

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, August 11, 2017/Shravana 20, 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

Settlement of claims by insurance companies

2881. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of funds are being paid as premium to crop insurance companies, whereas they have hardly settled any claims so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith number of insurance cases and amount of premium paid to companies during last two years, State-wise;

(c) the number of claims submitted for settlement with claimed amount;

(d) the number of cases settled and actual amount paid so far to farmers, State-wise; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that this scheme has broadly benefited the companies rather than the farmers?

Deep sea fishing in Tamil Nadu

2882. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide financial and logistic support for welfare of fishermen in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and funds provided in last three years, State-wise;

(c) effective steps taken by Government to curb menace of harassment and attacks against Indian fishermen in coastal regions, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether Government has any special plans to motivate persons engaged in deep sea fishing and provide incentives for keeping them commercially alive in this field; and

(e) if so, details thereof and incentive schemes provided to support deep sea fishing in country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

Industry status to agriculture

2883. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR
BALMUCHU:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the importance of the agriculture sector which is the backbone of the progress of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan of giving the industry status to the agriculture, so that it can avail the benefits under this status and strive for further development to prosper into a robust economy; and

(c) whether any requests have been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Encouragement for domestication of desi cows

2884. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific studies have revealed that domestication of desi cows is economically and environmentally more beneficial to the villagers than the hybrid types, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any scheme .under which financial assistance, in form of subsidy, could be availed by the villagers as an incentive for domestication of desi cows in preference to hybrid types, if so, the details thereof?

Storage of agricultural produces

2885. SHRI RAM KUMAR
KASHYAP:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) whether post-harvest storage of agricultural produces is a big problem of the farmers in the country;

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

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to prevent damage to foodgrains due to natural calamities such as floods, droughts and frost?

Interest subsidy to farmers for short-term loan

2886. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Government has brought Interest Subvention Scheme for the farmers in view of agrarian unrest and increased number of suicides, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of interest subsidy which would be given for short-term loan to farmers;

(c) whether loans for post-harvest storage of their produces would be given to farmers at a subsidized interest rate, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other relief measures

that are being offered to farmers who are in distress?

Demand for remunerative MSP and loan waiver for farmers

2887. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers' organizations across the country have been demanding remunerative MSP for their produces as well as complete loan waiver, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any action plan to redress the grievances of the farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Decline in area of sugarcane cultivation

2888. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of decline in area of sugarcane cultivation during the last five years in all those States where sugarcane is cultivated in large scale;

(b) the number of review meetings held by Government during the last five years to improve the situation of continuous decline in sugarcane cultivation area and the details of the result of these meetings; and

(c) whether Government is considering about any futuristic policy change with regard to encouraging the farmers or spreading awareness among them to increase cultivation of sugarcane, if so, the details thereof?

Agricultural production in Jammu and Kashmir

2889. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any comprehensive plan for the growth in agriculture production in view of increasing population against fast decreasing agriculture land in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Administrative approval for fishing harbour at Anantwadi, Maharashtra

2890. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested to accord revised administrative approval to the work of fishing harbour at Anantwadi, Tal. Deogad, District Sindhudurg in the State of Maharashtra to the estimate of ₹ 92.50 crore, if so, Government's response thereto; and

(b) by when it will be approved for the benefit of fishermen community?

Development of hybrid mangoes

2891. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has developed 6,000 varieties of hybrid mangoes during the last 33 years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that hybrid mangoes take more than two decades to reach the market because tonnes of fruits

are required for developing a variety that is feasible, if so, the details thereof?

Internet-based interface for farmers

2892. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched an internet-based interface to enable farmers and other stakeholders to upload information and photographs related to diseases affecting crops, animals or fishes and get remedial measures from specialists through the web or SMS, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the suggestions and complaints received through the said interface would be taken up on priority basis, if so, the details thereof?

Subsidies in agriculture sector

2893. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure towards subsidies on credit, seeds, pesticides, farm machinery and other agriculture related inputs in the last three years;

(b) whether Government has conducted any studies to examine the percentage of these subsidies actually reaching to the poor farmers;

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

(d) whether Government will examine alternative methods of delivering these subsidies to poor farmers, including through direct benefit transfer scheme?

Sale of agricultural produces to Government

2894. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has details of the number of farmers who had applied/ tried to sell their agriculture produces to Government on minimum support price, State-wise;

(b) if so, the number of farmers who sold their agriculture produces to Government at MSP in last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the number of farmers who applied/tried to sell their agriculture produces to the Government on MSP but were denied during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) if there is no such data, the reasons for same?

Coverage of perishable agricultural produces under Price Support Scheme

2895. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only ₹ 5.5 crore have been spent by the Central Government during 2015-16 under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable horticulture and agricultural commodities not covered under Price Support System;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 2016-17 and 2017-18, so far, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the name of States under MIS;

(d) whether Government would implement Swaminathan Commission

report regarding covering all crops under MSP as promised by Prime Minister in view of failure of MIS and unprecedented suicide by farmers; and

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

Recommendations of National Commission on Farmers

†2896. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted National Commission on Farmers to address the problems of farmers across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the actions taken by Government on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, so far?

Burden of loan on farmers

†2897. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the farmers who have left farming during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of loan burden on each farmer doing agricultural work; and

(c) the details of action plan to waive off/reduce the burden of loan on farmers by Government?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2898. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been affected by drought during last three years and in the current year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have requested the Central Government for financial assistance to tackle the drought situation during these years;

(c) if so, the amount sought by the States and amount released by the Central Government, year- wise;

(d) whether these States have submitted Utilization Certificates for funds released during last three years; and

(e) the amount of funds utilised and number of farmers benefited during the last three years?

