

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, July 20, 2017/Ashadha 29, 1939 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Development of North Eastern Region; External Affairs; Housing and Urban Affairs; Human Resource Development; Information and Broadcasting; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Social Justice and Empowerment; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Women and Child Development)

Total number of questions — 160

#### Financing of atomic power stations by private sector

481. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open atomic power stations financed by private sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether public scrutiny of atomic power plants is not allowed by Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### Viability of monazite found in Visakhapatnam

482. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 0.10 million tonnes of monazite was found in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps the department is taking to exploit monazite for use in our nuclear reactors;

(c) whether the quality of monazite so found has been tested; and

(d) if so, the viability of utilizing monazite so found?

#### Threat on nuclear facilities

483. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nation's International Atomic Energy Agency and the US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative have alerted of a possible threat of cyber and terrorist attack on the nuclear facilities;

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

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the disastrous radioactive radiation in the event of an attack; and

(d) the salient features of cyber security policy for nuclear reactors?

#### **Negotiations for supply of nuclear fuel**

‡484. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up atomic power stations to meet the shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the States and the locations of such power stations where these would be set up;

(c) the countries with whom negotiations for supply of fuel for these stations have been held; and

(d) the time by when these stations would be set up?

#### **Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership**

485. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made any progress towards setting up a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is in consultation with expected members of partnering countries to set up the centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of countries which have agreed to participate in it?

#### **Progress in Indo-US nuclear deal**

486. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the Indo-US nuclear deal;

(b) the number of new nuclear reactors ready to be installed in the country thereby; and

(c) the financial sanctions accorded to nuclear power plants and the expected cost of power per megawatt from the imported reactors?

#### **Efforts of Ministry for North Eastern Region**

487. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new measures taken or special efforts made by the Ministry to reach out to the States of North Eastern Region in a more proactive manner since May, 2014; and

(b) the details of overall impact of such efforts?

#### **SCO Membership to India**

488. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit recently held in Kazakhstan.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of discussions held with regard to bilateral relations, and curbing terrorism, etc.; and

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether the matter of according SCO membership to India has also come for discussion and if so, the details thereof?

**Countries visited by Prime Minister**

489. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last three years;

(b) how many bilateral agreements were signed during these visits; and

(c) how many defence agreements were signed during the above period?

**Indians working in Qatar**

490. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians are working/ staying in Qatar;

(b) what would be the fate of these Indians with Qatar being cut off from major Middle East countries;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to bring them back; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what steps Ministry has taken to protect them till they return home?

**Social Security Agreements**

491. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed any Social Security Agreements with various countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian expatriates, benefited through such agreements during the last three years, country-wise?

**Solution of Indo-China Border dispute**

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan regarding solution of Indo-China Border dispute in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the time limit for getting some concrete solution along with legal constraints, if any?

**Prime Minister's visit to Bern**

493. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently visited Bern and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of discussions with regard to Indian Membership to Nuclear Suppliers Group?

**Visa norms by USA for Indians working in Libya, Iraq and Syria**

494. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians

workers in Iraq, Libya and Syria would not be able to get US Visa as per the strict visa norms introduced by the Government of United States of America (USA);

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken up this issue with the USA; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Simplification in procedure for getting passports**

495. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to print personal details of individuals on passports, both in Hindi and English;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to reduce passport fee for children and elderly people and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by Government to simplify the procedure for getting passports?

**Compensation to Indian Nationals dying abroad**

496. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme for claiming compensation in case of Indian Nationals dying abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Indian citizens who got the claimed compensation during the last three years?

**Agreements signed with USA and Netherlands**

497. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any bilateral agreements have been signed with United States of America (USA) and Netherlands during recent visit of the Prime Minister;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**People from Rajasthan in jails of Pakistan**

†498. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people hailing from the districts of Rajasthan like Jaisalmer, Barmer and Ganga Nagar situated along international border have inadvertently crossed over to Pakistan during previous decades and currently languishing in prisons over there, if so, the number thereof;
- (b) whether many of them have been released by Pakistan Government and whether there are any instances where problems are being faced in bringing them back as they have already been declared dead; and
- (c) whether the Central Government have taken any concrete steps to bring them back, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Issue of H-1B and L1 visa with USA**

499. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Congress of United States of America (USA) had not passed any Bills that could put curbs on issuing H-1B visas to Indian IT professionals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there was no sword hanging over Indians employed under H-1B or L1 visa categories;

(c) whether Government is conducting a dialogue with the USA at a very high level regarding this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Refusal for entry in Canada for people serving in Indian forces**

500. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Canada has been refusing entry to Indians who are serving and/or had served in forces like Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in recent time a similar refusal was widely reported in the press;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken up this issue with Canada; and

(e) if so, their reaction thereto?

**Threat of Indians losing jobs abroad**

501. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new laws of United States of America (USA), Europe, and Australia are putting hurdles for Indians in getting jobs in those countries; and

(b) whether there is any threat of losing job for Indians in these countries due to these new laws?

**Decline in number of Indian workers in Gulf countries**

†502. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian workers working in Gulf countries, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any decline has been registered in the number of workers in these countries since 2014;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study on the reasons for this decline; and

(d) whether Government has made any estimate of loss of foreign exchange due to this?

