

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, July 21, 2017/Ashadha 30, 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

Mushroom farming

641. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the practice of using straw for growing mushrooms by farmers in certain districts of Punjab; and

(b) if so, whether Government endorses it as a 'best practice' to be promoted in other States, if not, the reasons therefor?

Payment of insurance amount as compensation

†642. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid insurance amount as compensation for damage of crops due to floods and drought during the current year;

(b) if so, the amount paid by Government as compensation, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be paid; and

(d) whether it is a fact that amount being paid as compensation is not sufficient, if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

Setting up of soil testing laboratories

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

(a) the number of soil testing laboratories in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of soil testing laboratories in West Bengal, District-wise;

(c) whether Government is planning to set up at least one soil testing laboratory in each district of the country; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suicide by farmers

644. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of farmers have committed suicide in the last three months throughout the country;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government to stop this menace?

MSP and market price of wheat, rice, cotton, pulses, etc.

645. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat, rice, cotton, tur dal, moong dal, masoor dal, urad dal, mustard and soyabean for 2015-16, and 2016-17;

(b) the total production of each of the above agricultural produces;

(c) how much, out of the said production, was procured by NAFED, FCI and other procuring agencies, produce-wise; and

(d) the average prevailing market price of each of the above crops in each of the above years?

Outstanding amount of insurance claims

646. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any figure of claims filed by farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years is available with Government; and

(b) if so, the outstanding amount of such claims?

Calculation of MSP for various crops

647. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to change the pattern of calculating MSP for various crops in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has proposed a new methodology and submitted the same to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how it is different from the existing one and how the proposed methodology is more helpful to farmers; and

(d) by when the above recommendations are going to be implemented?

Commercial use of Dhara Mustard Hybrid

648. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Academy of Agricultural Science has urged Government to allow commercial use of Dhara Mustard Hybrid from this year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken on the said proposal?

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide since 1st April, 2017 till

30th June, 2017 in UP, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the reasons for unprecedented rise in the number of suicides by farmers in recent months;

(c) whether anti-farmer policies of Government and concerted efforts of industry and Government are the main reasons for rise in suicide by farmers and their pitiable conditions and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government in this regard?

Implementation of PPV&FR Act, 2001

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

(a) whether National Seed Association of India has requested the Ministry to implement the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001; and

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry thereto and by when the Act would be implemented, if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking of grants to States to agriculture reforms

651. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has urged the Government to link part of financial grants given to States under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to agriculture reforms implemented by the States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the response of the Ministry to such proposal; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the farmers' crop safety?

Suicides by farmers

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

(a) whether Government has analysed that there are still large number of farmers' suicides in spite of Government's claim that it has come forward with never before farmer-friendly policies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government is planning to bring any concrete policy along with respective State Governments to stop farmers' suicides and to help the farmers in distress?

Funds released to Karnataka from NDRF

653. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the Government of Karnataka this year in response to the drought in the State; and

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a report on the utilization of the above funds to the Ministry?

Doubling the income of farmers

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

(a) whether Government has realized that with the existing mechanism, it is not

possible to double the income of farmers by 2022 and it would take 20 years to reach that goal;

(b) whether it is because of this that the Government proposed to introduce Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill in Parliament;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation; and

(d) in what manner Government's proposed legislation would double the farmers' income by 2022?

Suicides by farmers

†655. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides by farmers so far, this year;

(b) whether information has been received with regard to the reasons of suicides;

(c) whether the main reason of farmers' suicides is that the farmers do not even get the cost price of their crops; and

(d) whether Government will ensure that farmers get the cost price for their crops so as to prevent suicides by them?

Norms for organising Kisan Melas

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

(a) whether Government is sponsoring Kisan Melas in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the framework/norms for organising such Melas and the success achieved thereunder in addressing the issues of farmers;

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years in the country, including in Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(d) whether Government is imparting training to the farmers in these Melas and educating them about farm practices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of farmers who have availed benefits thereunder during the said period, State/UT-wise?