Implementation of PMFBY in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

2899. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has got good response in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the area covered under PMFBY during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) whether any claims have been made and settled under this scheme in these States during the last three years?

Development of international standard seeds at low cost

2900. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has any plan to develop international quality seeds at low cost in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Integration of mandis with e-NAM

2901. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the mandis in every State of the country have been integrated with e-NAM scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the mandis of Tamil Nadu/Karnataka have been integrated, if so, the benefits of such integration for the farmers of the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Overuse of antibiotic in poultry sector

2902. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overuse of antibiotics for growth promotion in poultry is posing serious health hazards for humans, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the proposal of Government to stop use of high level of antibiotic-resistant pathogens in the poultry farms?

Drip irrigation in water scarce areas

2903. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a roadmap to provide drip irrigation in water scarce areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country; and

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

Production of cow milk in Maharashtra

2904. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is one of the States in the country which produces healthiest cow milk, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to substantially increase production of cow milk in the State?

Setting up of e-market platform

†2905. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Market Scheme has been launched by Government with an objective to establish e-market platforms in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total number of the e-trading platforms developed so far and the total number of the mandis that have been connected with the e-trading portal and by when the set target will be achieved?

Use of 'Happy Seeder' machine

†2906. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of amount allocated and disbursed to farmers by Government to provide 'Happy Seeder' machine and 'Paul Baler' since 2014-15 to 2017-18;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there has been delay in providing subsidy to farmers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the area of land in hectare on which paddy has been sown with the help of 'Happy Seeder' machine and the number of machines required therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made by the States to utilise the 'Happy Seeder' machines during last three years, including the details of its sale?

Integrated Horticulture Mission in Chhattisgarh

†2907. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Chhattisgarh has sent any proposal to the Central Government for approval of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);

(b) whether approval of the Central Government is required for additional grants for the equipments useful for crop residue management in Chhattisgarh; and

(c) whether Central Government's approval is also required for implementing Integrated Horticulture Mission in all the districts of Chhattisgarh?

Inclusion of sugarcane under NFSM

†2908. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane has been included in the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) as a commercial crop;

(b) whether assistance is being provided

to the crops of rice, wheat, pulses and small-grained paddy under centrally-sponsored NFSM being implemented in Chhattisgarh from the year 2007; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are four sugar mills in Chhattisgarh and sugarcane is grown on 33807 hectare of land in Chhattisgarh, if so, whether Government would consider to bring sugarcane under the NFSM?

Fertility of soil

2909. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evaluated the fertility of soil/arable land across the country; and

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the purpose and the extent of deficiency of micronutrients noticed, State/UT-wise?

Payment by NAFED to State agencies of Rajasthan

2910. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agencies of Government of Rajasthan, RAJFED and TILAM SANGH, were working as subsidiary institutions of NAFED during 2013-14;

(b) if so, whether Government has made all payment due to RAJFED and TILAM SANGH by NAFED for groundnut procured at MSP during 2013-14; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of crop insurance scheme

2911. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various crop insurance schemes under implementation in the country and the extent of their coverage;

(b) the number of farmers insured and benefited under the various crop insurance schemes during the last three years and the current year, scheme and year-wise in the country as a whole and particularly in the States of Jharkhand and Gujarat; and

(c) the funds disbursed by Government/ insurance companies under various crop insurance schemes to the States of Jharkhand and Gujarat and in the country as a whole, company-wise during the said period?

Implementation of National Livestock Mission

2912. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to various States by the Central Government during the last three years and the current year under the National Livestock Mission (NLM);

(b) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Governments to increase the sanctioned amount under NLM, the response of the Central Government to the proposal;

(c) whether Government has set up NLM from scheme mode to mission mode;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move; and

(e) the status of implementation of NLM?

Suicide by farmers in Jharkhand

2913. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been report of farmers' suicide in Jharkhand in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether Government has ascertained the reason for the same; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of such incidents in Jharkhand in future?

Import duty on wheat

†2914. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether amid projections of a bumper wheat crop this year and considering the fact that the import duty on wheat had been reduced to zero from 10 per cent on the 8th December, 2016, Government is considering to impose import duty on wheat to safeguard the interests of the farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is planning to procure wheat on large scale in order to ensure MSP for farmers through FCI on new crop arrival, if so, the details of proposal, State-wise?

Shifting of farmers towards farming of cash crops

2915. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are shifting from growing oilseeds and pulses to cotton and maize, if so, details thereof, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that this shift towards cash crops is because of lower MSPs of oilseeds and pulses in the mandis, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the plans of Government to control this migration which may result in scarcity of oilseeds and pulses; and

(d) the details regarding rejuvenation of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)?

Change in land use from agriculture to non-agriculture purposes

2916. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of land under agriculture farming is far less now than what it was during the Independence;

(b) if so, the reasons for change in land use from agriculture to non-agriculture purposes;

(c) whether the change in land use was done by seeking proper permission from the authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what action has the Government taken against those who have changed the land use without proper permission, thereby affecting the aggregate national crop production?

Promoting fish production in the country

2917. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)

proposes to develop a biosecure brood bank for high value finfish breeding and seed production programme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote open sea cage farming across maritime States to boost fish production in the country?

Admission in Anand Agricultural University

2918. MAHANT SHAMBHU PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government allows the students of Gujarat Technological University to take admission in Anand Agricultural University and if so, the details thereof?

Free of cost medicines for poor people

†2919. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which there has been decline in the prices of drugs after the efforts made by Government, the details thereof;

(b) the number of life-saving drugs and the extent to which their prices have been reduced;

(c) by when the target of providing free drugs to the poor people will be achieved; and

(d) whether Government has identified areas for this purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of judicial officers

2920. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is taking steps for recruiting more judicial officers for speedy trial of pending cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to dispose of the pending cases for speedy justice?