**China seeking evidence against terrorists**

503. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sought concrete evidence about the role played by the terrorists of Jaish e-Mohammad in terror activities before seeking United Nations censure for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has provided any convincing response in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Security of Indians living in USA**

504. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for Government the strategic partnership with United States of America (USA) is secondary to the welfare and security to the US based people of Indian origin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is continuously in talks with USA and the country's missions are in contact with local Indian communities there; and

(c) whether Government had asked USA Government to investigate the racial angle in the recent killing of Indians there?

#### **Fishermen in custody of Sri Lanka**

505. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen who are in the custody of Srilankan authorities, as on date; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to bring such fishermen back and rehabilitate them?

#### **Agreement signed with USA**

506. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreements signed between India and United States of America (USA) during recent visit of Prime Minister in June, 2017;

(b) whether H-1B Visa issue was discussed with US President;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Objective of Know India Programme**

507. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of 'Know India Programme';

(b) whether the number of participants under the above programme has come down during the last few years;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor, during the last three years; and

(d) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to improve the programme for Indians abroad?

#### **Persons prosecuted under Prevention of Money Laundering Act**

508. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the persons who have been prosecuted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and have absconded;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any communication from the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the same; and

(c) whether the Ministry is in talks with the United Kingdom to bring back persons under investigation as per the 1992 India-UK Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Death of Indian student in USA**

‡509. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one more case of death of Indian student in United States of America (USA) has come to notice;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and

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

#### **Illegal migrants in USA**

‡510. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to exempt the illegal migrants residing in United States of America (USA) has been cancelled by the American administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of Indians would have to come back due to this;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Prime Minister discussed this issue with the President of USA during his recent visit there; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Indian workers in Bahrain**

511. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many hundreds of Indian workers in Bahrain were not paid salary for the past several months by the companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government took any action to help these workers to get their salary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Indians abducted in conflict torn countries**

512. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian citizens are still trapped/or are in the custody of militants who were abducted in the conflict torn places of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan;

(b) how many Indians have been safely evacuated and returned home from these places, so far; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to safely bring back Indians who are still trapped in these places?

#### **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor**

513. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vision document has been launched to develop an "Asia-Africa Growth Corridor" between India and Japan;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between India, Japan and Africa to extend the line of credit for the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Intrusion of chinese army in Indian territory**

514. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese army has intruded in Indian territory in Sikkim in the month of June, 2017 and destroyed the bunkers in Indian territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with Chinese Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of China thereto?

**Indian participation in One Belt One Road projects**

515. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's One Belt One Road projects crosses through the Indian territory, Pakistan occupied Kashmir, due to which Government chose not to participate in this Forum;

(b) how the Ministry is planning to take up the issue further, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would use the platform of the next Brazil, Russia, India, China

and South Africa (BRICS) Forum to address the issue, if so, the details thereof?

**Infrastructure status to affordable housing**

516. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes to giving infrastructure status to affordable housing;

(b) to what extent this would help in constructing more and more houses to achieve Housing for All Goal by 2022; and

(c) to what extent the National Housing Bank, giving ₹ 20,000 crores to banks and housing finance companies, would help to double the affordable housing finance market from ₹ 90,000 crores to ₹ 2 lakh crores?

**National Urban Livelihood Mission in Bihar**

†517. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the objective of Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana is to implement National Urban Livelihood Mission;

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries under this scheme in Bihar;

(c) whether the number of beneficiaries is less in that State as against other States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the steps taken by Government to improve it?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Notification of RERA rules in  
Karnataka**

518. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the rules under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) has not been notified by the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) whether Government considers that this is in blatant violation of law denying the citizens of the State the rights enshrined under the law; and

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that (RERA) rules are notified in that State?

**Achievement under HOMES**

519. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the Home Owners Mortgage Equity Subvention Scheme (HOMES) along with its comparison with Rajiv Rinn Yojana (RRY) which was there to cater to the needy in a similar way;

(b) whether there is any yearly target under this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the achievement under HOMES during the last three years, States/UTs-wise?

**Delay in framing RERA rules**

520. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is delay in framing of rules under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) by many States and if so, the details of States that have notified the rules and States that are yet to do so;

(b) whether the builders are facing problems in registering their projects, in view of this delay; and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to resolve the problems of these builders?

**Registration under RERA**

521. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of registration for ongoing projects in various States/Union Territories under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) is slow;

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

(c) the States/Union Territories which have not, so far, become RERA compliant?

**Houses constructed during Twelfth  
Five Year Plan**

522. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of houses likely to be constructed during the Twelfth Five Year Plan specially for the lower and middle income categories under various schemes;

(b) the fund allocated for implementation of the scheme and its actual utilization; and

(c) the number of units/houses allotted under various schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

included in the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

**Extension for registration of projects under RERA**

523. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) mandates registration of all projects before July, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many States have neither appointed regulator nor notified rules and regulations under the Act;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal before the Ministry to extend the deadline; and

(d) the status of ongoing projects, State-wise and the procedure for registration of such projects?

