

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 24, 2017/Chaitra 3, 1939 (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

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Tamil Nadu

2557. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased
to state:

(a) the number of farmers registered for
the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,
State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers from Tamil
Nadu who have availed the Yojana for both
Kharif and Rabi seasons, district-wise; and

(c) the number of insured farmers who
were provided compensation due to the
failure of crops in Tamil Nadu during the
Rabi season (October-March)?

Implementation of NADAMS

2558. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to
state:

(a) the details of the States which are
covered under National Agriculture

Drought Assessment and Monitoring
System (NADAMS);

(b) the manner in which agricultural
drought monitoring is carried out under
NADAMS;

(c) the details of the benefits farmers
would get under the scheme; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited by
the system during the last two years and
the current year, State-wise including Tamil
Nadu?

Slow release of high yielding pest resistant varieties

2559. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the
slow release of new high yielding, disease
pest resistant varieties in agriculture during
last two decades or so; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow release
of new varieties as compared to twenty
years back?

**Setting up of Centre for Cotton
Excellence in Gujarat**

2560. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN
MISTRY:

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

(a) whether Government of Gujarat had demanded from the Central Government to establish Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering the proposal;

(c) when such a centre is likely to be established; and

(d) the time-frame in which the Cotton Excellence Centre will function fully?

**Improving seeds and fertilizers
procurement system**

2561. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the hardships faced by farmers in procurement of seeds and fertilizers due to demonetisation;

(b) whether Government is considering to improve the procurement mechanism in the country to rescue the farmers if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to streamline or bringing an innovative state of the art procurement system in the agricultural sector, if so, the details thereof?

MSP announced by Government

2562. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) whether the peasants, who feed the entire country, are taking away their own lives because they are not getting even the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce;

(b) if so, the MSP announced by Government in respect of wheat, rice and other essential pulses; and

(c) the appropriate action Government is taking to address farmers' concerns?

Suicides by farmers

2563. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of farmers committing suicides is increasing every year;

(b) the details of the number of farmers who committed suicide in the last three years and in the current year, year-wise and the average acreage holding by them;

(c) whether Government would review the scheme of providing relief to farmers in distress by making their loan and interest burden reduced by financial assistance, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, how does Government plans to deal with increasing farmers' suicides, with details?

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers

2564. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of chemicals fertilizers, particularly urea by farmers across the country, has posed threat to the soil as well as resulted in decline in farm production;

(b) if so, whether Government has chalked out any awareness programme for farmers to discourage excessive use of chemical fertilizers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether various fertilizer cooperatives would be engaged in the awareness programme of impact of chemical fertilizers on soil and farm production, if so, the details thereof?

Achievements in solving the problems of farmers

†2565. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

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

(a) whether the efforts being put in to improve the state of farmers are not yielding positive results, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the omissions occurring in the process of understanding the problems and

redressing the problems of farmers because of which they are forced to commit suicide;

(c) the extent of success achieved in the direction of doubling the income for farmers, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken during the last three years because of which farmers obtained satisfactory benefits and the steps proposed to be taken in future?

Providing proper price of farmers' produces

†2566. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether farmers are discouraged due to not getting good prices of pulses as the rates have gone down at the time of harvesting of Rabi crops;

(b) the reasons for fall in prices of crops of farmers during their harvesting season and increase in their market prices as soon as it reaches traders; and

(c) whether such an arrangement would be in place whereby farmers get the highest price of their crops in the market and their situation could improve, the details thereof?

Farmers' suicides

2567. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to ensure implementation of the policies to curb farmers' suicides, the details of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

schemes and their current status of implementation; and

(b) whether the studies and recommendations of the renowned agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan have been taken into consideration, if not, the reasons therefor?

Safeguarding livelihood of Poultry farmers

2568. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to lift the ban on import of poultry meat and egg from USA and other countries in view of WTO remarks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to safeguard the livelihood of Indian Poultry farmers?

Milk production in NER

2569. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of milk in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) in liters, State-wise;

(b) the total sale of packaged liquid milk daily in the NER States; and

(c) the daily sale of total quantity of milk products in the States of NER?

Compensation under Fasal Bima Yojana

2570. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not receiving

compensation for the loss of crop or damage to the crop due to unseasonal rains under Fasal Bima Yojana, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to compensate farmers under the scheme at the earliest?

Implementation of RKVY, NMOOP and PMKSY in Tamil Nadu

2571. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any funds under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) whether Government has conducted any studies on the impact of Per Drop More Crop on farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated in the last two years for the Per Drop More Crop scheme?

Implementation of NFSM

2572. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM);

(b) whether it is a fact that all States have not so far implemented the NFSM;

(c) if so, details of the States which have not implemented it and the reasons therefor;

(d) the performance of implementation

of NFSM in States where it is being implemented; and

(e) what is Electronic Point of Sale and its performance in States where it is being implemented?

Late sowing of crops

2573. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to evaluate the total number of farmers, in percentage and number, who were affected on account of late sowing and delayed application of fertilizers due to their inability to buy seeds and fertilizers in the last three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Availability of fodder

2574. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total milk production in the country;

(b) the availability of fodder in the country;

(c) whether it is adequate for the total number of cattle; and

(d) if not, how Government proposes to meet the situation?

Raising productivity of indigenous breed

2575. 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 considering to focus on activities like dairy, fisheries and horticulture to double

the income of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the climate change is also a challenge for milk production, but indigenous breeds will be least affected by global warming; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to raise productivity of indigenous breed in the wake of climate change, if so, the details thereof?