Withdrawal of stents by Abbott

2921. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational pharmaceutical company, Abbott, has decided to withdraw two of its high-end stents as a result of the capping of price of stents by Government in February this year; and

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

Controlling the prices of life saving medicines

2922. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any action to control prices of life saving medicines;

(b) whether Government contemplates to open Government medical stores in all cities of the country for providing such medicines to the common man at controlled fair rates and whether some such medical stores have already been opened; and

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

Incentivizing domestic production of fertilizers

2923. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overall domestic output of fertilizers has been going up for the past three years while imports are falling;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has been very proactive by introducing reforms from time to time to help production pick up pace as in the case of the new urea policy; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is incentivizing production beyond reassessed capacity, if so, the details thereof?

Reclaiming of IFFCO by Government

2924. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jurisdiction of Indian Farmers and Fertilizers Cooperative (IFFCO) is covered under the ambit of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), if so, the complete details in this regard; and

(b) whether Government is mulling over to reclaim IFFCO by regaining control of shares returned by IFFCO in 2001 and bring back IFFCO under Government umbrella, if so, the details thereof?

Status of PMBJP Kendras

2925. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in the country;

(b) the details of PMBJP Kendras opened in various States, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target of setting up of 3000 Kendras by the end of March, 2017;

(d) whether Ministry realized that there are supply problems; and

(e) if so, how it is planning to address the same and how many such Kendras have been closed down during the last two years along with the reasons therefor?

Profit earning vis-a-vis loss making pharma PSUs

2926. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has ever studied why Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL) is successfully running in profit while Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., are incurring losses and are on the verge of collapse, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts made by the Ministry to emulate success story of KAPL in other pharma PSUs?

Production, consumption and import of urea, DAP and Potassic fertilizers

2927. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production, consumption and import of urea, DAP and Potassic fertilizers during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the total subsidy granted to indigenous urea producing units and subsidy given for import of urea during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering withdrawal of the subsidy regime for urea in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Allocation, availability and affordability of fertilizers in Manipur

2928. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner of making the fertilizers available to the farmers at affordable rate in Manipur;

(b) the details of each fertilizer allocated to each district in the State; and

(c) whether Government would look into the possibility of setting up a fertilizer company as a PSU in the State, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of closed fertilizer plants

2929. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revival of five closed fertilizer plants is likely to add 75 lakh tonne per year of production; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that all five closed plants will come on stream by 2020-21 and that the work is to start after monsoon, if so, the details thereof?

Norms for revision of prices of drugs

2930. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it was decided that the price of a drug should not be revised before five years, except in case of increase in WPI or on an application made by the company itself or on the orders of a competent court, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has laid down the norms related to price capping powers of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Centralized Monitoring System

2931. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA:
SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up the Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) to automate the process of lawful interception and monitoring of telecommunications;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is monitoring all cellular phones, including WhatsApp and messages of all the mobile holders in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

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

Debt of mobile companies

2932. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any communication from the State Bank of

India about the unusual unsustainable levels of debt of mobile companies, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Mobile industry has sought deferred payment for the purchase of spectrum with a moratorium of five years, instead of current payback plan of ten years after a two year moratorium; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Representations received from EDDAs regarding their termination

2933. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of representations received from Extra Departmental Delivery Agents (EDDAs) regarding their sudden termination of services on various reasons throughout the country;

(b) details of representations received regarding compulsory retirement of EDDAs on medical ground working with Post Office, Khirsu, Pauri, Uttarakhand during 1999 and appointment of retiree's son as EDDA on compassionate ground and subsequent removal from Post Office after four months;

(c) whether Parliamentary Committee has also forwarded representations several times, but no action has been taken by Pauri Division and the Ministry; and

(d) if so, by when action would be taken on representations and against officials for inaction?

FDI in Telecom sector

2934. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether FDI in Telecom sector has been increased recently;

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

(c) whether there have been any complaints against such enhancement of FDI, without proper consultation with the stakeholders;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the domestic players in the sector?

4G services by BSNL

2935. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision on the demand for spectrum by BSNL to launch 4G services; and

(b) whether the Centre is aware that the delay in launching 4G services will hamper the growth prospects of BSNL and give undue advantage to private players?

Internet connections to Gram Panchayats

2936. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been able to lay optical cable network to 1 lakh Gram Panchayats in the first phase;

(b) whether in spite of that, the Ministry is able to provide internet connection to only 22,000 Gram Panchayats;

(c) whether the target fixed was March, 2015, and even after more than two years, the Ministry has not been able to achieve its target, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the status of providing internet to Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, District-wise?

Internet connectivity in villages of Madhya Pradesh

†2937. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the ongoing Digital India Campaign in the country, many villages do not have internet services and in many, the internet speed is extremely slow, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the State-wise and District-wise details of villages in the country, especially in Madhya Pradesh, that are without internet connectivity; and

(c) by when there is likelihood of high speed internet connectivity reaching every village of the country and the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the slow speed of internet in the villages?

Dues of telecom companies

2938. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom companies deprived Government of ₹ 12,229 crore during the last five years as per a report by the CAG, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that all these telecom companies were under the scrutiny of Government in the light of the said revelation by the CAG, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Upgradation of Head Post Office,
Imphal**

2939. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would upgrade the status and infrastructure of the Head Post Office, Imphal, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Office of the Post Master General (PMG), Imphal is being planned for shifting to Dimapur, if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would stop the said plan in view of the requirements of the State; and

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

Introduction of one year validity data packs

2940. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has directed the telcos to bring out one year validity internet data pack schemes, if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether the telcos have expressed their acceptance to this scheme, if so the details thereof?