**Housing for All scheme in Himachal Pradesh**

524. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities/towns in Himachal Pradesh which have been selected for development of dwelling units under the Housing for All scheme;

(b) the eligibility criterion laid by Government to provide houses under the scheme; and

(c) whether new features have been

**Technical cells under PMAY**

525. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned the establishment of State Level Technical Cells (SLTC) and City Level Technical Cells (CLTC) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), for the States particularly for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial support Government intends to extend to State/UTs;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend full financial support for establishment of SLTCs and CLTCs to hilly States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; and

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

**Fraudulent practices under PMAY scheme**

†526. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fraudulent practices have started under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY);

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any steps to stop such practices by getting them investigated; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**PMAY in Maharashtra**

‡527. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and the number of people to whom constructed houses have already been allotted, city-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the implementation of this project in Maharashtra is not in accordance with its stipulated time-limit and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken appropriate steps for spreading awareness among people with regard to PMAY in that State and if so, the details thereof?

**Rent vouchers for BPL families**

‡528. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a welfare scheme was launched by Government under which there is a provision to give vouchers in 100 smart cities to the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) for paying the rent of the house;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been introduced and is being implemented according to the target fixed therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Extra floor area for builders under PMAY**

529. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider allowing extra floor area for builders to push housing for poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Area Based Development under Smart Cities Mission**

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

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) with regard to Area Based Development (ABD) under Smart Cities Mission, what is the estimated number of people who are expected to benefit from these projects, city-wise;

(b) what is the current population density in the areas under these projects and what is the expected population density after the project is completed, particularly in Ludhiana and Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether utility tariffs would be revised in the project areas and if so, what would be the estimated rate of revision; and

(d) whether Government has any alternative plan to accommodate those people who would be displaced and if so, the details thereof?

**Development of smart cities**

‡531. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities declared, so far, by Government to be developed as smart cities throughout the country;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of smart cities proposed to be developed by Government in Rajasthan; and

(c) the number of smart cities for which development work has been initiated and the amount spent thereon, so far?

**Photographs of persons defecating in open**

532. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials responsible for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban are required to take photographs of people defecating in the open;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the action taken against officials who have been found doing so;

(d) whether the Ministry has come across any complaints of officials taking photographs of people, especially women defecating in the open;

(e) whether those officials are permitted to manhandle anyone who prevents them from taking photographs of women defecating in the open; and

(f) if not, what action would be taken against officials found manhandling?

**Single window system in the Ministry**

533. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established a single window system in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the manner in which this

system works and the details of Acts and Rules amended for the purpose;

(c) whether the assessment of functioning of this system is made;

(d) how Government proposes to establish a single window system for obtaining an industrial licence for which requirement of land, construction of buildings, besides pollution and environmental clearance, are required; and

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued to make the system work?

**Smart city in Goa**

534. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish a smart city in Goa;

(b) whether Panaji has been chosen for being developed as smart city;

(c) the amount assured by Government therefor and the amount disbursed, so far;

(d) the total development, infrastructure and other items, proposed to be undertaken therefor;

(e) the amount spent, so far and the items on which it has been spent; and

(f) the share of the State Government therein and whether the State Government has handed over its share to the implementing agency?

**Construction of toilets in urban slum areas**

535. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds under Swachh

Bharat Mission allocated and utilised for construction of toilets and cleanliness in various fields including unauthorised colonies in urban areas during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of toilets constructed in slum areas during these years; and

(c) the volume of financial assistance received from foreign countries for construction of toilets in urban areas of the country during that period?

#### **Launch of Swachhta app**

536. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched the Swachhta app which enables citizens to lodge complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints lodged, using the app, and resolved during the last ten months;

(d) whether there is dynamic ranking of cities on daily basis based on the responsiveness of agencies, citizen feedback and user engagement;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any time-frame for resolving grievances has been fixed for each type of complaints;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the other steps taken to resolve sanitation related grievances in cities in a time-bound manner?

#### **Japan partnering Chennai for smart city**

537. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has partnered with Japan in development of Chennai as smart city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken, so far, by Government in association with Japan to develop Chennai as smart city; and

(d) the tentative date by which Chennai Smart City project would be completed?

#### **Physical activities for minimising stress in technical institutes**

538. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicide cases amongst the students of technical education institutes throughout the country is on the rise due to heavy study stress;

(b) whether the Ministry considers introducing mandatory participation in physical activity by the students in such institutes in order to minimize the effects of stress; and

(c) if so, what sort of physical activities the Ministry would like to propose for the students of the technical institutes to relieve them from the study stress?

#### **Publication of text books by CBSE**

539. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has the mandate to

publish the text books for secondary and senior secondary level;

(b) the prime objectives of CBSE, as per the mandate; and

(c) whether the Ministry has given any direction to CBSE to stop publishing text books and if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Autonomy to colleges under Delhi University**

540. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University has recently offered autonomy to certain colleges in Delhi for enhancing academic and administrative freedom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any college has given any response in this regard and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

#### **Pick-up facility for schools bags**

541. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, on experimental basis, an upper primary school in Kerala has launched pick-up facility for schools bags, through deployment of special vans to pick-up bags of students who can not afford bus travel to schools, because of financial constraints;

(b) whether this move is seen as a measure to promote walking among students, without the burden of baggage and reducing dependence on vehicles; and

(c) whether Government would

encourage introduction of this facility at all primary schools where children carry heavy bags, on the lines of Dabbawallahs in Mumbai, delivering lunch boxes?

#### **Opening new Kendriya Vidyalayas**

‡542. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had proposed to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in every district of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not opening Kendriya Vidyalayas in some districts of Bihar and by when these are likely to be opened and whether any time-limit has been fixed for it and if so, the details thereof?