Rules to curb farmers' suicides

2576. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data of farmers' suicides in the last three years;

(b) whether the Ministry is taking any steps to provide relief to State Governments and compensation to farmers' families, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to draw up rules to curb farmers' suicides, if so, the details and time-line thereof?

Unique and concrete efforts for farmers

†2577. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made various unique and concrete efforts during the last two and a half year for providing environment friendly, time-bound, reliable and high quality agricultural produces and services to farmers to make them economically prosperous, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether IFFCO is making a significant contribution to achieve Government's target to double the farmers'

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

income with the help of NABARD, if so, the details thereof?

DBT Scheme for agriculture subsidy

2578. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of villages and districts covered under the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) Scheme in agriculture subsidy;

(b) whether using DBT in agriculture subsidy has increased agricultural productivity; and

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

Implementation of MIDH

2579. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets and achievements of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) since last three years;

(b) the details of the States where this scheme has been implemented very well;

(c) if this scheme is not being implemented properly in some States, whether Government is planning to overcome the same; and

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

More productivity with GM mustard

2580. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Government is saying that GM mustard will boost edible

oil production and bring down burden of huge import of edible oil into the country;

(b) the basis on which Government is claiming that there would be 26 per cent more productivity with GM mustard;

(c) whether Delhi University has developed five varieties of hybrid mustard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to bring them into market; and

(e) the details of provisions incorporated with regard to GM crops in the revised Seed Bill?

Enhancing Government's share under Micro Irrigation Schemes

2581. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Agriculture is considering to enhance the share of Government of India under Micro Irrigation Schemes?

Payment of wages to agricultural labourers

2582. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of payment of wages by farmers to labourers working in their fields; and

(b) the total number of such labourers, who remained unpaid on account of unavailability of cash with farmers post demonetisation?

Diversification of agricultural production

2583. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared

any comprehensive plan for diversification of agricultural production in view of increasing population against fast decreasing agricultural land; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Upgradation and modernisation of KVKs

2584. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade and modernise the existing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme

2585. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soil Health Cards given to the farmers so far, State-wise, since inception of the scheme;

(b) the number of farmers who got their Soil Health Cards in Tamil Nadu, district-wise; and

(c) the number of Soil Testing laboratories in the country, State/UT-wise?

Procurement of agricultural commodities

2586. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund allocated and spent during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticulture and

agricultural commodities, which are perishable and not covered under Price Support System, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of procurement made by Government under MIS during last two years and the current year, State-wise and item-wise?

Suicide by farmers

2587. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers' suicides increased by 42 per cent between 2014 and 2015;

(b) if so, what factors have contributed to the phenomenon;

(c) whether the data include the deaths of agricultural labourers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has drawn up plans to address the agrarian crisis?

Assessment of damage caused due to drought in Karnataka

2588. SHRI SAMBAJJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any detailed assessment of the damage caused to the farmers due to severe drought in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the districts of Karnataka affected due to failure of rainfall this year; and

(c) the kind of support, other than loans, Central Government has provided to the affected farmers?

Steps to double the income of farmers

2589. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any effective steps to double the per-capita income of farmers with small, medium and marginal land holdings by 2020;

(b) if so, details thereof and the funds earmarked for the same;

(c) whether Government has conducted any studies on the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers to calculate the average definite income of farmers;

(d) if so, details thereof and the per-capita income of farmers with small, medium and marginal land holdings; and

(e) the process through which Government segregate the poor, small, medium and marginal farmers from the rich landlords having large land holdings?

Production and procurement of wheat and rice

2590. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheat and rice during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the procurement of wheat and rice during 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Revival of defunct fertilizer plants

2591. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to involve Central Public Sector

Undertakings to collaborate for revival of fertilizer plants in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of fertilizer plants presently under consideration of the Government for such collaboration and revival and the steps taken for revival of those plants which are left out?

Quality of imported fertilizers

†2592. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the imported fertilizers are of inferior quality;

(b) if so, whether adequate testing facilities are available as per international standards for testing of imported fertilizers; and

(c) the steps taken for import of good quality fertilizers?

Slash in prices of stents

2593. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to limit the prices of stents at a reasonable rate and slashed the present prices about 85 per cent, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether NPPA has also been advised to bring out a notification in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that prices of stents are still very high and serious irregularities are taking place in the market; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy

2594. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether the recently released draft National Pharmaceutical Policy attempts to address the twin concerns of keeping medicines affordable and taking on board the industry concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the policy moves away from cost of production based system to the more transparent market based pricing system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of clusters in pharma sector

2595. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited companies to set up pharma clusters in various parts of the country;

(b) whether only one cluster is operational, so far;

(c) whether Government is yet to come out with rules for marketing by pharmaceutical and medical devices companies; and

(d) whether Government has been consulting the industry on this for quite some time and if so, the details thereof?

Pharma companies manufacturing generic drugs

2596. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the manufacturers of generic drugs and the companies registered for their manufacture in the country;

(b) whether these manufacturers are associated with Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

(c) the detailed list of the drugs manufactured by the aforesaid companies?

PSUs in pharma sector

2597. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings in the pharmaceutical sector along with those that have been disinvested;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase participation in the pharmaceutical industry to manufacture low cost drugs to improve accessibility of medicines for the lower sections of the society; and

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

Setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

†2598. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana has increased by seven times in the last two and a half years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras at the level of each block and Gram Panchayat of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Complaints to NPPA on pharma companies

2599. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has received a complaint from a whistleblower alleging that some leading pharma companies colluded to fix the price of diabetes drug Vildagliptin;

(b) if so, the details of the complaint;

(c) whether NPPA has conducted any inquiry into the allegation;

(d) whether NPPA has sought views of the concerned companies on the allegation; and

(e) if so, the details of their defence to the allegation?

