taking place in settlement of claims of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government for early settlement of claims and prevent losses to farmers?

**Production hubs for cow milk and agri-produces**

1154. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a proposal to set up production hubs for cow milk, vegetables and other agri-produces near metro cities to boost their supply; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has held discussion with the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**Scheme to increase agricultural production**

1155. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister

of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme to increase agricultural production in the country in future, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the tentative cost for implementing the said scheme?

**Controlling price of stents**

1156. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revealed that hospitals make a killing on stents by 10-65 per cent on each stent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is taking to regulate and control the price of stent and to make it accessible to the needy and poor patients?

**Transparency in price fixation of medical equipments**

1157. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the price fixation of medical equipments/products in pharma industry is not transparent; and

(b) if so, whether any regulations and regulatory authority is to be set up for fair price in pharma industry, if so, the details thereof?

**Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendras**

1158. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to expand the Jan Aushadhi Kendras in every Block and Gram Panchayat across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Group of Secretaries have recommended for penalizing doctors for not prescribing generic medicines; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that branded medicines are five times costlier than generic medicines, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Plan to increase farmers' income**

†1159. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan to increase the income of farmers of the country, including in the State of Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has evolved any action plan to ensure an increase in yields for every kind of farming and a remunerative price for the produces along with reduction of agricultural cost for every farmer of the country, if so, the details thereof?

#### **TPDS allocations in West Bengal**

1160. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea garden workers are being allocated rice and wheat by the Central Government under TPDS;

(b) how many beneficiaries are there under the scheme from the State of West Bengal, district-wise;

(c) whether Government is planning to discontinue TPDS to tea garden workers, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries who will be affected once the allocation has been withdrawn?

#### **Reduction in prices of stents**

1161. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently taken a decision to reduce the cost of stents by 85 per cent, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether 85 per cent cut is across all varieties of stents and whether it is on MRP or on import cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that importers and companies are not willing to bring down their price; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to implement the decision?

#### **Opening of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Karnataka**

1162. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government aims to open 3,000 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAKs) in the country by March, 2017;

(b) if so, details of the proposal with a particular reference to Karnataka;

(c) the number of PMJAKs proposed to be opened in Karnataka out of the targeted Kendras and the present status of the same; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether there are any plans to open PMJAKs in general areas other than in Government hospitals, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Proceeds from sale of BCPL and HAL**

1163. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the sale of India's first pharma company, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) as well as Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) after selling of their surplus land to meet their outstanding liabilities;

(b) whether Government has also approved the closure of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL); and

(c) the amount expected from the sale proceeds of these companies, the full details thereof?

**Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Punjab**

1164. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras opened in Punjab during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there is any criteria for opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote Jan Aushadhi Kendras in every Primary Health Centre of the State?

**Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices**

1165. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, announced in January, 2015, was to be made mandatory in six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for giving four extensions with the last one for an indefinite period; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to bar pharmaceutical companies from bribing doctors with foreign jaunts, expensive gifts and even cash to sell their drugs?

**Action on pharma companies for overcharging**

1166. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken action on certain pharmaceutical companies who have allegedly overcharged the consumers for medicines which are under price control, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken on the erring companies during each of the last three years, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expand the National List of Essential Medicines and make medicines available to consumers at an affordable price?

**Free data to mobile phone customers in villages**

†1167. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide 100 MB data free of cost every day to mobile phone customers in villages for cashless transactions;

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

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

**Cloning of mobile SIM cards**

†1168. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Chinese companies manufacturing mobile chips are cloning mobile SIM cards and thus, stealing customers mobile data and information, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these acts are creating a serious threat of leakage of sensitive information of the country and personal data, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by Government to check this threat and ban the use of Chinese SIM cards?

**Broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan**

†1169. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan where broadband

connectivity has still not reached, the details thereof, District-wise;

(b) the names of cities in Rajasthan where BSNL is providing 4G facility, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated by Government to take internet services to the rural areas of Rajasthan?

**Telecom connectivity in villages of North-East**

1170. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to provide telecom connectivity in villages of the North-East;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent for this purpose and the time to be taken to achieve the target; and

(c) the States, in addition to the North-East that need to be given special attention for providing telecom connectivity in view of making cashless transactions programme of the Government a success?