#### **New Committee to draft education policy**

543. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has appointed an eight-member Committee headed by Dr. K.Kasturirangan to draft the new education policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this committee is supposed to submit its report;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a five-member TSR Subramanian Committee had submitted its report on the same subject in May, 2016; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for rejecting this panel report and appointing a new one?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Complaints on NAAC audits**

544. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received complaints of biasness or discrepancy in relation to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) audits of private universities and colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise since 2014;

(c) whether the Ministry plans to scrap NAAC audits and move to self-disclosure for all universities and colleges for grading; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the institutional method to verify claims with ground reality?

**Preparation and distribution of mid day meals through NGOs**

545. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has handed over the task of preparing and distributing mid day meals to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(b) the details of States and districts where the task has been transferred to NGO workers, in part or whole, currently;

(c) the number of non-NGO workers who have received honorarium from Government for running the scheme since 2014, till date; and

(d) whether the Ministry would provide alternative forms of employment for workers displaced from Mid Day Meal Scheme within other schemes run by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof?

**Walls of heroes in colleges and university campuses**

546. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that colleges and university campuses across India would soon see walls of heroes being erected to reinforce respect in young minds for war veterans and martyrs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these walls, with photographs of Param Vir Chakra awardees, would come up on 1,000 campuses across the country;

(d) whether these would be done with the donations from students and teachers of respective college and university; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Re-evaluation policy of CBSE**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several errors have occurred in the evaluation of class XIIth papers by CBSE;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has changed the re-evaluation policy and allowed the students to opt for re-evaluation, if necessary; and

(d) whether any steps has been taken to ensure to minimise the evaluation errors in future?

**Monitoring of projects through geo-tracking**

548. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently launched an application to monitor the projects *via* geo-tracking to improve the quality of education and extending financial assistance to higher studies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Bhagavad Gita in school education**

549. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to make Bhagavad Gita compulsory in school education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in seats of IITs**

550. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have increased their seats by 460 this year, taking the total number of seats to 11,032;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these increased seats would mostly be added in the new IIT institutes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Drop out rates in Punjab**

551. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of drop outs in primary and secondary levels for boys and girls in Punjab during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that drop out rate is much higher among girls in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation; and

(d) the details of initiatives of Government to educate children of families residing in border areas where drop out rate is high?

**Aadhaar card for Central Sector Scholarship Scheme**

552. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to avail the benefits under the Central Sector Scholarship Scheme for college and university students, applicants now have to furnish proof of possessing Aadhaar Card or undergo Aadhaar authentication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the students who are receiving the scholarships but do not have an Aadhaar Card would have to apply for enrolment by June 30, 2017; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?



**Guidelines on school buses**

553. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued guidelines on schools buses;

(b) whether, according to the said guidelines, all schools affiliated to CBSE would have to depute guards on school buses and fit the vehicles with closed circuit television cameras, GPS systems, sirens and grills on windows;

(c) whether the guidelines were issued after a school bus accident in Uttar Pradesh in January, 2017 that killed 12 school children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan**

†554. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the schools are required in large number in view of larger geographical area and difficult circumstances in the State; and

(c) if so, the number of proposed and sanctioned new Kendriya Vidyalayas, district-wise?

**Collaboration with foreign universities**

555. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any

decision to allow top educational institutes both Government and private to tie-up with foreign universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for improving the standards of Indian Educational institutes at par with top universities and colleges abroad;

(c) whether Government has taken appropriate steps to increase the number of strategic partners to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and investments from Foreign Financial Institutions (FFIs) in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of strategic partners affiliated to Ministry to enhance ties with foreign investors and universities?

**On demand examinations in NIOS**

556. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data about on demand examinations in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for students of standards 10th and 12th during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details of the passing students out of total students in Gujarat and other States of the country?

**Data related to answer sheets in NIOS**

557. SHRI SHANKAR BHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

about the answer sheets for standards 10th and 12th checked by Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Government aided school teachers during the spot evaluation in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) examinations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, State-wise including Gujarat?

**Vastu Shastra in syllabus of IIT  
Kharagpur**

558. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IIT Kharagpur has decided to introduce Vastu Shastra in its syllabus of architecture; and

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

**Missing student from JNU campus**

559. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still there is no trace of Najeeb, the student who was attacked and got missing from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Commercial activities in school  
premises**

560. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received

complaints regarding CBSE affiliated schools indulging in commercial activities by selling books, uniforms etc. within the school premises or through selected vendors across the country;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard and to ensure that all CBSE affiliated schools strictly comply with the affiliation bye laws and not indulge in commercial activities?

**World Bank assisted Technical Education  
Quality Improvement Programmes**

†561. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals from Chhattisgarh and other States under World Bank assisted Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of such proposals received during the last three years and the current year, State/Union territory-wise; and

(c) the details of decisions taken by Government along with approved and implemented programmes with regard to those proposals?

**Single school board**

562. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

variations in teaching standards across schools in India due to multiple school boards;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to have a single school board and identical syllabus throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

#### **Ranking of Indian Universities**

†563. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of order of rank secured by Indian Universities in the field of education in the world ranking; and

(b) the various steps taken to secure highest rank in the top order?

#### **Vacant posts in Central university**

†564. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the teaching posts declared vacant and the posting thereon in each of the Central universities of the country during the last three years, State-wise and faculty-wise; and

(b) the effective steps taken to fill the above vacant posts urgently and the system established for improving teaching methodologies along with their numerical strength?