Opening more Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Government hospitals

†2600. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras within the premises of Government hospitals;

(b) whether Government has any national level data regarding the total number of such Kendras opened till date for providing medicines through these Kendras in view of the large number of poor people coming to Government hospitals for treatment throughout the country; and

(c) the Government's plans for maintaining continuous supply of medicines in these Kendras after opening them, the details thereof?

Benefits of Neem coated urea

2601. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neem coated urea has helped in curbing diversion of urea up to 20 per cent which is worth ₹ 12,000 crore;

(b) whether 100 per cent Neem coating of urea has led to reduction in consumption and higher yield;

(c) when was the idea of Neem coating came to Government and the steps taken thereafter for its roll out; and

(d) whether cut in prices of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has helped in balanced use of fertilizers, if so, the details thereof?

Delay in OFC-based network for Defence Services

2602. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that OFC-based network for Defence Services is witnessing considerable time and cost overrun due to one reason or the other, if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any strategy to complete the work in a time-bound manner for putting an effective communication network in place, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Number of telephone exchanges in the country

‡2603. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of telephone exchanges existing in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the different States during the present Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of those areas where telephone exchanges are not functional as on date, State-wise;

(d) the details of the telephone exchanges which have undergone modernisation and upgradation, so far, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of these telephone exchanges and upgradation of the present telephone exchanges with state of the art technology?

Quality Upgradation and capacity augmentation in BSNL and MTNL

2604. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the immediate necessity of quality upgradation and capacity augmentation in BSNL and MTNL, if so, the measures taken thereon; and

(b) how many mobile connections and landline connections were increased or decreased during the last two years along with the details thereof, State-wise?

Payment of DA as per Sixth Pay Commission recommendations

‡2605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has paid 78.2 per cent D.A. to staff and officers of BSNL as per recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission whereas the staff and officers of MTNL have not been paid the same so far; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government would pay 78.2 per cent D.A. to staff and officers of MTNL as per Sixth Pay Commission as paid to BSNL staff and officers?

Use of cable TV infrastructure for broadband delivery

2606. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to use cable TV infrastructure for broadband delivery in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to boost broadband penetration in order to ensure success of Digital India Programme?

Auction of spectrum every year

2607. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is looking for re-auction of spectrum in July-December, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government is going to auction spectrum every year and will also permit telecom players to sell spectrum;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for permitting players to sell or mortgage spectrum; and

(d) whether the Ministry is thinking about introducing 5G services in the country?

Promotional offers of telecom operators

2608. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan defaults by telecom operators in the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether promotional offers and zero revenue policies of certain telecom operators are leading to delay in the spectrum payments to Government; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to regulate these offers and policies?

Allocation of funds from USOF

†2609. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allocate funds from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to the mobile companies in remote areas of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of money allocated to various phone companies from this fund in the last three years; and

(c) the number of villages provided with phone facility, State-wise?

Re-tendering the technology contract of Department of Posts

2610. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Posts had to re-tender its technology contract after it failed to get bids from any of the major Indian technology firms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that top information technology companies had stayed away from bidding for the project, terming the initial offer vague; and

(c) if so, whether Department of Posts did consult any information technology companies to prepare the bid documents?

Another auction of spectrum

2611. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some telecom operators have enough quantity of spectrum and do not want another auction of spectrum this year while some others want to get more spectrum;

(b) whether many players in the field are in deep debt amounting to 4-5 trillion rupees;

(c) whether this is a consequent result of continuous reduction of BSNL's reach in the market during the last decade; and

(d) in what way Government intends to overcome this contradiction and make IT an effective tool in the hands of people?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bringing OTT services under statutory regulatory framework

2612. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring Over The Top (OTT) services, predominantly used over the internet, under a statutory regulatory framework; and

(b) in the absence of an institutional mechanism, how does Government aim to protect user privacy and provide remedy to citizens in case of violation by the service providers?

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

2613. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling to merge BSNL and MTNL, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether both organisations are making losses consecutively for the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the extent of losses incurred and the concrete steps Government is taking to make the behemoth entities viable in the background of stiff competition in the telecom sector?

Internet users in the country

2614. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the likely increase in the internet users in the country because of fast adoption of digital technology;

(b) if so, the data on internet users in the country till February and how much of increase is anticipated by the end of next calendar year; and

(c) whether Government is prepared to deal with the situation and is capable to provide internet facility of high speed to the new consumers uninterruptedly?

Pendency of cases in Consumer Fora

2615. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in Consumer Fora;

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

(c) whether there are vacancies of Presidents and Members in the Fora, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when these posts are going to be filled up?

Sale of bottled water at one rate

2616. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make available bottled water at one rate at all places, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to strengthen the complaint redressal mechanism for punishing those who are violating the consumer norms, the details thereof?

Pendency of proposals of Government of Chhattisgarh

‡2617. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for development works during the last three years from the Government of Chhattisgarh and the amount involved therein, scheme-wise and the details of action taken thereon;

(b) the reasons for which proposals received from the State Government are still pending;

(c) whether any time limit has been stipulated for disposal of proposals; and

(d) whether more time taken in the execution of proposals hampers the development works and how the cost overruns are adjusted, the details thereof?

Online business in the country

2618. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that online market is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of products available in e-markets;

(c) whether many people are being cheated by e-market organisations/traders; and

(d) if so, whether any mechanism is in place to check/avoid cheating in e-market system?