**Compulsory Aadhaar registration for telecom users**

1171. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made it compulsory to register Aadhaar Card details of the persons who are using mobile phones, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that TRAI has recommended Department of Telecom to issue necessary guidelines to telecom service providers to obtain Aadhaar Card and KYC details of the present mobile users also, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Operationalisation of FSI and CSI in rural post offices**

1172. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many branch post offices across the country, Financial System Integrator (FSI) and Core System Integrator (CSI) have become operational, as on date;

(b) how many out of the operational FSI and CSI have been in rural branch post offices; and

(c) the number of branch post offices in the district of Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu which have been provided with FSI and CSI?

**Jump in operating profit of BSNL**

1173. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has reported nearly six-fold jump in operating profit during 2015-16 at ₹ 3855 crore from ₹ 672 crore in the preceding fiscal;

(b) whether the revenue from operations has turned out to be the highest in the last five years; and

(c) whether BSNL saw acceleration in the mobile business during 2015-16 when 25,000 towers were installed, leading to strong addition of customers and higher revenue from the mobile segment, if so, the details thereof?

**BSNL towers in Goa**

1174. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towers of BSNL functioning in Goa;

(b) the number of towers which are proposed to be constructed and estimated cost thereof;

(c) the cost/rent paid to the owners of the land with respect to each of the towers;

(d) whether any towers were built during BRICS Conference held recently in Goa;

(e) if so, the number of such towers constructed and the places where they were constructed; and

(f) whether these towers are in operation, the details thereof?

**Joint Committee to review tariff rules**

1175. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI will soon form a Joint Committee with telecom operators to review tariff rules, telephone numbering plans and work towards making its monitoring more transparent;

(b) whether TRAI has put forward five subjects before telecom operators that need to be reviewed;

(c) whether regulator intervention is required in the area of infrastructure sharing to bring cost of operations down and improve service quality; and

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

**Making post offices compatible for physically challenged persons**

1176. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received

official notification with regard to making post offices compatible for the physically challenged persons with wheel chair;

(b) whether despite repeated requests and reminders, the sub-post office at Yelahanka Old Town, Bengaluru (Pin-560064) has refused to make its post office compatible for physically challenged persons with wheel chair; and

(c) whether the Ministry will take action against the erring officers and make all buildings under its charge compatible for the differently-abled persons?

**Non-issuance of mobile bills by operators**

1177. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several mobile phone operators do not issue bills to their subscribers and keep on reminding them about non-payment of bills on phone;

(b) if so, the reasons for not issuing the bills to the subscribers by the mobile phone operators; and

(c) the steps taken to stop harassment of subscribers by mobiles phone operators?

**Telecom towers in villages**

†1178. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether opportunities of social activities being undertaken through digital services and e-Governance employment are increasing in those villages and areas surrounding them where telecom towers have been installed;

(b) if so, the number of villages in the country, including Maharashtra, where telecom towers have been installed and the number of towers which are going to be installed in coming years, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the number of villages in the country, including Maharashtra, where Common Service Centres have been planned to be set up with the help of rural entrepreneurs, the State-wise details thereof?

**Awareness programmes on EMF emissions and mobile towers**

1179. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry organizes awareness programmes on Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) emissions from mobile towers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the places/districts where such awareness programmes have been conducted so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cover entire country with such awareness programmes?

**Coverage under Universal Service Obligation Fund**

1180. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved its targets set under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) over the past three years, if so, the details thereof regarding the growth in mobile per 100 persons and internet per 100 persons over the past three years, region-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the funds allocated, disbursed and spent for providing universal access to ICT, State-wise including West Bengal; and

(c) the details regarding technology transfer, if any, with any foreign country/company with regard to providing the necessary infrastructure?

**Distribution of other domestic goods through Fair Price Shops**

†1181. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal regarding distribution of other domestic goods of daily need through Fair Price Shops for food distribution, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is making any effort to save the present Fair Price Shops in view of submission of licenses by many shopkeepers in the department due to losses, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is going to discontinue this system, if so, the details thereof?

**Allotment of rice to Kerala**

1182. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether restoration of rice allotment has been done which was cut down by the Government recently; and

(b) if so, whether any measures are under consideration of the Government to ensure sufficient rice allotment to rice consuming States like Kerala?

**Starvation deaths**

1183. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problem of peoples' starvation in many parts of the country despite the FCI godowns overflowing with foodgrains, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of people died for want to food, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to curb this magnitude of problem?