Illegal marketing of GM seeds

657. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any reports about the illegal marketing of Genetically Modified seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and whether Government is taking any comprehensive measures to address such illegal penetration of GM seeds?

Suicides by farmers

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

(a) how many farmers have committed suicide in the country in different States during the last three years;

(b) the various reasons for such suicides and whether Government has prepared any fact finding report or made any inquiry about the loss of lives; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Initiatives to curb farmers' suicides

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb the farmers' suicides in various States of the country, which is a matter of great concern;

(b) if so, the details of these initiatives and their implementation status;

(c) whether the number of farmers' suicides have decreased after Government's initiatives; and

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

Suicides by tenant farmers

660. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to address the problems of tenant farmers who bear the risk of crop failure but are not entitled for compensation and insurance payments;

(b) the total number of tenant farmers who committed suicide in the last three years and the current year, up to 1st July, 2017, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the detail of specific steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to address the issue of large number of farmers committing suicide?

Production of pulses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government may not be importing huge quantity of pulses considering the improved crop of pulses this year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that 21 million tonne of pulses are expected locally this year, if so, the details thereof?

Bumper production of wheat and pulses

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have grown record yield of wheat and pulses in Maharashtra and other parts of the country this season, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the record production of wheat and pulses has also brought miseries for the farmers as the prices of their produces have nosedived; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to provide relief to the affected farmers?

Availability of quality seeds at affordable prices

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

(a) whether it is a fact that seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that good quality seeds are out of reach of the majority of farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers mainly because of their exorbitant prices; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide good quality seeds to small and marginal farmers at fair price?

Ill effects of excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides

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

(a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides is adding excessive carcinogens in both land and food produces which is causing irreparable damage to the health of the land and the people;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent such practices;

(c) the amount of fertilizer subsidy disbursed during the last five years, State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) whether Government has commissioned a survey to study the ill effects of excessive use of fertilizers in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Suicides by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that only in 2015 agriculture and farming sector witnessed 9.4 per cent of total suicide victims in the country;

(b) if so, the details of suicides reported

from the farming sector during the last five years, State-wise and the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the State-wise present status and implementation of support extended from Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); and

(d) the action taken by Government to protect the marginal, small farmers and agricultural labourers who are in indebtedness and are facing crop failures?

Workshop on modern technology for farmers

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

(a) whether Government organises regular workshops to train farmers to adopt modern technology, better seeds and fertilizers for better productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the frequency and outreach of these workshops, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same in last three years, State-wise?

Insurance cover for fish ponds in Odisha

667. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to impress upon the insurance companies to provide insurance cover to the fish ponds in Odisha; and

(b) whether Government also proposes to take steps to give equal status to Fisheries at par with Agriculture?

Drought in the country

668. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total cultivable land in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of drought affected areas at present, State-wise;

(c) whether any financial aid or drought relief has been distributed to the farmers of drought affected areas during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 and

(d) if so, whether any drought relief has been sanctioned to Kerala during the said period, if so, the details thereof?

National programme on organic farming and millet cultivation

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

(a) the number of acres of land under organic farming in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is working on a National level programme on organic farming and millet cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with States, experts, agriculture scientists and others, if so, the outcome of the same?

MSPs for pulses, cotton and oilseeds

670. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for pulses, cotton and oilseeds for 2017-18 crop year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted for the said increase?

Marketing of maize, millet, raagi and similar crops

671. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers cultivating maize, millet, raagi and other similar crops are facing severe problems due to non-availability of buyers in the market;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure marketing of these grains at remunerative price; and

(c) whether Government will come out with schemes to increase the awareness in the general public about the benefits of such produces in order to increase their market share for the benefit of the farmers cultivating them?