Implementation of National Food Security Act

2619. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines to identify the Priority Households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);

(b) the percentage of rural population receiving entitlements under the National Food Security Act, 2013, since its implementation, State-wise;

(c) the number of Anganwadi workers working under the Scheme, State-wise;

(d) the criteria for selection of Anganwadi workers and the training module, if any; and

(e) the details of budget allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized for various schemes under the Act during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Hiring of private warehouses

2620. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of hiring of private warehouses to keep foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

Misleading advertisements

2621. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

is considering proposal of a Panel of Ministers for putting a ban on celebrities for misleading advertisements as also imposing a heavy fine and dropping a jail term is also under active consideration of the Government;

(b) whether Government has accepted the above proposals of the Panel; and

(c) if so, the details of recommendations of the Panel and the extent of their acceptance by the Government?

Creation of silos

2622. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI), in collaboration with State Governments, is expected to award contracts for creation of 3.6 Million Tonnes of silos capacities;

(b) whether FCI has set an ambitious target of creation of 10 Million Tonnes of silos capacities by the end of financial year 2020;

(c) whether FCI handles around 50-55 Million Tonnes of wheat and rice annually; and

(d) whether FCI expects benefits from creation of silos through private sector participation, if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of crops

2623. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of foodgrains and other crops procured directly from the farmers during the last five years by various Government agencies; and

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete measures to increase direct procurement from the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Hallmarking of gold and silver items

2624. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for mandatory hallmarking of gold and silver items, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the extent to which it will ensure purity of the metal items;

(c) whether Government has set up recognized hallmarking centres all over the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Buffer stock policy for pulses

2625. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Government-to-Government agreements to import pulses from other countries;

(b) if so, details of such agreements entered into/proposed during last two years and current year;

(c) the reasons for not having buffer stock policy for pulses like paddy and wheat;

(d) the details of MSP and bonus given to farmers for various kinds of pulses in last three years and current year, year-wise, Rabi and Kharif crop-wise and variety-wise; and

(e) whether there are any plans to have crop-neutral incentive structure like wheat and rice, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

Fertilizer subsidy to farmers

2626. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy provided on various fertilizers during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ Union Territory and fertilizer-wise;

(b) whether poor and marginal farmers are unable to reap the benefits of fertilizer subsidy;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide fertilizer subsidy directly to farmers through their bank account on the line of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Policy on printing MRP on products

2627. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy on Maximum Retail Price (MRP) to be printed on various products;

(b) whether Government is aware that, very often, these prices are two to three times higher than the actual price thereby giving a tool to sellers to overcharge the consumers; and

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to take so that the end consumer is not overcharged by the seller?

Claims under LSPEF

2628. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims have not been released to Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation;

(b) if so, the amount of claims that have to be released and the reasons for not releasing these LSPEF claims; and

(c) whether Government intends to release these fund claims, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

ICEGOV2017 Conference

2629. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries participated in the ICEGOV2017 Conference organised by the Government in the country;

(b) whether this was part of the Digital India initiative being carried out by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the Conference with resolution, if any, passed in the event?

Amendment to the I.T. Act, 2000

2630. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering making amendment to the Information Technology Act, 2000 to bolster privacy and data security protections in the light of

Government's push for a Digital Economy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government shall consider holding consultations on the proposal in line with the Pre Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014; and

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

Transaction frauds under Aadhaar Scheme

2631. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of cases of transaction frauds registered under the Aadhaar scheme in the last two years;

(b) the details of action taken in these cases; and

(c) the details of the steps taken so far by the Ministry to ensure that Aadhaar linked transaction frauds are minimized?

Increase in cyber security threats

†2632. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

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

(a) whether cyber security threat due to internet has increased continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of Government/non-Government reports in this regard and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether most organisations in the

country have begun to believe that all their information gathered through cloud systems is not safe, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by Government to ensure safety of all kinds of information, adopt higher security systems to minimize cyber threats and transform and upgrade safety strategies and mechanism?

Collection of fee for issue of Aadhaar card

2633. SHRI N. GOKULA KRISHNAN:
SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar issuing centres are collecting a fee of nearly 100 or 300 rupees for issue of Aadhaar card, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to take stringent action against the Aadhaar centres which are collecting fee for issue of Aadhaar cards?

Data breach of UIDAI

2634. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an instance of data breach has raised privacy concerns and questions over the security of biometric data in the possession of UIDAI;

(b) whether UIDAI has filed a police complaint against a prominent Bank and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

other private companies, alleging unauthorised authentication and impersonation by illegally storing Aadhaar biometrics, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the timing of this incident gains significance when the Apex Court is poised to debate the concerns of privacy surrounding Aadhaar?

Digital Village pilot project

2635. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to implement Digital Village pilot project;

(b) if so, the details along with the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats identified for the project in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;

(d) whether Government has stipulated any time limit to launch the project in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

IT infrastructure for digital connectivity of rural areas of Himachal Pradesh

2636. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to augment information technology infrastructure for digital connectivity of Gram Panchayats across the country, if so, the details thereof along with the amount allocated for the project;

(b) whether Government proposes to collaborate with private sector for augmenting information technology

infrastructure for digital connectivity of rural areas of Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the time stipulated in this regard?

Projects in Goa

2637. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology are being implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the names of the projects; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and targets achieved, till date?