**Pendency of consumer cases**

1184. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of consumer disputes take very long time to get resolved in consumer fora and public suffers for these delays; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any data regarding the number of cases lying pending in different consumer Dispute Redressal Fora/Commissions across the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Import of wheat**

1185. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not considering to import wheat on Government account;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has enough wheat to meet the requirement under Public Distribution System;

(c) whether, as on 1 December, 2016, Food Corporation of India had 27.55 million tonnes of foodgrains, of which wheat was 16.4 million tonne and rice was 11 million tonne; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is encouraging import of wheat by private players by scrapping import duty on wheat?

#### **Foodgrains storage capacity**

†1186. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proper arrangement of foodgrains' storage is not there even today;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the current foodgrains production and storage capacity thereof?

#### **Enlisting of applicants in West Bengal for providing subsidised rice**

1187. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small percentage of the applicants are enlisted to avail ₹ 2 per kg. rice in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what were the total number of applicants, and how many of them have been enlisted; and

(c) the reasons for disallowing so many applicants from availing the facility?

#### **Coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA**

1188. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state"

(a) the criteria to include States under coverage of beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) which States are covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had received request from Government of Rajasthan for reassessment of percentage of coverage under NFSA; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Buffer stock of pulses**

1189. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is looking to achieve its buffer stock target of 2 million tonnes of pulses by June next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country has imported nearly six million tonnes pulses last fiscal year to meet the domestic demand; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is to ensure the domestic availability of 24-25 million tonnes of pulses, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Fixing of MRP on packaged commodities by institutional consumers**

1190. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Legal Metrology Act, 2009 envisages "institutional consumer", which encompasses in its ambit institutional consumer *inter alia* transportation, airways, hotels, multiplexes, hospitals, railways or any other service institutions who buy packaged commodities directly from manufacturer for use by the institute; and

(b) whether the aforesaid institutional consumers, including multiplexes, hotels, restaurants are entitled to affix MRP applicable for institutional consumers on mineral water, cold drinks, etc., for sale in their locations, if so, the details thereof?

**Import of wheat**

†1191. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat cultivators are facing huge losses due to cheap wheat import;

(b) if so, whether Government would reconsider it in the interest of farmers; and

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

**Assistance to Sugar industry**

1192. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sugar millers have sought Central Government assistance to deal with increased financial stress due to high sugarcane prices, restructuring of industry's debt and creation of Price Stabilization Fund etc.;

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

(c) whether Sugar industry represented for bringing down the eligibility condition of exposure of ₹ 500 crore to ₹ 100 crore for Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any relief is being given to Sugar industry to make it competitive in the global market?

**Use of photograph of Prime Minister in advertisements by private companies**

1193. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permission was sought by private companies to use the photograph of the Prime Minister in full page advertisements while promoting their brands and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the action taken by Government against such companies;

(c) whether there is any mechanism which approves the usage of Prime Minister's photographs by private companies and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government is planning to introduce any mechanism in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS operations**

1194. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government would be able to complete the task of end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations throughout the country; and

(b) the status of the end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations in Tamil Nadu?

**Setting up of online Consumer Mediation Centre**

1195. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has inaugurated/proposes to inaugurate Online Consumer Mediation Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the aims of opening of such a Centre;

(c) the time by which the Centre is likely to start functioning;

(d) whether any private agency has been associated with the setting up of the said Centre; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned and spent in this regard during the current financial year?

**Construction of silos by private players**

1196. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has identified private sector players who would build around 25 silos with 1.3 million tonne combined capacity within next two years;

(b) whether these silos would be constructed under the Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate model;

(c) whether silos of 2.5 lakh tonne capacity are currently being built at six locations; and

(d) if so, whether these silos are being built on the land owned by the FCI through Viability Gap Funding basis?

**Service charge levied by hotels and restaurants**

1197. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked State Governments to issue an advisory to hotels/restaurants to prominently display that service charges are solely at the discretion of consumer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if the customer is not satisfied with the services rendered, he may get the service charges waived from the bill; and

(c) whether the service tax levied on food and beverages served is not uniform, if so, the details of the manner in which it is levied?

**Levying of service charge by hotels and restaurants**

†1198. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: 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 hotels and restaurants are levying service charges on catering and other services without willingness of the customers, if so, the estimated amount of service charge levied by hotels and restaurants on daily basis in the country, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no rule to take action against hotels and restaurants levying service charge and to return the service charge that has been levied from customers, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan being prepared by Government to protect the customers?

#### **Service charge on food bills**

1199. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made service charges on a food bill non-compulsory, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how this decision is being implemented by State Governments?