Wi-Fi data packs

2941. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce Wi-Fi data services as small packs to the general public, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when these will come into use, the details thereof?

Contracts for expansion of National Internet Backbone

2942. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts for expansion of National Internet Backbone, for annual maintenance contract along with purchase of new hardware, have been awarded at inflated rates in 2015; and

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

Competition in communication sector

2943. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether competition occurring in communication sector has reached the stage of cut throat as evidenced by incidents during the last one year;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to control and regulate it, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether weakening of the public sector in this field is being utilized by corporates; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to curb this?

Problem of call drops in BSNL

2944. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call drop problem has reached serious proportions in the case of the service provider, BSNL;

(b) how does the performance of BSNL compare in this respect with other service providers like Airtel, Vodafone, etc.;

(c) whether any study by TRAI, etc., has been instituted in the recent past in this regard; and

(d) whether any roadmap has been set out by Government to improve the services of BSNL?

Implementation of BharatNet project

2945. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of the BharatNet is behind schedule, if so, the Panchayat-wise details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of connected Panchayats at present, State/UT-wise;

(c) the timeline of Government for this project; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and utilized till date?

Review of Interconnection Usage Charges by TRAI

2946. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is reviewing the reduction of Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC), which is at present advantageous to a few top telecom operators;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard with the amount of share cornered by telecom operators during the last three financial years, operator-wise;

(c) whether IUC in many advanced

countries is negligible or zero and if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the step TRAI proposes to take to bring down the IUC charges to zero-level so that subscribers are benefited?

Increase in allotment of foodgrains to BPL category people

†2947. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether the quantity of foodgrains being provided to the people living below poverty line (BPL) under social schemes is being increased every year by correlating it with inflation;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase in the foodgrains being provided to such people in the last three years; and

(c) whether Government would consider to increase the quantity of foodgrains being provided to the poor by making a policy in line with the increase of dearness allowance of Government employees every year?

Compulsory display of guidelines in Hindi on food packaging

2948. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to bring in compulsory display of guidelines in Hindi on consumer goods, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of present guidelines regarding language to be used on food packaging and consumer products; and

(c) whether cases have been filed against manufacturers regarding non-compliance of these guidelines, if so, the details thereof over the past three years?

Investment in agriculture sector

‡2949. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of average annual estimated demand of pulses in the country during the last three years, year-wise and variety-wise;

(b) whether India has asked for assistance from some BRICS countries during the BRICS Summit, if so, the details of assistance asked for and the reaction thereon; and

(c) whether any BRICS country is looking for opportunities to invest in agriculture sector in India, if so, the details thereof?

Unused foodgrains in the godowns

2950. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data about the unused foodgrains in the godowns in the country; and

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

Procurement and consumption of pulses

‡2951. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of MSP and bonus provided by Government on various types of pulses during the last three years, year-wise and variety-wise;

(b) the details of Government agencies that procure pulses from farmers and the details of the quantity of pulses procured by these agencies during the said period, year-wise, State-wise and variety-wise;

(c) the details of the consumption of pulses at domestic level during the said period, year-wise and variety-wise; and

(d) whether any private agencies/ persons procure pulses from farmers, if so, the details thereof?

Revised print of MRP on unsold items after introduction of GST

2952. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has instructed vendors and manufacturers to print revised MRPs on unsold stocks to be sold under GST, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any violations have been brought to the notice of Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against defaulting vendors and manufacturers?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Service charge levied by hotels and restaurants

2953. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the service charges levied by the hotels/restaurants is about 5 to 20 per cent of the total bill of the edible products purchased by the consumer;

(b) the nature of the rule under which the service tax is levied by the hotels/restaurants on the edible products ordered by their customers; and

(c) the present status of the service tax levied by the hotels and restaurants?

Genuineness of organic products

2954. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organic farming is gaining ground in the country and has become very popular among the consumers, particularly in urban areas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some unscrupulous shopkeepers are cheating innocent consumers by selling non-organic pulses, spices, etc. as organic;

(c) whether there is any laboratory in the country to check the genuineness of organic products;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, whether there is any proposal to set up such laboratory; and

(e) the quantum of organic pulses produced by farmers during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

Employment in IT sector

2955. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after demonetisation of currency notes and implementation of GST, there is slow digitisation and job losses in the IT sector;

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government to provide jobs in the IT sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IT sector has made a plan for providing employment to 40 lakh persons on an average annually; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the current status thereof?

Electronic applications launched by Government

2956. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of electronic applications (apps) launched by the different Ministries of the Central Government in the last three years;

(b) the details of the total number of downloads for the above mentioned apps since their launch in the last three years; and

(c) the details of the total expenditure incurred thereon?

Increase in cyber crimes

2957. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether cases of cyber crime are increasing year by year, if so, the details thereof, year-wise for last five years;

(b) the concrete steps being taken or proposed to be taken to place critical infrastructure to predict and prevent cyber crimes like phishing, site intrusions, defacements, virus or malicious code, ransomware, etc.;

(c) whether the present IT laws are adequate to deal with the growing cyber and virus attacks; and

(d) if not, the measures to be taken by Government to ensure safety and security of software programmes and networking in the country?

Issuance of Aadhaar cards on fake documents

†2958. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rampant practice of issuing Aadhaar cards on the basis of fake documents in the country;

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

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

Demand for cyber security graduates

2959. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new breed of cyber-security graduates are in great demand, after a spate of ransomware attacks such as WannaCry and Petya;

(b) whether large companies in the country are scrambling to hire graduates specialising in cyber security, whose demand has shot up to an all-time high; and

(c) whether universities are introducing new courses, such as, cyber security and incident response to teach advanced malware analysis and post-breach restoration of data systems?