North East BPO Promotion scheme

2638. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to establish 5000 seats under the North East BPO Promotion scheme to incentivize BPO/ITES operations in North East Region for creation of employment opportunities for the youth and growth of IT-ITES industry;

(b) if so, how many seats out of these 5000 promised seats have been created till date; and

(c) by when Government plans to set up the 5000 promised seats?

India Post Payments Bank

2639. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when was the concept of India Post Payments Bank mooted;

(b) the reasons for enormous delay in opening up of this Bank;

(c) the difference between regular bank and India Post Payments Bank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there are companies which are keen to partner with India Post Payments Bank, if so, the details thereon?

Establishment of CSCs in Tamil Nadu

2640. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed establishment of Common Service Centers (CSCs), which are crucial in providing G2C (Government to Citizen) and other B2C (Business to Citizen) services in all villages of Tamil Nadu; and

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

Huge debt of IT companies

2641. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that companies working in IT Sector have huge debts totalling about 5 trillion rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is every chance that it may lead to pauperization of many of them, resulting in one or two companies owning the whole field, to the detriment of IT users; and

(c) noticing the net result of

amalgamation and appropriation of companies, whether Government would intervene to bring in financial accountability and stability to enable people to get responsible and uninterrupted IT services?

Manufacturing of foreign smartphones in the country

2642. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smartphone-makers around the world have started or are planning to manufacture some or all of their products in the country after Central Government's ambitious Make in India initiative;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received by Government from smartphone-makers to manufacture their products; and

(c) the details and the status of the proposals?

Penal provisions for breach of Aadhaar data

2643. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last three years, there has been any incident where Aadhaar data and biometrics have been breached with or without the connivance of any intermediary or Aadhaar data handler, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any penal provisions for punishment for such breach, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action initiated against those

responsible for breach of Aadhaar data; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken or contemplated to strengthen the security of Aadhaar database?

Common Service Centres

2644. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Common Service Centres (CSCs) which are the corner stone of the Digital India project have been set up in every village of the country, the details thereof;

(b) the details of CSCs that have been established and operational, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent for the same over the past three years; and

(d) the details of the employment generated and average income/commission earned by a village level entrepreneur from the CSC, State-wise, in the last three years?

Hacking of websites of Central and State Ministries/Departments

2645. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 700 websites of Central Ministries/Departments and of State Governments were hacked during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to take help of IIT or any other Institute of prevent hacking and manipulation problems in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Sampada scheme for Mini Food Parks

2646. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce Sampada scheme to promote setting up of Mini Food Parks in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the incentives proposed to be given under this scheme?

Employment potential in food processing units

2647. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growth in the number of persons employed in registered food processing units during the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of registered food processing units along with their employment potential, State-wise?

Growth rate of processing of agro products

2648. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of processing of agro products including fruits and vegetables and its share in the global trade is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government has undertaken research and development works to modernise food processing units for the development and promotion of food processing industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the said period?

Assistance to set up food processing units

†2649. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where food processing units have been established from financial year 2014-15 to January, 2017, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether any form of assistance has been provided to the established units through the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are being allocated under this head to the States through the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the total amount allocated from financial year 2014-15 till date?

Setting up of food processing units

2650. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortage of food processing units in the country resulting in wastage of large quantity of agricultural produce and loss to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the requirement and availability of food processing facilities;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up more food processing units and revive closed food processing units, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for development and promotion of food zones/clusters to ensure adequate supply of raw material to food processing units?

Promotion of FPIs in rural areas

†2651. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives priority to create employment opportunities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to promote Food Processing Industries (FPIs) especially in rural areas so that rural population may get employment;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been bumper production of potatoes in the country this year reducing thereby the price of the same at half and causing losses to farmers; and

(d) if so, the assistance being provided by Government to set up potato based processing industries, especially in those areas where its production is abundant?

Sanctioned/working strength of Judges and pending cases

2652. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts;

(b) the number of current strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts?

Separate High Courts for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2653. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

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

(a) whether Government has any plan of bifurcating the High Court between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether, resolving the issues like division of High Court and distribution of assets and liabilities between the newly formed States, is going at a snail's pace, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the crisis and establish separate High Courts for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh without any further deferment in view of the problems being faced by both the States?

Setting up of Commercial Courts for disposal of cyber crimes

2654. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court Bench, which was looking after cyber crimes, has opined that Government should gear up for setting up Commercial Courts for disposal of cyber crimes quickly, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the stand of Government in this regard?

E-filing of cases in the Courts

†2655. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status regarding use of information and communication technology in the Courts of the country;

(b) whether e-filing has started in the Courts;

(c) if so, the Court-wise details thereof including the High Court of Jharkhand along with the current status thereof;

(d) the number of cases registered through the e-filing mode; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to create an awareness across the country regarding the procedure of e-filing?

Pending cases in Kerala High Court

2656. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Kerala High Court as well as in the Subordinate Courts of the State at present; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the backlog of pending cases?

Commercial Benches of High Courts

2657. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the High Courts which have Commercial Benches;

(b) the number of commercial cases pending in each High Court;

(c) the names of High Courts where the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

process of establishing Commercial Benches is in progress; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to give specialised training to the judicial officers in dealing with commercial litigations, the details thereof?

All India Judicial Service

2658. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were objections to the proposal of All India Judicial Service from certain quarters;

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

(c) the likely benefits of the unified All India Judicial Service and the present status of the proposal?

Funds for infrastructure of Courts

†2659. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided during each of the last three years, including 2016-17, for extension of buildings of the High Court, District Courts and Sessions Courts of Madhya Pradesh as well as for the convenience of lawyers and petitioners, location-wise; and

(b) the current status of the number of cases pending, subject-wise, during each of the last five years in each High Court of the country, including Madhya Pradesh and the immediate measures taken for deciding the pending cases?