#### **Steps taken for consumer protection**

†1200. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's record with regard to consumer protection has not been satisfactory with reference to developed countries of the world;

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

(c) whether several effective steps, which have yielded expected results have been taken by the Central Government with

regard to consumer protection during the last two years, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Monitoring of inflation of essential eatables**

1201. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made/is making any list of foodgrains, fruits and daily routine essential eatables which need special monitoring to avoid any irregular inflation almost every year;

(b) if so, the details of those products, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the assessment on reasons identified for rise in price for each product under frequent inflation?

#### **Allocation of rice to Kerala**

1202. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the decision to reduce allocation of rice to Kerala has adversely affected the Public Distribution System in the State; and

(b) whether Government proposes to make changes in the policy to maintain the prevailing supply of foodgrains to Kerala, if so, the details of the proposed changes?

#### **Implementation of Digital India Programme by NIC**

1203. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that NIC is proposed to become the main agency to implement the Digital India Programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is being done to strengthen NIC in terms of infrastructure and manpower?

#### **BPO Scheme in Telangana**

1204. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is contemplating opening and developing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) units with a view to expand the Electronics and Information Technology in rural areas as a part of the Digital India Programme, if so, the details thereof, and

(b) whether the Ministry has identified any places in Telangana for this purpose, if so, the details thereof, District-wise?

#### **Cyber Crimes**

1205. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cyber crimes reported during the last two years and the present status thereof;

(b) the percentage increase in such crimes during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to tackle cyber crime incidents with stringent cyber laws to make on-line transactions foolproof and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Private sector participation in curbing cyber crimes**

1206. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Assocham-PwC report has suggested Government to design policies entailing incentives and tax breaks to encourage private sector participation in curbing cyber crimes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government intends to increase budget for cyber security related initiatives such as capacity building, training of workforce, implementing awareness programmes and Research and Development to check cyber crimes, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether comprehensive cyber security policies and frameworks would be developed to effectively curb cyber incidents and to reduce response time by various agencies, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Analysis of official websites of Ministries and Departments of Central Government**

1207. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever undertaken any comparative analysis of the efficacy, user-friendliness and overall performance of official websites of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government;

(b) the Ministries and Departments, the websites of which are attracting highest number of visitors; and

(c) the Ministries or Departments where there is a structured and systematic mechanism of analysing the feedback of users periodically?

#### **Aadhaar-enabled payments**

1208. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to make Aadhaar-enabled payments and wants to reduce the use of credit and debit cards;

(b) how Unique Identification Authority of India is planning to increase biometric authentication capacity of Aadhaar to push Aadhaar enabled payments to create a cashless society, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to create awareness about this mode of transaction to the people, particularly people in the rural areas?

#### **Implementation of Digital Literacy Mission**

1209. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Digital Literacy Mission, State-wise; and

(b) the steps Ministry is taking to cover more households under the scheme?

#### **Hacking of airport websites**

1210. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a server containing 148 domains of Indian airport websites, including Cochin and Trivandrum was hacked by Pakistani cyber criminals, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether data on the server was stolen and domains compromised; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and its preparedness to deal with such cyber attacks?

#### **Rural BPOs**

†1211. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether information technology-based service sector in rural areas, *i.e.* rural BPOs, are not only promoting IT-based infrastructure but are also instrumental in creation of new job opportunities in rural areas, if so, the total number of BPOs functioning in the rural areas of the country, including Maharashtra; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote BPOs in rural areas and the amount provided as grant of the total cost of establishment of BPOs?

#### **Employment generation through Call Centres**

†1212. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Central Government had made an announcement to open Call Centres with a view to generate employment in small cities of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of such Call Centres opened across the country so far, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether any target has been set for the coming years in this regard?

#### **Benefits of e-Governance through Common Service Centres**

1213. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase in number of people taking benefits of e-Governance through Common Service Centres in the last five years;

(b) whether there is any yearly target set by Government to ensure certain percentage of increase in the number of users of Common Service Centres, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **India BPO Promotion Scheme**

†1214. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Call Centres set up till date by Government under the India BPO Promotion Scheme and the number of youths getting an employment therein; and

(b) the name of the States where these Centres have been set up till date and the number of Call Centres yet to be opened,

the details thereof, State-wise and seat-wise?

#### **Safety measures for avoiding data theft**

1215. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether along with promoting the usage of digital technology by the users Government is also promoting the safety measures of the digital technology to avoid data theft and its safety issues through cyber crime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Subsidy to Mini Mills of Pulses**

1216. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has discontinued the scheme of providing subsidy to Mini Mills of Pulses since April 1, 2015, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received representations from various State Governments, including Government of Tamil Nadu to continue the scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's decision in this regard?