Agitation by farmers

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

(a) the names of States where agitating farmers were fired at in the last six months, including the incident in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of demands of the farmers;

(c) the number of farmers who committed suicides in the country in the last one year and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would collect the data regarding the number of farmers who took loan from moneylenders at high rate of interest and the steps being taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by Government to emancipate them from the clutches of moneylenders; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Effect of pesticides on human health

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the States where excessive use of dangerous pesticides for agricultural purpose was made, have shown considerable increase in cancer cases amongst the agricultural workers and those using their produces;

(b) if so, the measures Government will deploy to restrict the excessive use of pesticides by farmers; and

(c) the schemes introduced by Government to promote organic farming in order to minimize the bad effects of pesticides on human health?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

674. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared 301 Mandals in 8 districts of the State as drought-affected;

(b) whether Central Government has received proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to extend drought assistance to the tune of ₹ 3,173 crore;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the Ministry of Rural Development for increasing the wage days

to 150 under MGNREGA in drought affected areas, if so, the details thereof?

Status of proposal under Blue Revolution

†675. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for ₹ 1040.50 lakh under Blue Revolution has been sent *vide* endorsement number 6340, dated 8th March, 2017 and sanction of the same is awaited; and

(b) if so, by when the amount, as per proposal, would be released?

Decline in agricultural growth rate

676. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that growth rate of Agriculture Sector has come down to 5.2 per cent from 6.9 per cent in the previous quarter?

Waiving of farm loans

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it is Government's policy not to waive off farm loans, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of outstanding loans to farmers, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had promised to provide MSP plus 50 per cent price for their produces to the farmer, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Norms for tackling drought

678. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prevailed upon the States to follow the accepted norms and guidelines for tackling the drought situation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the names of States which have formulated and executed the famine code?

Marketing reforms

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government, in consultation with the NITI Aayog, has identified a set of marketing reforms to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produces by reducing intervention of middlemen and aimed at doubling the farmers' income;

(b) if so, the details of the marketing reforms; and

(c) the time-frame for putting them in place?

Pink bollworm attack on Bt. Cotton crops

680. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton is still being grown in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pink bollworm is attacking the Bt. Cotton crops, causing loss of yields; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control pink bollworm in the country?

Dependency on agriculture

681. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of the population depends on agriculture;

(b) if so, what is their percentage;

(c) what is this figure in China, Indonesia, Israel, Brazil, etc.; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to ease this pressure on agriculture?

Providing fair price and storage facility to farmers for their produces

†682. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to ensure fair price and storing facility to farmers for their produces in case the agricultural production is more than its demand in the market and the procurement capacity of Government; and

(b) the analytical information of procurement price and consumer price of onion and its storage in the country including Madhya Pradesh, with reference to part (a) above, State-wise?

Income of farmers

683. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is a proposal to double the income of farmers in the coming years;

(b) if so, the current average income of farmers in terms of land holdings;

(c) what would be the asking growth rate in agriculture, annually, for achieving this objective; and

(d) the measures being taken in this regard?

Suicides by farmers

†684. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total incidents of farmers' suicides during tenure of the present Central Government beginning from 2014 to 10th July, 2017, State-wise;

(b) the details of compensation provided by State Governments or Central Government to the deceased's family in above incidents; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Central Government for farmers to make agriculture profession remunerative?

Package for replacement of seized fishing vessels

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

(a) whether Government had disbursed funds to any fishermen under the "Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels Seized by Pakistan", as mentioned in Budget 2017-18, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a similar package will be given for the replacement of fishing vessels

seized by Sri Lanka, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

National Horticulture Mission in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

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

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

(a) the number of districts of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra included under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM);

(b) the details of the horticulture crops likely to be included under the above Mission and the details of the producer and consumer relationship made applicable, State-wise; and

(c) whether any infrastructural units for the management of crops, after their harvest, have been set up in the above States under this Mission, if so, the details thereof?

Agitation by farmers in Madhya Pradesh

687. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether Central Government has taken note of the farmers' agitations in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh where five farmers have been killed in police firing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their agitation;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has sought any report from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by State Government against the police officials for killing of farmers and also for mitigating the hardships faced by them?

MSP and bonus to chilli growing farmers

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

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

(a) whether Government of Telangana has sent any proposal to Central Government for providing MSP to chilli growing farmers and a bonus keeping in view the loss incurred by them, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Central Government has taken any decision on this matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Central Government in this regard?