Surge in mobile frauds

2960. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile frauds is an area of great concern for companies as 40-45 per cent of financial transactions are done *via* mobile devices and this threat is expected to grow to 60-65 per cent, if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto; and

(b) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementing robust cyber security law to prevent the surge in mobile frauds?

Online tools used for digital transactions

2961. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any month-wise reports about the number of currency-less transactions during the last one year; and

(b) whether segregated information of the last twelve months, about various online tools used for transactions, is available, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

2962. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently approved a scheme titled 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) to usher in digital literacy in rural India;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by when the scheme is likely to be introduced in each district of the country; and

(c) the funds allocated/released to States/Union Territories, including Himachal Pradesh, for implementation of the scheme?

Policy to boost electronic manufacturing

2963. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology-driven economy of the country has a great potential to grow;

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

(c) the present status with regard to implementation of New Electronic Policy to boost electronic manufacturing in the country?

Deactivation of Aadhaar numbers

2964. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Aadhaar numbers deactivated so far, State-wise and year-wise, since the issuance of first Aadhaar;

(b) the reasons for which numbers are deactivated and for each reason, the number of Aadhaar deactivated so far;

(c) the procedure which was followed for deactivation prior to enactment of Aadhaar Act in 2016 and the procedure being followed after notification of Aadhaar regulations; and

(d) which authority is responsible for deactivation and whether an opportunity of being heard is given to the person whose Aadhaar is being deactivated, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment of IT Act

2965. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee or a Group of Experts has been constituted under the Ministry for examining the proposals to amend or replace the Information Technology (IT) Act;

(b) if so, the details of its terms of reference, composition and deliberations till date; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal is being considered by Government?

Setting up of electronic manufacturing hubs

2966. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiatives to promote the Indian electronic

hardware/appliances manufacturing sector and to curb cheap imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made therein; and

(c) whether Government aims to set up electronic manufacturing hubs in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of ITIR in Visakhapatnam

2967. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received and the present status of the same;

(c) whether the proposal was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be placed before the CCEA?

Digital India Outreach Programme

2968. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any Digital India Outreach Programme to make the people understand the main thrust of the Digital India and increase the habit of digitalisation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the effect of the programme in achieving the people

understand the Digital India in its letter and spirit, the details thereof?

Protection of privacy of data

2969. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of statements like 'data is oil', which highlights interests of corporates in getting control of massive data for use as commodity;

(b) in this background, how Government intends to protect the privacy of data of individuals, families, etc., so that they are not used as parts in the cut throat war among corporates;

(c) the guarantees made by Government to protect data; and

(d) if not, the effective steps including legislation if intended to be adopted by Government?

Rise in prices of hot spices

†2970. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of hot spices (garam masala) in the country have risen about ten times;

(b) if not, the details of prices of cumin seed, clove, black pepper, cardamom and other spices per kilogram during financial years, 2013-14 to 2016-17; and

(c) whether Government would take stern steps to control the exorbitant prices of hot spices (garam masala), if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Employment in FPIs

‡2971. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs), the percentage of employment generated in all the manufacturing factories registered under the Factory Act, 1948;

(b) the total employment generated in Food Processing sector during the last three years, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment in the food processing sector during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which it has helped development of this industry and the additional employment generated through this, the details thereof, State-wise?

Implementation of SAMPADA scheme in Maharashtra

‡2972. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a new scheme, SAMPADA, in the country, including in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and the total budget allotted under this scheme;

(b) the main objectives of the SAMPADA scheme along with the main components thereof; and

(c) the total number of programmes running in Maharashtra under the SAMPADA scheme?

Functioning of EVMs

2973. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether Election Commission is aware of the RTI reply given by District authorities of Maharashtra confirming malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response of Government and the Election Commission thereto; and

(c) the details of private agencies involved in maintenance of EVMs during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

Funds for Fast Track Courts

2974. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) set up in the last three years in different States;

(b) the details of the funds allocated to set up FTCs in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the amount utilised in the creation of these courts along with the amount unspent in the last three years?

Fast-track justice system

2975. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any new initiative to expedite delayed court cases into fast-track justice system in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cases disposed of in the various High Courts in the last two years under "five plus zero" policy initiative under National Court Management System; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the data of pendency of civil and criminal cases in Supreme Court and the High Courts?

Simultaneous elections for Parliament and Assembly constituencies, Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats

2976. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR
BALMUCHU:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to hold simultaneous election to Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, Parliament and Assembly constituencies so as to reduce the expenditure on frequent elections and to make use of the time for service of the people, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has held discussions at various levels and took the opinion of the States and Union Territories in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof?

Funds for infrastructure in courts

2977. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for modernisation and infrastructure development of High Courts and lower courts during the last year and current year, court-wise;

(b) whether Government has received proposals to increase the said allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Meetings with Ministries/Departments regarding framing of rules/regulations

2978. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry holds two meetings every year with all the Ministries/Departments regarding framing of rules/regulations under the respective Acts;

(b) if so, the dates of meetings and decisions taken therein during 2012-2016; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Electoral reforms and delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies

2979. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:
DR. V. MAITREYAN:

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

(a) the effective steps taken by Government to make electoral reforms and delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in various States/ Union Territories in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government to conduct Parliamentary and State Assembly elections in the country in one go after 2019 elections; and

(c) whether Government has taken any stand with regard to granting of voting rights to NRIs in the next General Elections?

Introduction of EVMs with verifiable audit trail

2980. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce EVMs with verifiable audit trail throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh

2981. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the provisions of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Acts and the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, as far as setting up of High Court is concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that a separate legislation is required to set up a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of case going on in the Supreme Court with regard to setting up of High Court in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) by when Government will set up a High Court in Andhra Pradesh?