Expediting disposal of pending Court cases

2660. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending before various Courts in the country for shortage of Judges, if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the cases pending with each High Court as on date;

(c) the details of the Judges available and vacancies thereof;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to fill up the posts of Judges; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the disposal of cases and for appointment of Judges?

National level examination for Judicial Services

2661. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered a proposal to conduct an examination for Judicial Services at the National level on the pattern of Civil Services;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the proposal; and

(c) the hurdles that came in the way of this proposal?

Increase in train accidents

2662. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are on the rise in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railways, including the blast that took place recently in the general compartment of the passenger train between Bhopal and Ujjain, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of persons injured grievously and with simple injury, separately, and assistance provided to them by Railway authorities;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into the cause of these accidents and the preliminary report thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such occurrences in running trains in future?

Khurda-Bolangir railway project

2663. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target to run the first train in the section between Bolangir and Bhainsapalli, in view of the fact that Government of Odisha has handed over land for 19 Kilometres (Km. 270-289) from Bolangir to Bhainsapalli station of Khurda-Bolangir railway project and work has already started; and

(b) by when Railways would commission the Khurda Road-Bolangir line upto Nayagarh and by when this line would reach upto Dasapalla station under the Khurda-Bolangir project?

Bomb blast in Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train

2664. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons injured and died in the bomb blast which occurred in the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train on 7 March, 2017;

(b) the details of *ex-gratia* announced and paid by Railways to the victims of the bomb blast; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to ensure the safety of passengers in trains and at railway premises?

New technology to prevent train accidents

2665. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest safety measures taken by Government to safeguard railways and its passengers during the last six months, especially in the present security scenario of the country; and

(b) whether any new technology is being introduced in railways to identify and prevent train accidents, if so, the details thereof?

Kanpur train tragedy

2666. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kanpur train tragedy of 20th November, 2016 was an act of terror, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the meeting taken by the Minister of Railways *via* video conferencing in which DG, Railways, Uttar Pradesh Police said that the accident was a result of fatigue of tracks; and

(c) the details of all the reports which the Ministry of Railways have prepared on the Kanpur train tragedy?

Unused railway land in Kerala

2667. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the unused railway land in Kerala at present;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to utilize the waste railway land in the States;
- (c) the railway land under unauthorized occupation at present; and
- (d) the steps taken to reclaim such land?

Flexi fares

2668. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is earning extra revenue by introducing flexi fares in different trains;
- (b) if so, the details of the effect on revenue generation reflected so far on the decision of the Railway Board in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has provided accommodation to travel by air to the waitlisted passengers as per its commitment to the people, during the last three months; and
- (d) the response on the passenger earnings, services and the ticketing during the last three months?

Development of Gandhinagar railway station

†2669. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to

construct hotel and other related infrastructural facilities for the development of Gandhinagar railway station within the stipulated time;

- (b) if so, the details of the budget provided and other details in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government has decided to award contract for the above work?

Clone trains to deal with heavy rush

2670. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to run clone trains to deal with the heavy rush;
- (b) the routes shortlisted for introducing the clone trains; and
- (c) by when the Ministry proposes to run such trains?

Clone trains

2671. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce new or clone trains in major cities to meet the heavy demand;
- (b) how does the Ministry proposes to meet the demand of additional engines and coaches for such new trains;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to start new engine and railway coach manufacturing factories; and
- (d) if so, whether there is any proposal to have such factories in the State of Odisha, if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cases of cheating in purchase of materials

2672. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of cheating in purchase of materials found in different divisions of Railways during the last two years and the current year, year-wise and Division-wise;

(b) the details of officers found guilty and action taken against them;

(c) the details of amount, quantity and type of material seized; and

(d) the number of railway officers who have been involved in these incidents even after their retirement?

Patti-Makhu railway link

2673. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the final sanction of the Patti-Makhu rail link, which will connect Amritsar with Ferozepur and reduce the distance between Amritsar and Mumbai by upto 240 kilometres, from NITI Aayog is expected;

(b) the expected date of commencement of the work for laying of Patti-Makhu rail link; and

(c) the main reasons for the continuous delay in implementing this project?

Collective funding of railway projects by Central and State Governments

†2674. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of such railway projects

which will be funded collectively by Central and State Governments;

(b) whether some of these projects have been delayed, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of new railway lines announced during the last three Rail Budgets and the status of Bihar and Jharkhand regarding such new projects;

(d) the Zone-wise details of such projects where work has been started and to what extent work has been completed; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the railway projects regarding new railway lines, especially the ones which are passing through Bihar and Jharkhand?

Survey for new rail routes in Uttarakhand

†2675. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made an announcement for conducting a survey of new rail routes during his visit to Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the names of those rail routes;

(c) whether funds have been allocated for survey of new rail routes; and

(d) if so, the amount of funds allocated route-wise?

New trains for Gujarat

2676. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has been regularly requesting Railways to start new trains;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Railways have agreed in-principle to start the new trains; and

(c) if so, the progress made on each of the trains demanded?

Joint venture with Odisha for railway projects

2677. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha was one of the State Governments who had come forward to take up railway projects through joint venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with details of projects proposed to be taken up for development;

(c) whether land has been acquired for these projects, particularly for Behrampur-Sambalpur line;

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

(e) the progress made so far in respect of clearances, mobilisation of funds, etc.?