Suicides by farmers due to wrong policies

689. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are still committing suicides due to the wrong policies of Government, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the news of such incidents is also coming from those States which are considered advanced in agriculture; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such suicides and the speedy redressal measures being taken by Government?

Monopoly of foreign companies over GM seeds

†690. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) by when the Ministry is proposing to start producing Genetically Modified mustard for commercial use after getting permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have monopoly over seeds of other GM crops, including mustard, because of which farmers are bound to purchase seeds from them; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken by the Ministry for bringing seeds of GM crops within the reach of Indian companies?

Procurement of agricultural produces at MSP

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(a) the steps taken towards reducing the cost of production of agricultural produces and the details of initiatives taken for the implementation of recommendations of M. S. Swaminathan Committee for the pricing of agricultural produces;

(b) the name of agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being fixed currently and whether all the crop produces are being purchased at this rate from the farmers in the market; and

(c) the problems faced by farmers of the country and the steps taken to address them, the details thereof?

New Drug Policy

692. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce a new Drug Policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when this new Drug Policy would come into effect, the details thereof?

Import of urea

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

(a) the quantum of urea imported by the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of amount set aside for estimated urea import in 2017-18;

(c) whether Government has decided to make available urea bags of 45 Kg. instead of 50 Kg., if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this move will help to cut urea consumption and save large amount of money on subsidy annually, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to revive closed urea manufacturing plants to ramp up production and to export the same to our neighbouring countries?

Support to small and medium pharma industries

694. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to disinvest the loss-making and under-performing pharmaceutical PSUs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such PSUs, State-wise;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to revive the IDPL, Chennai;

(d) whether Government has any special plans to motivate small and medium pharmaceutical companies in a very competitive field plagued by monopoly of pharmaceutical giants, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the incentives provided to support small and medium pharmaceutical industries in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

Production capacity of fertilizer plants

695. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that certain fertilizer units are understating and underutilizing their production capacities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken to re-assess the production capacity and quality; and

(c) the action proposed against these companies and the concerned officials?

Setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations

696. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government on setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs);

(b) the details of JAKs proposed and set up since implementation of scheme, State-wise and year-wise, respectively;

(c) whether Ministry has decided to set up JAKs at more than 1,000 railway stations;

(d) if so, in view of limited demand at railway stations and requirement of platform ticket to enter stations, how it would be useful for people; and

(e) whether any consultations have been held with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for an enactment to mandate doctors to prescribe only generic medicines?

SPV for Cluster Development in Pharma Sector

697. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established any Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the State of Tamil Nadu under Cluster Development for Pharma Sector (CDS-PS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the manufacturer and enterprises of pharma producers as the share holders of SPV; and

(c) the details of the funds released so far?

Adherence to GMP by pharma companies

†698. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued certain guidelines to pharmaceutical companies towards adhering with GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) norms;

(b) if so, whether pharmaceutical companies have taken no steps towards compliance in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take any action against such companies; and

(d) If so, the details and time-line thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations

†699. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the railway stations identified under this scheme; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-limit for implementing this scheme at all railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Flouting of NPPA's pricing norms by drug companies

700. SHRI D. RAJA: : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many pharmaceutical companies are found flouting pricing norms by introducing drugs without the approval of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation or National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken by Government to check the violation of pricing norms of the NPPA?

Declaration of prices of medical devices

701. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical devices which are declared as 'drugs' such as stents, valves, orthopaedic implants, syringes and tools for operations will have to declare their maximum retail price and other details including that of manufacturer and importer; and

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

Revised ceiling prices of drugs

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

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had notified revised ceiling prices of about hundreds of medicines/drugs recently;

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

(c) to what extent the revised ceiling has reduced the prices of such medicines/drugs?

Jan Aushadhi Kendras

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

(a) the status of 3000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) proposed to be opened in various States of the country;

(b) the details of JAKs made operational so far, State-wise;

(c) the justification for making it mandatory for doctors to prescribe generic medicines when there are not even 3000 JAKs in the entire country; and

(d) the efforts made by the Ministry to bring awareness among the people about generic medicines and Jan Aushadhi Kendras?