Cases pending in Family Courts

2982. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Family Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts, State-wise; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of in these courts in the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 State-wise?

Fillip to international arbitration

2983. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is of the view that Government keeps away from the arbitration process to help promote confidence of the business community in international arbitration, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the 'Make in India' initiative would give a fillip to international commercial arbitration in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Linking Aadhaar Number with Voter Identity Card

2984. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to link Aadhaar Card with Voter Identity Card to eliminate bogus names from the voter list and facilitate fair election, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to introduce Aadhaar based verification of voters at polling booth linked with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to prevent impersonation and bogus voting; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make registration of names in voter list user-friendly and simple based on Aadhaar/PAN number so that new voters are encouraged to register themselves?

Timely justice to undertrials

2985. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to help the detainees awaiting trial get timely justice; and

(b) whether Government is considering spelling out a time-frame for the same, if

so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Committees for withdrawal of frivolous and ineffective cases

2986. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments and High Courts have been asked to review pending court cases and set up committees to suggest withdrawal of frivolous and ineffective cases;

(b) the details of States which have set up such committees and have started the process of withdrawing such cases; and

(c) the number of cases withdrawn as a result thereof during the last year, State/ Union Territory-wise?

Shortage of judicial officers in Subordinate judiciary

2987. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in the lower judiciary in the country, pending trial and judgment, and since when;

(b) whether it is a fact that the primary reason of pendency of cases is large scale vacancies of judicial officers in the Subordinate judiciary, if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct centralised examination to select judges timely, if so, the opinion of the Supreme Court in this regard?

Safety of unmanned level crossings

2988. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a system has been devised for the safety of unmanned level crossings, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the process will be in operation?

Officers working in Western Railway in same position

2989. MAHANT
SHAMBHUPRASADJI
TUNDIYA:
SHRI SHANKARBHAI N.
VEGAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of officers working in Western Railway exceeding their sanctioned tenure in the same position; and

(b) the details thereof, division-wise including Ahmedabad division?

Dedicated force for security of passengers

2990. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN
SINGH DUNGARPUR:
SHRI RAMKUMAR
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of security in railways, crimes like harassment of ladies and chain snatching in coaches during journeys are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of incidents happened during the last three years;

(c) whether Government has any single security agency to check crimes in the trains which has proved quite effective;

(d) if not, whether Government has a plan to form a dedicated security force for the security of passengers; and

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

CAG report on food served in Railways

2991. SHRI MD. NADIMUL
HAQUE:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG report suggests that the food served by Railways is not fit for human consumption, if so, reaction of the Ministry thereto;

(b) whether the Ministry is planning to do an internal survey and conduct test checks of food, the details thereof and if so, by when;

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to terminate the contract of present vendors and invite new vendors for the service; and

(d) if so, by when the process of the same will start and if not, the reasons therefor?

PPP model to facilitate advanced transportation models and create jobs

2992. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government believes that PPP model can bring in

advanced transportation models and create jobs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the experience in this regard during the past three years, the details thereof?

Reduction in travelling time between Chennai Egmore to Madurai

2993. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to reduce the travelling time between Chennai Egmore to Madurai from the existing duration of approximately 8 hours to 6 hours in the future by fully doubling and electrifying the route in the current year itself; and

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

Amount charged for buying a duplicate ticket

†2994. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount charged by Railways for issuing duplicate ticket after the preparation of train chart, from the passengers who lose their railway tickets, taken from the counter;

(b) whether Railways charge 50 per cent of the amount paid on buying tickets for a journey, for a duplicate ticket; and

(c) if so, whether it is not a contradictory rule that on one hand, travelling is possible with e-tickets by just showing an identity

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

card and on the other hand, huge charge is imposed on losing tickets taken from railway counters, for issuance of duplicate ones?

Chemist stalls at railway stations

2995. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH
NAGAR:
SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of stations where the chemist stalls are provided by Railways at present;

(b) whether the individuals and the partnership firms of unemployed graduates category can be allowed for allotment of a chemist stall at railway platforms for the facility of travelling public; and

(c) if so, the future planning in this regard?

Non-payment of travelling allowance to ticket checking staff

†2996. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the travelling allowance has not been paid to the ticket checking staff working at Lucknow, Varanasi and headquarter of Eastern Railway; and

(b) the reasons for this delay and whether Department is considering to give interest on the payment of travelling

allowance which is delayed due to administrative reasons, the details thereof?

Fire at mechanical workshop at Gorakhpur

†2997. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of fierce fire took place in the mechanical workshop of North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, in last April, resulting in heavy loss to Railways;

(b) if so, whether the experts have attributed the fire to mismanagement of scrap and mess around; and

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard and the steps taken to avoid such accidents in future, the details thereof?

Newspapers supplied in trains

2998. SHRI ANIL DESAI:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH
NAGAR:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Hindi and English newspapers which are allowed to be supplied in various Shatabdi, Rajdhani and other trains by the Railway Board;

(b) the names of publishers thereof; and

(c) the amount recovered by Railways in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Restructuring of divisional headquarters of Railways

2999. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to undertake restructuring of divisional headquarters of Railways based on changes in demography and practical considerations in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this restructuring will be done?

Incidents of hate crimes against passengers in trains

3000. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Railways are taking to stop the incidents of hate crimes against helpless passengers travelling in trains, particularly the members of minority communities;

(b) whether Railway Police is of no help to the passengers who are attacked and the role they are assigned in such cases;

(c) whether there is any plan for giving legal assistance to the victim passengers by Railways; and

(d) the compensation Railways are planning to provide to wounded and kin of murdered passengers?

