

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 17, 2017/Phalguna 26, 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 — 15

Coverage of all crops under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

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

(a) whether the Pradhan Mantri Fasal
Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is not available for
perennial horticultural crops like apple,
cardamom, etc.;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to
extend benefits of the PMFBY to all crops,
including perennial horticultural crops?

Effect of demonetisation on prices of agricultural produce

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

(a) whether Government is aware that

due to demonetisation, farmers are
compelled to sell their produce, particularly
perishable items, at prices much below the
cost of their production, due to non-
availability of buyers;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to
compensate the farmers who have suffered
severe losses due to sale of their agricultural
produce, including vegetables, at price much
below the cost of production during the
last three months; and

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

Schemes for silk weavers of Bhagalpur

†*168. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN
PERWEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of Silk industry in Bhagalpur city, known as the Silk city, has become pathetic and the silk weavers there are on the verge of starvation;

(b) whether Government has chalked out any scheme to improve the condition of silk weavers of Bhagalpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with achievements in this regard during the last three years?

Using USOF to promote rural infrastructure under Digital India programme

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

(a) whether Government is planning to spend ₹ 10,000 crore in the current financial year, out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), to promote rural basic infrastructure under Digital India programme;

(b) if so, the total amount spent in the last year and the total amount available under this Fund, State-wise details thereof;

(c) the total number of Gram Panchayats and rural post offices connected with optical fibre network in the country, including Maharashtra; and

(d) the reasons for delay in connecting all Panchayats and rural post offices with optical fibre in the country, including Maharashtra?

Revamping the Textile industry

*170. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to revamp the Textile industry in the country in the financial year 2017-18;

(b) the total number of claims pending and the claims cleared in respect of the industry during the last three years and this year so far, under the new Duty Drawback Scheme; and

(c) the amount of claims pending with the Ministry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the steps taken to clear the same, the details thereof?

Bringing the Oak Grove School, Jharipani under PPP mode

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

(a) whether the Ministry has brought the Oak Grove School, Jharipani under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether organisational structure of the School will be changed as autonomous body under PPP mode, if so, the details thereof, including quota for wards of Railway staff and officers;

(c) whether performance of the School has gradually deteriorated during recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

action taken against the Principal for poor result; and

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

Decline in the number of passengers travelling in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains

†*172. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decline has been registered in the number of passengers travelling in Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline; and

(c) if not, the details of number of passengers travelling *vis-a-vis* the seats available in the said trains from February, 2015 to January, 2017?

Model railway stations in Bihar

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

(a) the number of railway stations selected for being developed as model railway stations in Bihar;

(b) the number of railway stations proposed to be selected for development under the category of model railway stations during the next three years;

(c) the number of such stations where renovation work has been completed; and

(d) by when the renovation work of all the selected stations would be completed?

National Policy of Food Processing

*174. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is formulating a National Policy of Food Processing, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is holding consultations with stakeholders for the formulation of this Policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time period set for constituting the Expert Group to formulate the Draft National Policy of Food Processing?

Reservation for women in Central and State Legislatures

*175. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a legislation to provide for one third reservation for women in Central and State Legislatures;

(b) whether Government has held any consultations/meetings with various political parties regarding the issue; and

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

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Ministry that 72 per cent of the farmers, who commit suicide, have less than 2 hectares of land, as per the latest data of NCRB;

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to protect these 72 per cent farmers who have small and marginal holdings;

(c) whether there is any special intervention in the Budget proposed for 2017-18; and

(d) if not, how the Ministry is planning to go ahead in this regard?

Maintenance of basic data of handloom weavers

*177. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various welfare schemes meant for handloom weavers across the country could not be implemented due to insufficient and improper maintenance of basic data of handloom weavers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to adopt a more scientific approach in this direction, if so, the details thereof?

Projects under ICAR

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

(a) the details of allocation and

utilisation of funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the last three years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that completion deadlines of several projects under ICAR have been extended midway during project execution;

(c) if so, the details of such projects, the reasons for extension of their completion period and the cost overrun, project-wise; and

(d) the details of projects initiated but not completed till date along with the date of commencement and the expected date for their completion, project-wise?

Recognised political parties and electoral reforms

†*179. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) at present the number of parties recognised by the Election Commission at National and State level in the country;

(b) whether electoral reforms have been undertaken in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received the recommendations of the Central Ministers-level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to publish the said recommendations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Production and consumption of pulses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite

adequate production of pulses, Government
is considering import of the same, if so, the
reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, the details of the production
and consumption of pulses in the country,
at present?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th March, 2017
Phalguna 20, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	—
Communications	:	169,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	180,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	—
Food Processing Industries	:	174,
Law and Justice	:	175, 179,
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