#### **Investments in food processing units after demonetisation**

1217. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was huge investment in cash in the food

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

processing units after demonetisation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is monitoring such investments in food processing units, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any mechanism or plans to unearth black money invested in these units, the details thereof?

**Assistance to FPIs in Jharkhand and Gujarat**

1218. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided assistance to the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in Jharkhand and Gujarat during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether Government has set any time-frame with regard to receipt of proposal and release of assistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce the time involved in this regard?

**Mega Food Parks in Maharashtra**

1219. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much more time is likely to be taken to make the three Mega Food Parks at Wardha, Aurangabad and Satara operational;

(b) the action plan Government has drawn for setting up more Food Parks in Maharashtra in view of success stories of co-operative movement in the State; and

(c) the reasons Government has not contemplated setting up Mega Food Parks in western Maharashtra, including Kolhapur in farmers interest?

**Law Commission's recommendation for appointment of Judges**

1220. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that courts in the country require 70,000 Judges to clear the pending cases;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Ministry for appointment of Judges in High Courts;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has recommended for having 44,000 Judges to effectively tackle the number of pending cases, but the country has just 18,000 judges as of now; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing recommendations of the Law Commission?

**Filling up of posts of Judges in Patna High Court**

†1221. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Judges vacant in Patna High Court;

(b) since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) by when these vacancies would be filled up;

(d) whether there is a rule to start the process of filling the vacant posts six months before the date on which they fall vacant; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether these processes are being followed?

#### **Appointment of Judges**

1222. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in reaching an understanding with the Supreme Court on selection/promotion/transfer of Judges in the higher judiciary, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the stumbling blocks in quickening the filling up of vacancies in High Courts?

#### **Electoral reforms**

†1223. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring any proposal to conduct elections of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously throughout the country, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that no action is taken on the report regarding violation of Model Code of Conduct for reforming elections after the elections are over, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal to register mobile numbers of the voters in voters' list under election reform programme so that voting can be ensured, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Report on speedy and affordable justice delivery**

1224. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of States met in April, 2016 to find ways to make speedy and affordable justice a reality;

(b) whether the concerns expressed in the conclave have been recorded and submitted to Government in a recent Report prepared by the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning;

(c) whether the report shows that apart from shortage of judges, there are other shortcomings and inadequacies on Court infrastructure and room accommodation; and

(d) the other salient features of this Report?

#### **Pending cases and vacancies of Judges in District Courts**

†1225. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been mentioned in the Annual Report (2015-2016) of the Supreme Court that 2.81 crore cases are pending in District Courts and there is a shortage of almost five thousand Judicial Officers in these Courts which is a serious cause for concern; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to appoint Judicial Officers in required number for early disposal of pending cases in Courts by following the recommendations given and in view of the facts mentioned in the Report of the Supreme Court?

#### **Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**

1226. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the President has given his consent for simultaneous polls in the country;

(b) whether any consultations have been held with the Election Commission in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there are any countries in the world where simultaneous elections are being held for National Assembly and Provinces, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the experience of such countries along with the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneous elections?

#### **Electoral reforms**

1227. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has sent several memoranda during 2010-15 emphasizing the need for looking into electoral reforms, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the view taken by Government with regard to those suggestions?

#### **Reports of Commission**

1228. SHRIR. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many reports and crucial issues are pending with the Law Commission to recommend changes in various current laws, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of reports submitted by the Law Commission during the last five years and Government's response thereto?

#### **Setting up of Special Courts**

1229. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the number of Special Courts created by various Statutes during the last two years in view of large number of cases pending in various Courts;

(b) the number of cases pending in the above said Special Courts;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to see if these Special Courts have been able to dispose of cases speedily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

#### **Cases pending in Family Courts of Gujarat**

†1230. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has any data of the number of cases pending in Family Courts in the State of Gujarat, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Status of websites of the Supreme Court and High Courts**

1231. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of websites of the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts in the country;

(b) the type of material uploaded on these websites;

(c) whether judgements and orders of these Courts are made available on the same day on these websites;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the yearly expenditure involved in maintenance of these websites; and

(e) the plans, if any, proposed to upgrade and modernise these websites?

#### **Status of Legal Aid Clinics**

1232. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of progress of setting up Legal Aid Clinics in various National Law Universities;

(b) whether any feasibility studies have been conducted to assess the establishment of Legal Aid Clinics which is a mandatory requirement for law colleges, covered by the Bar Association of India, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to conduct such a study?