CAG report on working of Railways and its catering

†3001. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adverse remarks have been made in the recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the working

of Railways, especially its catering services, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps Government proposes to take in the wake of remarks of the CAG?

Rating of trains

3002. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether emulating Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Railways will start rating its trains based on punctuality, cleanliness on board, toilets, coaches and interiors;

(b) whether the CAG, in its recent audit reports, has adversely commented on the cleanliness maintained, both at stations and on-board of trains; and

(c) whether the proposed quality audit of trains under 'Project Swaran' will be on the basis of nine parameters, done by third party agency identified as Quality Council of India?

Safety of passengers

3003. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the safety of passengers during their travel in Railways; and

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

CCTV cameras in coaches for safety

†3004. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether installation of high definition CCTV cameras (Day-Night long time memory) on both the entry gates, opposite to each other, in every coach would be considered, keeping in view the theft of luggage in the coaches of the trains and for security of women;

(b) if so, whether these high definition cameras would be effective to curb incidents of luggage theft, stopping miscreants and for safety of passengers; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reluctance to install high definition CCTV cameras, if not, by when it would be started?

Medical colleges under Railways

3005. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway medical colleges functioning under the Ministry of Railways, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the details of the admission process, total number of seats offered each year, etc., college-wise, and State-wise; and

(c) whether Railways have any plan to set up more medical colleges in other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Doubling and electrification of tracks between Janghai-Phulpur and Manduadih-Allahabad

3006. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work relating to doubling and electrification of tracks between Janghai and Phulpur and Manduadih and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, by when the work on the same will begin and completed; and

(c) whether Government has set any priority for completion of the same for speedy connection to eastern Uttar Pradesh?

Loss of lives and property due to accidents

3007. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of train accidents that took place during the last two years with details of each accident;

(b) the details of loss of lives and property suffered due to each accident; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to procure anti-collision equipments to prevent such accidents and if so, the details thereof?

Wi-Fi facility at railway stations

3008. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations provided with free Wi-Fi facilities in the last two years;

(b) the stations listed in Kerala to be provided with Wi-Fi facility; and

(c) whether this number meets the prescribed target and if not, the reasons therefor?

Supply of filthy linen and blankets in trains

3009. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent CAG report, Railways are serving food unfit for human consumption and supplying filthy

and unhealthy linen and blankets in trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the details of percentage of increase in passenger fare since 2014 till date and rationale for this increase when quality of food served, cleanliness in trains and timely arrival and departure has deteriorated rapidly?

New rail lines to link Amaravati

3010. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether any timeline has been drawn to complete the survey of new railway lines linking Amaravati, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of official language in zonal railways

‡3011. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the latest details of the status of compliance of targets earmarked in annual programme for implementation of official language, along with original correspondence in official language in each of zonal railways in the country?

Concessions in train fares to persons and institutions

‡3012. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds on which concession is provided on train passenger fares to persons and institutions and the number of people and institutions to whom such concessions

were provided each year since 2014 till date, along with the reasons therefor; and

(b) in the context of part (a) above, the details of the free journey passes issued during the said period along with reasons therefor?

Unmanned level crossings in Karnataka

3013. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is having 300 Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons for such high number of ULCs and the steps taken by the Ministry to either close them or make them manned; and

(c) how many ULCs will be closed in 2017 and by when all the remaining 300 ULCs are going to be closed?

Different types of goods wagons

3014. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of different types of goods wagons available with the Railways, zone-wise;

(b) whether the present stock of goods wagons suffice the demand or there is a shortage of wagons;

(c) whether there is any plan of establishing a new wagon factory in the country; and

(d) whether Government would consider to establish the wagon manufacturing factory in Karnataka?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Wagon manufacturing units of Burn Standard Company Limited

3015. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two wagon manufacturing units of Burn Standard Company Limited, situated at Burnpur and Howrah, are suffering from inadequate quantity of orders from Railways; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the aforesaid units are also facing non-availability of working capital?

Serving of expired food in railway areas

3016. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a report on serving of contaminated/expired food and unauthorized brands of water bottles, etc., within the railway areas of the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on the report; and

(c) the actions taken by Government to stop such malpractices and for monitoring of the quality of food served to passengers?

Installation of TV screens at railway stations

3017. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to install a large number of TV screens at the railway station complexes, foot over bridges, platforms, waiting rooms, etc.;

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

(c) the number of TV screens installed so far and the number of total screens proposed to be installed along with the major stations/sites selected therefor; and

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the installation of these screens and the time by which these are proposed to be installed?

Fare in Humsafar and Suvidha Express trains

‡3018. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fare in Humsafar and Suvidha Express trains is fixed under the 'Flexi Fare Scheme'; and

(b) whether at times, passengers in these trains are deprived of complimentary catering facilities, despite paying more fare than charged for Rajdhani and Duronto trains?

Equipping Bilaspur station with escalators

3019. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when all the stations in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh division will be equipped with escalators?

Modernisation and extension of railway in eastern Uttar Pradesh

‡3020. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of modernisation and extension of railway in eastern Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the progress in the

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

extension work of the line from Sahjanwa to Dohrihat?

Reduction in emission standards

3021. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to reduce emission standards of Railways to achieve Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) targets submitted by India in the Paris Agreement, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether year-wise targets have been planned, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of low carbon and energy-efficient initiatives planned for the sector during this period; and

(d) the details of investments Railways are planing in low carbon and renewable energy initiatives in the next three years?

Coaches with automatic door closure facilities

3022. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed while travelling on foot-board in trains, especially students, during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has any plan to have passenger coaches with automatic door closure facilities, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has commissioned coaches with automatic door closure on an experimental basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the coaches with automatic door closure facility will be commissioned?