#### **Drop out rates of physically challenged students**

565. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drop out rates of physically challenged students are high; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to address this problem?

#### **District level committees to review MDMS**

566. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that district level committee meetings are convened to monitor and review the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in various States;

(b) if so, the names of those States which have complied with this direction of the Ministry; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that these meetings take place at regular intervals?

#### **Quality education under RTE Act**

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has not been successful in providing quality education in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make education simple and accessible with a focus on quality rather than infrastructure?

#### **Bridging gender gap in IITs**

568. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per admission statistics, about 62 per cent of 2,200 girls, who had ranked good enough to get a seat at an IIT, chose to opt out of it;

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

(c) whether this trend has been continuing this year also;

(d) if so, whether Government is reaching out to girls who have qualified in IIT to take admission at any of its branch;

(e) if so, the response thereto; and

(f) the other steps taken by Government to woo girls to bridge gender divide in IITs?

#### **Review of deemed university status**

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UGC has embarked on reviewing the deemed university status being enjoyed by nearly

125 educational institutions across the country;

(b) whether the Ministry has also given its approval for conducting the review of these deemed universities, keeping in view the recommendations made by PN Tandon Committee, which highlighted that more than 44 deemed universities have failed to provide quality education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Annual average drop out rate**

570. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual average drop out rate of primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary has been going up gradually in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and at primary, secondary and senior secondary level-wise;

(c) the national average drop out rate during the above period; and

(d) the manner in which the Ministry is collaborating with States to arrest this trend to reduce drop out rate and increase the quality of education?

#### **Operation of non-recognised institutes**

†571. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of non-recognised

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

educational institutes are operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government for registration of such educational institutes and for ensuring quality of education in them;

(c) whether Government is aware that fee collected by these non-recognised/un-registered institutes is very high; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government for regularising and controlling these educational institutes running without recognition/registration?

**Teaching of foreign language in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign languages that are being taught at present in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether sufficient number of teachers are available for teaching these languages;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of teachers that are working on contractual basis and on regular basis;

(d) the total number of posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that are vacant, subject-wise and the details of steps taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the comprehensive details thereof?

**Correspondence courses in Central Universities**

573. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students enrolled in correspondence courses during the last five years with Central Universities, year-wise and university-wise;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to improve the weekend classes and doubt clearing sessions offered to the students; and

(c) the number of courses out of total correspondence courses for which online classes are available for free of cost, the details thereof?

**Misbehaviour with girl students during NEET**

574. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some girl students appearing in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination recently were forced to remove their undergarments before entering the examination centres in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken thereon?

**Augmenting guidance and counselling services**

575. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to help the State Governments in augmenting guidance and counselling services at all the levels of schooling *viz.*, elementary, secondary and higher secondary, as per National Curriculum Framework (NCF); and

(b) if no steps are taken, the reasons therefor?

#### **Mechanism to conduct NET**

576. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any better mechanism for the conduct of the National Eligibility Test (NET) in the light of recent controversies and CBI inquiry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Incubation centres in universities**

577. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of business incubation centres functioning in various universities/institutions;

(b) the details of funds provided to establish and run business incubation centres in various universities/institutions during the last three years; and

(c) the number of projects institutionalized by the incubation centres functioning in various universities and educational institutions in India during that period?

#### **Air purifiers in schools**

578. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to install air purifiers in all Government schools in the country to save the school children from air pollution; and

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

#### **Amount spent for advertisements of projects**

579. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts spent by Government for advertisements during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent for advertisements of particular projects including new ones introduced by Government;

(c) the amount spent each year on advertisements of matters of national importance and various annual events; and

(d) the shares of print and visual media in such amount spent each year?

#### **Mechanism to monitor misleading advertisements**

580. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the existing mechanism to monitor misleading advertisements in electronic and print media across the country;

(b) the number of cases of misleading advertisements detected by the existing monitoring mechanism along with the present status of such cases;

(c) the number of misleading advertisers punished, so far, during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism?

**Misuse of TV channels by private broadcasters**

581. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to check, monitor and restrict misuse of TV channels particularly in regional languages to broadcast programmes aimed at instigating communal violence and fear in the minds of common people;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stringent steps taken by Government for curbing this menace;

(c) whether Government has any plans to introduce any censorship or any rules and norms for private TV channels for broadcasting their pre recorded programmes or fabricated videos pretending as live telecast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Inclusion of news on North East**

582. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make the national news broad-based, by including news from North East in both the print and the electronic media;

(b) whether the current trend is that news of NCR and J&K are overemphasized and those of the North East are ignored,

resulting in even to the extent that people of the region are considered as foreigners; and

(c) whether Government would take up schemes to establish fully functional news agencies, bureaus, etc., in this region especially in Manipur and also to encourage senior print and electronic media correspondents work in the region?

**Institutes registered under PMKVY in Uttar Pradesh**

583. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institute registered in Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, district-wise;

(b) whether these institutes are recognized/affiliated to any examination body;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether certificates issued to trainees by these institutes are recognized by Central/State Governments?

**Quality and contents of advertisements**

584. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the nature and content of advertisements and programmes aired on television which are not only indecent but also do not go well with the culture of the country; and

(b) whether Government would advise the agency responsible to grant certification to be little careful in granting clearance since television programmes are seen by viewers of all age groups?