#### **High Speed Rail lines**

1233. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total budgetary allocation for High Speed Rail (HSR) lines projects to be implemented in the country;

(b) the total number of railway lines that are planned to be dedicated to HSR lines; and

(c) the time-frame by which these HSR lines would be operational?

#### **Menace of pests and insects in railway coaches**

1234. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that due to menace of bed bugs, cockroaches, rodents and other pests and insects, the condition of travel in sleeper coaches becomes very difficult for long distance travellers;

(b) whether Railways have identified these coaches and sectors where these problems occur frequently; and

(c) the fool-proof remedy that Railways propose to take to ensure that this menace is completely eradicated?

#### **Use of IT generated data for revenue generation**

1235. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the policy of Government regarding usage of huge IT generated data for revenue generation without disclosing the identity?

#### **Quality of food served in trains plying to Kerala**

1236. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in receipt of complaints about inferior quality of food served, denials of rate cards and menu in trains plying to Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals are under consideration of Railways to address them?

**Shortage of foot plating staff**

†1237. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loco inspectors (foot plating) are present with the drivers in engine while the train is running, with a view to take note of various safety measures and to submit various suggestions regarding rail tracks;

(b) the number of foot plating staff and other staff found indolent of their duty when an inspection was carried out by stopping the train suddenly and the details of action taken against them; and

(c) the details and status of the shortage of loco pilots and foot plating staff?

**Transaction charge on e-tickets**

†1238. SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when transaction charge on e-tickets has not been charged or reduced post demonetization; and

(b) the amount of concession given on e-tickets after Railways stopped taking transaction charge following demonetization, the details thereof?

**Reasons for increase in number of train accidents**

†1239. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts are of the opinion that one of the reasons for increasing number of train accidents is the fact that senior Divisional Managers (Engineering) are more interested and devote a better part of their time on different tenders instead of carrying out the site inspection of railway tracks, the details thereof;

(b) the details of steps taken to beef up the security of railway tracks in view of sabotage activities regarding railway tracks carried out by miscreants in the wake of surgical strikes; and

(c) the details of the current status thereof?

**Zero tolerance in train accidents**

1240. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of derailments and accidents have increased in the last one year due to human negligence and mechanical failure;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported in the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is committed towards zero tolerance in train accidents; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Extending jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division**

1241. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways are considering to extend the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway to include Jharsuguda-Barsuan-Kiriburu, Rourkela-Nuagoun and Jharsuguda-Hemgiri lines as per the demands submitted by the Government of Odisha?

**Recommendations of Anil Kakodkar Committee**

1242. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Anil Kakodkar Committee being implemented; and

(b) the recommendations of the Committee not being implemented?

**Reasons for train accidents**

1243. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents that have taken place in the last three years;

(b) the main reasons for these unfortunate accidents;

(c) whether possibility of sabotage is there behind these accidents, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of safety staff posts are vacant in Railways; and

(e) whether recommendations made by various inquiries have been followed?

**MoU with Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a JV company**

1244. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Joint Venture (JV) company for taking up major railway projects, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the funding pattern for the projects to be developed and whether Railways would contribute a major share;

(c) whether setting up of Zonal Railway at Visakhapatnam was also included in the projects being identified; and

(d) if not, by when the Zonal Railway would be set up?

**Sanctioned RoBs for Telangana**

1245. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sanctioned nine RoBs for Telangana in the last three years, *i.e.*, 2013-14 to 2015-16, if so, the details of RoBs sanctioned, district-wise;

(b) the status of the above RoBs, RoB-wise;

(c) by when they are likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of RoBs and RuBs sanctioned for 2017-18 to be taken up in Telangana?

#### **Adarsh railway stations**

†1246. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had identified 1253 railway stations of the country for developing them into Adarsh stations, out of which only 1011 stations have been developed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed by the Ministry for developing rest of the stations as Adarsh stations; and

(c) whether proposals from public representatives have been received by Government for developing Ambikapur, Baikunthpur and Surajpur railway stations of Chhattisgarh as Adarsh stations, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Railway line between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti**

1247. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of proposed new broad-gauge railway line between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti;

(b) the estimated cost of the new railway line and how much funds Railways have released so far;

(c) whether survey for the proposed railway line has been completed;

(d) if so, the estimated time-line to complete the railway line for commencement of operations; and

(e) the reasons for the delay in commencing of work on this project announced in the Railway Budget of 2010-11?