Pending railway projects in Odisha

& 2678. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects in Odisha stalled/pending or moving slowly due to inadequate support from Centre; and

(b) by when these projects would commence and the target date for their completion?

Ro-Ro freight service

2679. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently introduced Ro-Ro freight service by Railways is intended only for Delhi or it will be extended to other metro cities as well; and

(b) if so, by when this will be implemented, if not, the reasons therefor?

End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device in trains

2680. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCC) is going to introduce End to Train Telemetry (EoTT) device in the freight trains to help the driver monitor the train movement through this device and thus, eliminate services of about 1000 guards;

(b) whether once the 3344 kilometres dedicated corridor is fully operational, the corridor may be free from all level crossings and will ensure time-bound transportation of goods; and

(c) by when this project is going to be fully operational and what would be the fate of guards?

Dedicated Freight Corridors

2681. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dedicated Freight Corridors, that connect Delhi to Mumbai and Punjab to West Bengal, will be taken up seriously during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government has set any target to complete this project; and

(c) the anticipated cost of this project?

' & CANCELLED '

Unmanned Level Crossings in Rajasthan

2682. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) are there in Rajasthan;
- (b) how many accidents have taken place during the last three years at such ULCs, the details regarding casualties, etc.;
- (c) whether any inquiries were conducted into causes of such accidents, if so, the findings of such inquiries, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time-frame by which Railways propose to remove all ULCs in Rajasthan and how?

Launch of a new app by IRCTC for cab and hotel bookings

2683. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC has tied up with non-rival companies, seeking to tap rail portal's 42.5 million users, with 15,000 being added every day on an average;
- (b) whether IRCTC received ₹ 18 crore from co-branding initiative;
- (c) whether IRCTC is launching a new app that will incorporate cab and hotel bookings and food delivery services; and
- (d) whether IRCTC is considering to monetize segments such as packaged water and catering, if so, the details thereof?

Net profit of IRCTC

2684. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC's net profit grew 44 per cent to ₹ 189 crore in the financial year 2016, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC's portal sold train tickets worth ₹ 24,022 crore during the year, although growth halved to 17 per cent from a year earlier; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that its revenue comes from service charge on tickets, sale of Rail Neer packaged water, onboard catering services and licence fees from outsourced catering vendors?

Unmanned Level Crossings in Telangana

2685. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there were 72 Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in Telangana as of April 2016, if so, the details thereof, District-wise;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that 14 ULCs have been manned in the last two years;
- (c) how many more years will it take to man all the ULCs at this pace; and
- (d) whether there are any plans to make special financial provision to man the above ULCs?

Use of LPG gas burners at railway stations on Delhi-Mumbai route

†2686. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations along with platform number and railway passenger services on Delhi-Mumbai route where food and other eatables are prepared on LPG gas burners; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the railway stations where above facilities of providing fresh and hot food and eatables to the passengers are available under Ratlam railway division of the Western Railway including Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Neemach, Indore in reference to 'a' above, the reasons for absence of such facilities at other places and the measures to provide the same?

Shifting the headquarter of Western Railway

2687. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation to shift the headquarter of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the railway network of Western Railway is more in Gujarat than in the other States; and

(c) if so, whether the demand of Government of Gujarat to shift the Western Railway headquarter to Gujarat is justifiable, if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad project as an elevated one

†2688. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to construct the entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project as an elevated one; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard so far, along with the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

PoS machines at reservation counters

2689. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have asked bankers to provide around 15,000 Point of Sale (PoS) machines at reservation counters with about a thousand of these machines to be made available urgently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways do not provide PoS service for debit and credit card payments at its ticket counters; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways will also go cashless for paying vendors and contractors, if so, the details thereof?

Easy access for persons with disabilities in rail compartments and toilets

2690. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways, for the benefit of persons with disabilities, under Section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1955, will take special measures to adapt rail compartments in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and adapt toilets in rail compartments and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit wheel chair users to use them conveniently;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Railways to comply with the provisions of the Act; and

(c) the details of complaints received from disabled persons against Railways in this regard together with action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Production of LHB coaches

2691. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of LHB coaches per year;

(b) whether it is a fact that it will take several decades to replace all ICF coaches at the current rate of LHB coach production; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance production of LHB coaches in the country?

Introduction of premium trains from Amritsar

2692. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Amritsar is known for its major tourist attractions like Golden Temple, Jalianwala Bagh, Durgiana Temple, Wagah Border, etc., and lakhs of tourists visit Amritsar from across the world, the Ministry is in process to introduce premium trains such as Rajdhani Express/Duronto/Tejas or new Shatabdi trains from Amritsar;

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

(c) the list of new trains proposed to be introduced from Amritsar?

Effectiveness of Railway Safety Commission

2693. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the effectiveness of Railway Safety Commission was ever assessed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the reasons for so many accidents if it is effective; and

(d) if not, what is being done in this regard?

Cab services by Railways

2694. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce cab services at railway stations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of 3500 kilometres new railway line

‡2695. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a plan to construct three thousand five hundred kilometres new railway lines in the country during 2017-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the length of new railway lines, in kilometres, proposed to be constructed by Government in the country, State-wise, the details thereof including Bihar?

Withdrawal of flexi fare system

2696. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large number of passengers are being affected by the flexi fare system introduced for the Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) if so, when the Government is going to withdraw this system; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it was introduced on the basis of pilot project and whether Government has made any assessment thereof?