Inclusion of Orthopaedic implants in the list of essential drugs

704. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that manufacturing companies are charging

exorbitant prices of orthopaedic implants several times higher than its manufacturing cost, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to include the orthopaedic implants also in the list of essential drugs?

Promotional offers allowed by TRAI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has rejected Telecom Commission's contention that free promotional offers allowed by it are responsible for the industry's falling financial health and lower licence fee payments to Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Telecom Commission, in a letter to TRAI, had warned of loan default by operators and asked the TRAI to revisit its tariff orders and free promotional offers of firms; and

(c) if so, whether the Telecom Commission has received any response from TRAI in this regard?

4G data traffic

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the high speed broadband technology 4G drove data traffic across the country in 2016, making up 60 per cent of incremental data volumes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as 4G and 3G technology usage increases, service providers will need to improve capacity through site connectivity to fibre and use

of optical fibre backhaul as an efficient and higher capacity data transfer solution; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the 4G coverage is yet to penetrate across all circles, if so, the reasons therefor?

Decline in revenue of telecom operators

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the decline in telecom operators' revenue was due to falling tariff, which impacts their capacity to invest and can also lead to delay in spectrum payment, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that telecom service providers' debt is almost ₹ 4,60,000 crore, if so, the details thereof?

Condition of Government companies in Telecom sector

†708. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unprecedented progress in telephone communication, net revolution and other technical systems, due to which at present we are talking about 3G to 4G and even advanced technologies, has been brought about by Private sector only, the details thereof;

(b) whether on other hand, Government companies and corporations are in deplorable condition and corporations working at level of metropolitan cities are on verge of closure, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal for making Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

telephone companies and corporations stronger so that they can pose stiff competition to Private sector, if so, the details thereof?

Stressed debt in Telecom sector

709. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the increasing stressed debt in the Telecom sector;

(b) if so, the percentage share of debt of Telecom sector in financial years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle the rising stress?

Upgradation of BSNL mobile tower

710. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any letter regarding upgradation of BSNL mobile tower into 3G, which is installed in Udaipur, in village Bakhuli in Chirgaon Tehsil under Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when it will be upgraded into 3G, keeping in view the fact that most of the customers of that area are using BSNL mobile phones and also that other private telecom operators have already upgraded their mobile towers?

Call drops

†711. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers

are facing heavy losses due to call drops while talking on mobile phones and companies are earning benefit from it; and

(b) whether Government is going to make such provisions through TRAI so that call drops could be avoided and in case it occurs, the consumers do not have to bear the losses, if so, the details thereof?

Mobile towers operating in the country

†712. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of mobile towers operating in the country, mobile company-wise, and the number of mobile towers being set up at present, State-wise;

(b) whether complaints have been received that the mobile companies are not following the prescribed guidelines regarding electro-magnetic radiation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of penalty imposed by Government on those companies and the total amount of penalty that could be recovered, the details thereof?

Internet facilities in the country

713. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of internet users in the country, State-wise, and the extent of internet connectivity;

(b) whether low internet penetration in some parts of the country has adversely affected Digital India initiative, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has assessed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the need to augment telecom infrastructure so as to provide internet services in villages, small towns and cities, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is taking any steps to make available quality internet facilities in different States, especially Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of telecom policy

714. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would review its telecom policy in the midst of declining profits, mounting debts and high prices of spectrum acquisitions faced by telecom operators and to evolve some relief measures for the Telecom sector;

(b) whether with telecom density having reached a reasonable level, with operators spending huge money in rolling out their mobile networks in rural areas entirely at their cost, the Government would suspend their Universal Service Obligation amounting to 5 per cent of their adjusted gross revenues for sometime; and

(c) the other relief measures Government contemplates to adopt to place the Telecom sector at comfort level?

Mobile towers in residential areas

715. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several telecom service providers, including BSNL, are installing mobile towers in residential localities in violation of guidelines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of mobile towers erected by mobile telecom service providers in residential locations, State-wise and operator-wise; and

(c) whether the safety of human beings is ensured from the radiation of these towers?