#### **Mechanism to control and regulate crowd at railway stations**

†1248. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any effective mechanism for controlling and regulating crowd within and outer premises of railway stations of major cities of the country, including metro cities, the details thereof and the measures taken thereon; and

(b) the action plan for maintenance, improvement and expansion of other platforms at railway stations besides platform number 1, with regard to the above?

#### **Cleanliness at railway stations and in trains**

†1249. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of regular arrangements made for cleanliness/sanitation of inner and outer premises, including platforms of railway stations and trains, and the details of daily/weekly/monthly remuneration/wages paid to regular and contractual workers doing these jobs along with the method of payment in this regard; and

(b) the details of arrangement for cleanliness and sanitation within the boundary limits of railway land around railway tracks pertaining to railway stations of cities and metro cities, and the measures taken for review and improvement of this?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Increase in incidents of derailments**

1250. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of derailments in Railways have been increasing year by year since 2013-14;

(b) if so, the number of derailments occurred since 2013-14, year-wise, and the number of people died/injured in those incidents;

(c) whether it is also a fact that various enquiry reports, including Parliamentary Panel reports on train accidents are there but no action has been taken to improve the safety standards of Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for ignoring recommendations of various reports on accidents in Railways?

**Model railway stations**

1251. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations upgraded as Model stations at present along with the details thereof, Zone-wise;

(b) the details of additional facilities provided at these stations *vis-a-vis* other stations;

(c) whether any target has been fixed to develop all railway stations of the country as Model stations and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done along with the details thereof; and

(d) the names of stations which are proposed to be upgraded as Model stations during the next two years?

**Derailment of Hirakhand Express train**

1252. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has investigated the derailment of Odisha-bound Hirakhand Express train which derailed on Saturday, 21 January, 2017 midnight at Kureru of Komarada Mandal of Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh, causing several deaths and injuries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the investigations done and the action taken against the persons found responsible therefor?

**Field trial of Talgo coaches**

1253. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the field trials of Talgo coaches, on the existing New Delhi-Mumbai route last year, were meant for the limited purpose of assessing the savings in transit time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Railways are not going to use these coaches for passenger service;

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

(d) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by Railways on the outcome of the field trials?

**Frequent rail fractures leading to derailments**

1254. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been frequent rail fractures resulting in derailments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Railway has tightened patrolling of tracks; and

(c) if so, whether senior railway officials have been trained for this purpose?

**Coach and loco manufacturing facility for High Speed Rail in Gujarat**

1255. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government regarding setting up of coach and loco manufacturing facility for High Speed Rail in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal submitted by Government of Gujarat;

(c) whether Government has an extant policy to support such an important manufacturing activity; and

(d) if not, whether Government has a plan to support such High Speed Rail coach and loco manufacturing facility by way of policy intervention for setting up the facility in Gujarat?

**Vacancies in Railways**

1256. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortage of railway staff, Zone-wise and category-wise;

(b) the details of all the vacancies in Railways, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to fill up the vacancies in Railways?

**Measures to check train accidents**

1257. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of train accidents which have occurred since 2009-10 till date and how many people were killed and injured in those accidents;

(b) whether Government has ascertained causes of these accidents and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken to check train accidents; and

(d) the details of projects concerning railway safety pending for implementation and since when, and by which date those projects will be implemented?

**Inquiry into train accidents**

1258. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the two major train accidents in the past month, raising questions on passenger safety;

(b) whether Government has constituted any inquiry into the accidents and its causes;

(c) if so, the details and the preliminary findings thereof; and

(d) whether Government plans to take any concrete measures to prevent such repeated accidents in future, the details thereof?

**Bringing porters under social security net**

1259. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the poor working, social and living conditions of porters at various railway stations;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to bring them under social security net;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme and its funding; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Redevelopment and modernisation of railway stations**

1260. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to rope in private companies to redevelop and modernise 23 railway stations, including the iconic Howrah Junction, Mumbai Central and Chennai Central, if so, the State-wise names thereof;

(b) whether any company or companies have been selected by Railways to undertake modernisation of these stations;

(c) by when the work on these stations is likely to start;

(d) whether any time-limit has been set for completion of the modernisation work; and

(e) the details thereof along with the total expenditure involved therein?

**Sanctioned and in-position strength of RPF**

1261. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present strength of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel has decreased *vis-a-vis* its sanctioned

strength during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to fill such gap along with results thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study/assessment of coordination between RPF personnel and other security agencies, including State Police, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to augment railway security?