**Derogatory programmes on television channels**

585. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several television channels are airing sponsored programmes containing vulgar and derogatory dialogues/remarks against women in the guise of comedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any action against these channels, whenever such instances are brought to their notice?

**Rating of newspapers under GST**

586. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has made any proposal to the Ministry of Finance regarding zero rating of newspapers under new GST regime and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to protect small scale newspapers; and

(c) whether the Ministry has received representations from the print media industry asking for protection under the new tax regime and if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

**Employees retired and appointed**

587. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government

employees who retired during the last three years, group-wise;

(b) the number of employees appointed during that period against the vacancies caused due to retirement, etc.;

(c) the number of employees who have been retired compulsorily during that period, group-wise; and

(d) the present position regarding vacant posts in the Central Government?

**Reservation for sportspersons in services**

588. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any provision for reservation for meritorious sportspersons in various posts in Government departments and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has issued any guidelines for recruitment under the said quota by the authorities concerned and also proposes to increase the quota and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sportspersons recruited from Jharkhand and Gujarat during the last three years in various Government departments; and

(d) the steps being taken to give due emphasis in recruiting sportspersons of all sports disciplines while filling up of reserved posts?

**Additional chance for candidates affected by CSAT**

†589. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of candidates passing with regional languages and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



humanities subjects is declining continuously after the introduction of Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) in civil services examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CSAT was introduced in 2011 and since 2015, it was retained only as a qualifying question paper;

(d) whether the candidates of civil services affected by CSAT have asked the Government to give them additional opportunity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Appointments under Central Staffing Scheme**

590. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in appointments to the Central Government posts under the Central Staffing Scheme, fewer officers from IAS are being appointed;

(b) the total number of IAS and non-IAS officers appointed during the last three years under the scheme;

(c) the number of officers from Jharkhand cadre appointed during that period in the Centre; and

(d) what steps/incentives are being taken/provided to encourage larger number of IAS officers to man the Central Government?

#### **Admission of backward and SC students in educational institution**

†591. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started schemes for supporting students of backward and Schedule Castes to complete their education by giving them admission in educational institution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Written tests for direct recruitment**

592. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to make written tests mandatory for direct recruitment to all the posts of lowest rung in Group A and B to ensure transparency and selection of best talents available; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take initiatives in this direction shortly and advise the recruitment agencies to adhere to the policy of selection mainly based upon written tests?

#### **Purchase policy of Kendriya Bhandar**

593. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Kendriya Bhandar have amended its purchase policy repeatedly without any agenda and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such amendments were made for purchase of sugar, rice, pulses,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

mustard oil in consumer packs, to favour a supplier; and

(c) whether the Ministry or Kendriya Bhandar have received any communications in this regard from a Member of Parliament and if so, the details of action taken by them in the matter and the reasons for not replying to his letters?

#### **Eligibility for membership of Kendriya Bhandar**

594. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar Bye Law No. 8 (A) (B) states that no person shall be eligible for being a member of Kendriya Bhandar if he has not purchased goods from its retail stores worth ₹ 500 per annum for two consecutive years;

(b) whether the Kendriya Bhandar maintains the record of purchases made by the members from its retail stores; and

(c) the details of such members who have been disqualified under the said Bye-Law and whether their names have been deleted from the list of voters and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System on MyGovt site**

595. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Ministries are having a Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not making such data

available on *MyGov.in* site which was framed to keep the public aware about the smooth working of Government; and

(c) whether the performance evaluation system itself is not performing well and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Inclusion of more holidays in National Calendar**

596. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to make Patriots Day, observed on 13th August, and Ningol Chakkouba, which coincides with Bhai Duj, as restricted holidays and include them in the National Calendar;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon and by when Government would declare them so as to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Manipur;

(c) whether it is a fact that not even a single day related to the culture, festivals and historical symbols of Manipur is included in the National Calendar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the plan of Government in this regard?

#### **Demand for restructuring of NITI Aayog**

597. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the labour organizations have demanded the restructuring/reorganizing of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog due to its pursuance of the corporate lobby agenda;

(b) whether they have demanded the inclusion of representatives from the labour, women and farmers in the Aayog; and

(c) whether the Aayog is considering their demand sincerely and if so, the details thereof?

**Review of autonomous bodies by NITI Aayog**

598. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is carrying out a review of the autonomous bodies under various Ministries/Departments of Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this exercise would be completed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that based on this review, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is to be merged with either Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) or Jamia Milia Islamia; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the concerned stakeholders were consulted?

**Separate time zone for North Eastern States**

599. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has recently pleaded the Central Government for a separate time zone for the entire North-eastern region, to increase productivity and reduce power consumption;

(b) whether Russia follows eleven different time zones and the USA five time zones whereas India geographically requires at least two different time zones to optimize work efficiency and save on energy consumption; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission took up the cudgel on behalf of the North Eastern States and had argued in favour of two different time zones for India in 2006?

**New norms to identify people below poverty line**

†600. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review and ascertain the persons living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the norms earlier prescribed are not found to be effective at present; and

(c) if so, by when the new norms would be prescribed and people would be benefited?

**National Sample Survey on poverty ratio**

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

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any latest National Sample Survey about the poverty ratio of the country;

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that the poverty ratio in the country has increased, since the last three years; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to remove the poverty problems of the country?