Compensation to victims of train accidents

3023. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing any compensation to the victims of train accidents during the year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many train accidents happened in the last two years along with the number of people killed; and

(c) the status report of compensation being provided to victims of train accidents?

Accidental deaths on railway tracks

3024. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidental deaths that have occurred on railway tracks, since 2014, State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken measures to contain accidental deaths on railway tracks; and

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

Linkage through freight corridor between Visakhapatnam and Kolkata

3025. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government will consider providing a backward and forward linkage for the industrial hinterlands of Dhamra, Gopalpur and Paradip ports with the Northern and Central hinterlands through a dedicated freight corridor between Visakhapatnam and Kolkata through Odisha?

**Sharing of cost for a new line from
Puri to Konark**

3026. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether for a new line from Puri to Konark, Government of Odisha has offered to sanction 50 per cent of land cost and 50 per cent of construction cost with Railways;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Odisha has sent this offer to the Railways on 26th April, 2017 but no confirmation has been received from Railways; and

(c) by when Railways will sign an MoU with Government of Odisha for this project?

Revenue from non-fare and non-freight activities

3027. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by Railways from non-fare and non-freight activities and its percentage during the last three years and the current year and

(b) whether Railways propose to earn additional revenue by granting permission for large scale advertising on trains and if so, the details thereof along with the number of trains selected under the said scheme?

Making railway stations and trains disabled-friendly

3028. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to make railway stations and trains more disabled-friendly, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received complaints of railway services being disabled-unfriendly, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to make maximum number of services of the Railways disabled-friendly, the details thereof?

Crackdown on touts, unauthorized ticketing agencies and illegal vendors at railway stations

3029. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways launched a 15 week drive to crack down on touts, unauthorized ticketing agencies and illegal vendors at railway stations recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount recovered, as traffic charges, following surprise checks by vigilance teams;

(c) number of touts, unauthorized vendors and illegal ticketing agencies that have been prosecuted during drive;

(d) whether Railways plan to create awareness among citizens not to patronize unauthorized vendors at railway premises or purchase tickets from touts, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) other steps taken to put a check on activities of touts and vendors at railway stations?

CCTV surveillance system at stations under Nirbhaya Fund

3030. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will install CCTV surveillance system across 900 stations under the Nirbhaya Fund, if so, the details of stations covered, State/UT-wise;

(b) the funds allocated/approved to strengthen security at rail premises;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and actual utilization under Nirbhaya Fund in the last two years and the current year, including those provided to NGOs, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of stations already equipped with CCTV cameras; and

(e) whether Government is also planning to install CCTV cameras in Mumbai suburban railway, to ensure safety of women?

CAG's observation on AMC with WIPRO

3031. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the CAG in its 11th report of 2016 had pointed out a glaring case of mismanagement in signing an Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) with WIPRO for the worth of ₹ 4.9 crore;

(b) whether it is a fact that the systems provided by WIPRO were not subjected to acceptance tests before installation date even though the original contract mandated the same; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the same

and whether Government has taken any action on this observation by the CAG?

Appointments and retirements under Railways

‡3032. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers/employees appointed during the last three years under Railways;

(b) the number of persons retired during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways have issued directions to abolish 11,000 posts covering all 17 zones, if so, the details thereof?

Rebate on sale of handloom cloth

3033. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would consider or is planning to re-introduce the scheme of 10% rebate on sale of handloom cloth to boost the marketability of handloom products during the festive season, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry is planning any such scheme to boost the marketability of handloom products?

Request of AEPC for restoration of ROSL

3034. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apparel Exports Promotion Council (AEPC) has urged the

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to restore the Rebate on State Levies (ROSL) rate to 3.9 per cent from current 0.39 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the total ROSL amount for All India Readymade Garment Exports for the period September, 2016 to June, 2017 was ₹ 3,025 crore, of which only ₹ 400 crore had been disbursed so far, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for non-disbursal of funds, from allocation of ₹ 1550 crore for ROSL claim in the Union Budget 2017-18?

Encouragement to women weavers and artisans

†3035. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has announced Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay National Award especially for women weavers and artisans, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has launched a campaign to provide monetary loans to women weavers, the details of this campaign, so far, State-wise; and

(c) whether the Ministry has launched online Handloom Weaver Mudra Portal with the co-operation of Punjab National Bank and if so, the details thereof?

Impact of GST on Textile industry

3036. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the implementation of GST, the Textile industry has been badly affected, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the poor weavers of the industry have become jobless because most

of the Textile industry has been on the verge of closure; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the same?

Export of apparels

3037. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is way behind in export of apparels compared to Bangladesh and Vietnam, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Textile Policy of the country, introduced about 17 years ago, is the main reason for under-exploitation of the available resources; and

(c) whether there is any plan to replace the old Textile Policy with a new one to give a boost to the industry soon?

Coverage of handloom and powerloom weavers under insurance schemes

3038. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring handloom and powerloom weavers under the health insurance scheme of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the approximate number of weavers likely to be covered under the scheme in the country, particularly in Odisha, where a large number of weavers and their families are in this business; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented in the entire country?

Encouraging silk production

3039. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Champa in Chhattisgarh has potential for silk production and silk fabrics; and

(b) whether Government has plans to encourage silk production and its manufacturers?

**Revival of Sambalpuri Bastralaya
H.L.C.S. Ltd., Odisha**

3040. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of handloom clothes is the country per year and the share of the cooperative sector in the total production;

(b) whether there has been a rise or fall in production during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware that one of the biggest and oldest primary handloom weavers cooperative society of the country, the Sambalpuri Bastralaya H.L.C.S. Ltd., in Odisha, is in a tottering condition; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to boost this organisation to save the future of thousands of weavers?

NEW DELHI;
The 5th August, 2017
Shravana 14, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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