**Unmanned level crossings in Rajasthan**

1262. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many unmanned level crossings are there in Rajasthan;

(b) how many accidents have taken place during last three years at these crossings;

(c) whether Railways have conducted any inquiry into these accidents, if so, the details/outcome thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) in how much time, the Ministry proposes to eliminate these unmanned level crossings; and

(e) the details regarding the alternative methods which will be used to eliminate these unmanned level crossings?

**Female employees working in Railways**

1263. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working in Railways;

(b) the total number and percentage of female employees working in Railways;

(c) the details of steps being taken to increase the number of female employees in Railways as railway is one of the largest employment generation public sectors of the country and it needs to set an example of having the best male to female ratio of its employees; and

(d) the details of the time-line Government has fixed for the same?

#### **Vacancies in Railways**

1264. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies exist as on 31 December, 2016 in various departments of Railways;

(b) how many vacancies exist in the case of loco running staff and by when they would be filled up;

(c) how many vacancies exist related to railway safety; and

(d) how many more posts are being created to ensure railway safety?

#### **Capital expenditure on Railways**

1265. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) finalized and joint ventures formed as the capital expenditure on Railways for 2016-17, estimated at approximately ₹ 1,21,000 crore, was to be implemented through joint ventures with States and new frameworks for PPP;

(b) the measures being implemented, apart from installing of Wi-Fi facilities at some stations, as a digital push was sought to be given to Railways by implementing various measures, Zone-wise details thereof; and

(c) the foreign investments received by the sector after clearance of 100 per cent FDI therein, Zone-wise details thereof?

#### **Establishment of railway factories in West Bengal**

1266. SHRI RITABRATABANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixteen factories have been established by Railways in West Bengal, as declared during the UPA II; and

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

#### **EMU/MEMU services for peri-urban areas**

1267. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have been striving hard to expand travel facilities to peri-urban areas by introduction of EMU/MEMU services;

(b) whether of late, Northern Railway has been curtailing suburban commuter services between Delhi and Ghaziabad *via* Anand Vihar, serving lakhs of commuters from neighbouring towns in Uttar Pradesh and NCR region, for no valid reasons; and

(c) whether the daily EMU service 64032 from Shakurbasti to Ghaziabad has been quietly withdrawn four months ago and not restored till now, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Shortage of cotton in market**

1268. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton prices across the country are ruling high on subdued arrivals, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether lack of demand in Apparel industry has also impacted arrivals and although farmers are getting high prices, they are preferring to hold back because of the currency shortage in market;

(c) whether, although the country has contracted some six lakh bales for export to countries, including Bangladesh and Vietnam, traders are finding it difficult to meet contractual obligations because there is no cotton in the market; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to intervene in the matter?

**Opening Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) at Bhubaneswar**

1269. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal from Government of Odisha to open a Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) at Bhubaneswar is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take a decision in this regard considering the handicrafts potential of the State?

**Insurance schemes for textile workers**

1270. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance schemes for textile workers of the country and the premium charged therefor; and

(b) the number of textile workers covered under various types of insurances during each of the last two years, State/UT-wise?

**SC/ST/OBC employees in NIFT**

†1271. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Class employees in National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT); and

(b) if so, the Centre-wise details thereof?

**Development of Handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh**

1272. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to develop Handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of funds being allocated in this financial year for development of Handloom industry in the State; and

(c) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from Government of Andhra Pradesh with regard to development of handloom clusters, financial assistance for handlooms etc., the details thereof?

**Effects of demonetisation on small and medium weavers**

1273. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has made any study on the effects of demonetisation on small and medium weavers and the Handloom industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three months; and

(c) the comparative production figures from November to January for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in this regard?

**Technical training to handicraft artisans**

†1274. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Technical Training Workshop is proposed to be set up for development of handicrafts in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that artisans of old handicrafts are on the verge of unemployment due to lack of technical training; and

(c) whether there is any plan to encourage these handicraft artisans for manufacturing modern clothes?

**Textile and garment exports**

1275. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD:  
MAHANT SHAMBHU-  
PRASADJI TUNDIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any data regarding increase in export of textile and garments in the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

**Schemes for employment generation in Textile sector**

1276. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Textile sector generates employment opportunities next only to Agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the new schemes prepared to provide employment to youth and women in the Textile sector; and

(c) whether Government is considering to prepare any policy for the success of Make-in-India programme and making the Textile sector job-oriented, if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 4th March, 2017*  
*Phalguna 13, 1938 (Saka)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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(Ministry-wise)

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