#### **ITIs in Visakhapatnam**

602. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has identified Visakhapatnam as one of the Left wing Extremism affected districts in Andhra Pradesh and allocated ₹ 734 lakh under Skill Development for 47 affected districts;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme to set up ITIs in Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether it is also a fact that four districts have been identified under Multi-sectoral Development Programme; and

(d) if so, the details of districts identified and the status of infrastructure for ITIs under the above programme?

#### **Misuse of franchise system of PMKVY**

603. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concept of franchise system, mandated under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), has been widely misused and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether thousands of ghost candidates in franchise training centres in

several States have been found and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has decided to disband the franchise model of training centres for its skill development programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Camps organised under PMKVY in Chhattisgarh**

†604. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skill development camps organized by Government under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the number of candidates from the State enrolled under this scheme to whom skill training has been given or is being given; and

(c) whether any specific steps are being taken by Government to provide skill training to youth of naxal affected areas of the State and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Government and private ITIs**

†605. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Government ITIs is decreasing in the country and the number of private ITIs is increasing continuously and if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

number of students in Government ITIs is also decreasing continuously and if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of seats that remained vacant in Government and private ITIs during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

#### **Skill development of domestic workers**

606. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:  
Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is supporting skill development of domestic workers;

(b) if so, the number of such workers benefited, so far; and

(c) the total domestic workforce in the country?

#### **Work for franchise centres**

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

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of franchise centres recognised for imparting training under Skill India Initiative during the last three years;

(b) whether most of such centres have not been provided any work;

(c) the target under the scheme during the last three years and the shortfall in achieving them;

(d) the number of franchise centres which fulfilled the norms but were not provided any work; and

(e) the amount required for building a franchise centre and whether the amount is borne by the franchise centre owner who lost their investment due to no work?

#### **Skill Development Centres**

†608. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:  
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for establishing Skill Development Centres in the country during the year 2016-17 and if so, the number of such centres established at present and by when the remaining ones would be established;

(b) whether a target for skill development of one crore youth during the next three years has been fixed and if so, the details of progress made, so far;

(c) whether any review has been made with regard to programmes being run under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and the achievements thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Skill training for SCs/STs and OBC**

†609. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people belonging to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) who have been provided with the skill training by Government during the last three years and the number of people out of them who have been provided with employment;

(b) the scheme of Government for providing training and employment to people belonging to SC and ST communities who are proficient in special arts and related traditional arts;

(c) whether Government has started any special skill training programmes for SCs/STs living in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **NCVT in Madhya Pradesh**

610. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new courses started and new seats created in existing courses under the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the other initiatives taken for skill enhancement, especially in Madhya Pradesh and their achievements during that period;

(c) whether any new training institutes have been started during the above period under NCVT and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how many of them are in Madhya Pradesh and the details of their trainee intake?

#### **Entrepreneurship among SCs/STs**

611. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry is taking steps to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking steps to expand the Skill India Initiative by setting up global skill development institutions and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Suicides by young married couples**

612. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to social pressure a number of suicides by the young married couples belonging to different castes are being reported in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to prevent suicides of the inter-caste couple; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to safeguard the inter-caste marriage relationships?

#### **NGOs in Delhi for mentally retarded persons**

613. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NGOs/voluntary organisations for mentally challenged

persons functioning in the Union Territory of Delhi at present;

(b) the details of Grant-in-aid given to such organisations during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government is aware that majority of the said organisations have been charging huge monthly amount from the guardians of such persons and if so, what action Government proposes to take against them?

**Norms for maintenance and monitoring of old age homes**

614. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes functioning in the country at present along with the number of senior citizens provided accommodation therein, State-wise;

(b) the norms for running and maintenance of old age homes in the country and existing monitoring mechanism for the proper functioning of these homes; and

(c) the details of proposals received from various States and the present status thereof?

**Scheme for free coaching to SC/OBC students**

615. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of students benefiting under the scheme "Free Coaching for SC and OBC students" during the last three years, year-wise and course-wise;

(b) the list of institutes empanelled under the scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether West Bengal has institutes empanelled under this scheme; and

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

**Identification of nomadic tribes**

616. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of pitiable condition of nomadic tribes, if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Punjab and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken to determine the number of people of nomadic tribes, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being undertaken for identification of such tribes and welfare activities undertaken?

**Assistance for Accessible India Campaign**

†617. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Rajasthan under the Accessible India Campaign; and

(b) whether the Central Government proposes to sanction the pending proposals of the State of Rajasthan under this campaign, if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Self-employment scheme for manual scavengers**

618. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocations for the Self Employment Scheme for liberation and rehabilitation of manual scavengers had decreased from ₹ 557 crore in 2013-14 to ₹ 5 crore in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount spent on the scheme out of the allocated amount during the last five years?

**Post-matric scholarship dues for SC students**

619. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the outstanding dues to be distributed to the Scheduled Caste students for post-matric scholarship; and

(b) whether any additional allocation has been given to the Ministry for clearing the dues, if any and if so, the details thereof?

**Rehabilitation of manual scavengers**

†620. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual scavengers rehabilitated and partially rehabilitated by Government under section 13 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has developed any scheme for the States and Union Territories to submit a report about providing employment to manual scavengers in a fixed time period, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether States have set up State monitoring committee and vigilance and monitoring committee at district and sub-district level in this regard, the details thereof?