Hauling of unfit empty wagons

2697. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average, more than 10,000 empty wagons are being hauled daily over the railway network, as they are unfit for loading;

(b) whether the Ministry keeps track of the freight loss due to unfit wagons and whether the loss is of the tune of ₹ 9000 crore;

(c) the details of the number of empty unfit wagons over the past two years, month-wise, along with the losses incurred per wagon; and

(d) the details of funds spent on repairing of unfit wagons over the past three years and the cost incurred per wagon on an average?

Nalgonda-Macherla railway line

2698. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Railways is brought to the matter of Nalgonda-Macherla railway line, which was sanctioned in 1997-98, and mere budgetary allocations were made in every year of the Railway Budget;

(b) the reasons for sudden decision of Railways to shelve the project on the pretext of non-viability;

(c) the reasons for allocating funds every year to this project in case the project is non-viable; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

Public facilities outside all railway stations

2699. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestions through Twitter and Social Media to build public facilities outside all railway stations in cities and town to help lakhs of visitors, drivers, hawkers and self employed people who work around stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that even in the Capital's railway stations—Nizamuddin, New Delhi and Old Delhi, there are no public facilities outside the stations; and

(c) how does Government proposes to rectify such neglect?

Train accidents due to derailments

†2700. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the train accidents are attributed to derailments;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to undertake a thorough investigation thereof; and

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

Loss to Railways due to train accidents

†2701. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of train accidents

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have increased this year, the details of number of train accidents that happened since 2014 till now along with the number of people who lost their lives in these accidents;

(b) the details of total loss to Railways due to these accidents; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure safety of railway tracks and also make the travelling of rail passengers safe and comfortable?

Organisational factors behind frequent train accidents

2702. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three serious train accidents within a span of two months indicate an alarming breakdown in the systems that ensure safety;

(b) whether statutory inquiry by Commissioner of Railway Safety normally limits itself to the sequence of events leading to the accident and not into the organisational factors behind the occurrence of the accident, with systemic failures remaining unrecognised and unaddressed; and

(c) whether, in hindsight, Government feels that such inquiries should go beyond the existing chain-of-events model and probe the management decisions that create latent unsafe conditions?

Expenditure incurred by Railways in giving compensation

2703. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents of train accidents, derailments and other such

incidents occurred in the country post 2014;

(b) the total number of casualties occurred in these incidents;

(c) the average individual compensation given to the family of those died in these incidents; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by Railways in giving compensation to the injured and to the family of those who died in such incidents since 2014?

Implications of implementation of Seventh Pay Commission

2704. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations has serious financial implications on Indian Railways, if so, the estimated additional financial implication over staff and pensioners; and

(b) whether Railways are planning to take up rationalisation of manpower in view of the financial implications, if so, the details thereof?

Survey for new railway lines

†2705. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any survey on laying of new railway lines and gauge conversion and electrification of old lines in various States, including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the length of new railway lines to be laid in various States, including Uttar Pradesh and the length of railway lines for gauge conversion and electrification, location-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) Government's plan for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification during the current year; and

(d) whether Railways plan to construct a Dedicated Freight Corridor, if so, the details thereof?

Special trains for Tamil Nadu

2706. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special trains run or deployed in Tamil Nadu since 1st November, 2016 upto 1st March, 2017 to meet traffic rush;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have not adequately met public demand for special trains for festivals, holiday rush and other occasions in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) how does Government propose to improve the performance of Railways in Tamil Nadu in the current year?

Earnings of NIFT

†2707. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether any data is available with the Government with regard to the earnings made by the NIFT, if so, the details thereof?

Development/welfare schemes for handicraft artisans

2708. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of handicraft artisans at present in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of development/welfare schemes announced for handicraft artisans;

(c) the amount allocated and spent, separately, from the Budget for handicraft artisans under various schemes in the last two years;

(d) whether any deficiency has been found in the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken to ensure that artisans are benefited out of them?

Promotion of Handloom Mark

2709. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total and year-wise turnover of handloom marked products since inception of the Handloom Mark;

(b) the estimated percentage of total handloom products currently bearing Handloom Mark; and

(c) the details of concrete proposals, if any, for further promotion of Handloom Mark and development of the handloom market?

Closure of looms following demonetization

2710. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on closure of looms and handlooms in the country as a result of demonetization, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that around 12 lakh powerlooms in Maharashtra have closed since November, 2016, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the proposal of Government to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

revive the loom industry of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and particularly the handloom of West Bengal; and

(d) the financial packages proposed in the Budget for relief of the weavers of the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

Officers on deputation in NIFT

2711. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any data of the IAS, IPS, IRS and IFS Officers on deputation in the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), if so, the details thereof?

Effect of demonetization on weavers

2712. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by the weavers all over the country, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh, after the demonetization decision was announced on 8 November, 2016; and

(b) whether Government is considering to provide any relief to the weavers for revival of the Handloom sector, if so, the details thereof?

Revival of sick textile units

2713. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of textile units have gone sick in the last five years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any plan to revive these textile units; and

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

Urban Haats in Rajasthan

2714. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent projects report to the Central Government for establishment of Urban Haats in Sikar and Alwar;

(b) whether Central Government intends to issue administrative and financial sanctions for establishment of these Urban Haats; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the constraints therein?

Special plans for Muslin industry

2715. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government has any special plans for the Muslin industry of Murshidabad, West Bengal, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Steps for promotion of handlooms

2716. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes/programmes being implemented by Government to promote traditional weaving crafts in the country;

(b) the steps taken to provide skill upgradation, technological upgradation and to market the handloom products;

(c) whether loans are made available to handloom weavers at concessional interest

rates under various schemes, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the

quality of life of these artisans and to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th March, 2017

Phalguna 27, 1938 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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