**Funds allocated and spent for rehabilitation of manual scavengers**

†621. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scavengers identified and rehabilitated during the last three years and current year, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the budget allocated and the amount spent for rehabilitation of manual scavengers, State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by Government for providing alternative work and skill training to such workers for resolving the said problem?

**Home care services for elderly persons**

622. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to bring in a new mechanism to regulate home care services for the elderly persons being offered by various private firms;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) whether Government is also planning to establish at least one old age home in each district of the country to house older indigent persons; and

(c) if so, the number of Government run old age homes in the country, State-wise and the number of older indigent persons requiring care at old age homes, the details thereof?

**Approval of amendment in Central list of OBCs**

623. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved inclusion amendments to the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) notified in various States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this was done as per the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Indian satellites in outer space**

624. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many satellites of India are there in outer space at present;

(b) how many of them are used for communication and how many are used for other purposes like collection of various data;

(c) what is the annual income earned from them; and

(d) whether our expenses to produce and put them in space are less than those of other countries?

**Schemes for empowerment of girl child and women**

625. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sex ratio in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the schemes in operation/proposed to be launched by Government to empower girl child and women in the country; and

(c) the funds allocated/released and utilized by the States for the purpose during the last two years, scheme-wise, State/UT-wise including Haryana?

**Projects undertaken and executed under Nirbhaya Fund**

626. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken and executed under the Nirbhaya Fund up to June, 2017 and the quantum of funds utilized;

(b) whether Government has conducted any review of the projects executed under this fund to ensure that the support measures for women's safety and empowerment reach the intended beneficiaries and is properly utilized;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would explain where it plans to spend the remaining funds?

**Online sexual abuse of children**

627. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that fast pace of change in information and communication technology is also inducing/facilitating online sexual abuse and exploitation of children; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to curb this menace and to protect the children from online sexual abuse and exploitation?

**Priority area of National Plan of Action for children**

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

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the financial resources required for each priority area of National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2016 and if so, the details of cost sharing ratio between the Central and State Governments;

(b) whether Government has developed systems for implementation, monitoring and reviewing of NPAC; and

(c) if so, the details of progress made in areas such as constitution of national and State level coordination and action groups, development of data collection and analysis mechanism, etc.?

**Anaemia in children and women**

629. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national average, in terms of percentage of prevalence of underweight and anaemia among children and women in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 70 per cent of children and more than 50 per cent of women in the country are anaemic and more than 35 per cent of children below five years are underweight; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what efforts the Ministry is making to supplement the States to overcome the above problems?

**Funds for women and child development schemes**

630. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked by Government for women and child development schemes during 2014 to 2017;

(b) the details of funds allocated/utilized and balance left, till date, State-wise and year-wise particularly for Maharashtra;

(c) the details of new schemes likely to be undertaken during this financial year in this regard;

(d) whether any funds were also provided by the World Bank, UNESCO and other international financial institutions for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, institution-wise?

**NHRC report on lost children**

631. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Rights Commission has issued a report on the lost children in which it has been stated that every year about 25,000 children are lost in our country;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to search these children and to make provisions for their education and for their employment; and

(c) whether Government has made any plan to rehabilitate those children?

**Cases registered and pending under POCSO**

632. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in the number of cases registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during that period, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of cases are pending due to shortage of courts and if so, the details thereof?

**Malnutrition among children**

633. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

malnutrition among children below five years of age has increased during the last five years as per UNICEF Report;

(b) if so, whether Government has plans to revisit its policies to ensure that the earmarked funds reach the targeted children and achieve the objectives of reducing malnutrition among such children; and

(c) if not, the details of such children reportedly suffering from malnutrition, State-wise?

**Decline in under-age marriages**

634. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 4th National Family Health Survey, 2015-16 has been released recently;

(b) if so, whether the survey indicates that there is a sharp decline in under-age marriages in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of other findings of the survey; and

(d) how the Ministry is planning to capitalize on the above and take it forward to focus more on empowering women?

**India's rank in malnutrition among children**

635. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per report "Stolen Childhood" of Save the Children,

India ranks at poor 116 in global index of places where childhood is most threatened;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India lags behind even Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, etc.;

(c) the details of indicators taken up for assessment by the report and whether the Ministry is contesting the indicators/parameters; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Maternity Benefit Programme**

†636. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government under Maternity Benefit Programme and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has restricted the benefits due under this programme to first child only and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has asked the respective States to bear 50 per cent cost of the same under this programme and if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Working women hostels**

637. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of hostels for working women presently functioning in Maharashtra and the National Capital; and

(b) whether Government proposes to increase the number of such hostels, in view of increase in demand of hostel accommodation from working women?

#### **Sexual abuse of children**

638. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing infrastructure and policy of Government to look after the child victims of sexual offences;

(b) whether Government has received any study report referring that 53 per cent of Indian children are victims of sexual abuse;

(c) if so, the response of and action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the obligations and the detailed plan of action to set up child care units in the country?

#### **Maternity Benefit**

639. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing ₹ 6,000 as maternity benefit for only the first child and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the original scheme of providing benefits to two children has been reduced to one by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the number of women who had availed the scheme for the second child during the last three years and the funds spent thereon, State-wise and year-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Social impact of divorces**

640. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has compiled any data about the reported increase in the number of divorces in India and if so, the

details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any study about the social impact of this increase and if so, what is the strategy to mitigate this impact especially on the kids of separated parents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
The 14th July, 2017  
Ashadha 23, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*

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