Value of mobile sets produced in the country

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

(a) the details of mobile handsets imported during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 along with the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the value of mobile handsets produced in the country during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to encourage multi-national companies to set up manufacturing units in the country pursuant to the announcement of the Prime Minister in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof along with the details of such units set up so far in the country?

BSNL network in naxal-affected Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

†717. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unavailability of proper network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in naxal-affected areas, including Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, has been a grave problem, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this problem is more grave

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in Left Wing Extremism affected districts such as Dantewada, Sukma, Bastar, etc., if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the suitable measures being taken by Government to promote the facility of telecommunication, mobile network and internet facility in naxal-affected districts of Chhattisgarh?

Roaming charges

718. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that roaming charges by telecom companies have been abolished in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether many of the private telecom operators are still charging for roaming in domestic network, if so, the action taken thereon?

Corruption cases against senior officials

719. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has filed any cases against senior officials of the Department of Telecommunication for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004-14, the details thereof?

Payment of dues to sugarcane growers of Andhra Pradesh

720. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 mandates payment of cane prices within 14 days of supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum, on amount due, has to be paid to sugarcane growing farmers;

(b) whether sugar mills in Andhra Pradesh owe nearly ₹ 250 crore to cane growers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the dues are as old as three years; and

(d) if so, the action Government will take to ensure that cane dues are paid to farmers in Andhra Pradesh?

Detection of fake ration cards

721. SHRI SAMHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake ration cards have been detected while linking them up with Aadhaar;

(b) if so, the number of fake ration cards detected, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of genuine persons in the country do not have ration cards and getting them is a very difficult task; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to make the process of issuance of ration cards for genuine persons simpler, if so, the details thereof?

Wastage of foodgrains and vegetables

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported news that vegetables and foodgrains are being destroyed on a large scale in the country due to inadequate storage infrastructure facilities; and

(b) if so, the action Government has taken in this regard, the State-wise details thereof?

Pendency in Consumer Fora

723. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the National, State or District Consumer Fora in the country;

(b) the efforts Government has made for the disposal of the pending backlog;

(c) the steps Government proposes to take for the speedy disposal of the cases; and

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of the long pendency of such cases, if so, the details thereof?

Expenses incurred in keeping foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government has any data

regarding the expenses incurred in keeping the foodgrains; and

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

Levying of service charge by hotels and restaurants

725. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued an advisory to States/UTs to discontinue the charging of service charges by restaurants and hotels in bills for food and drinks and termed it as illegal practice, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this advisory, many restaurants in Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities are charging service charges; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any mechanism to trace such restaurants levying service charges and penalize them, if not, the reasons therefor?

Import duty on sugar

726. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar output in the country in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether this sugar output has matched with the demand in the country, the year-wise comparison thereof;

(c) the details of sugar imported during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) whether Government resorts to dynamic import duty rates on sugar to regulate supply and demand, if so, the details of import duty rates applicable on sugar in the years 2016-17 and 2017-18, so far?

Import of foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government plans to import the foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Distribution of essential commodities through Fair Price Shops

728. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is striding towards end of public distribution of essential commodities through Fair Price Shops;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is reducing the concessions on the essential commodities also, if so, the reasons therefor?

Foodgrains damaged in FCI godowns

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 62,000

tonnes of foodgrains were damaged in FCI godowns in the last six years;

(b) if so, the details of foodgrains and quantity of foodgrains damaged beyond human consumption in the last six years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is planning to sell the damaged stock, if so, the details thereof?

Aadhaar-enabled ration shops

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

(a) whether Government plans to make all ration shops under Public Distribution System in the country Aadhaar-enabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far, State-wise; and

(c) to what extent the Aadhaar-enabled ration shops will be helpful in preventing black marketing by ration shops?

Setting up of additional storage capacity

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

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

(a) the total storage capacity for foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a grave situation has arisen due to non-availability of storage facilities for foodgrains in the country, resulting in a lot of foodgrains and edible items lying in open places and thus getting damaged/destroyed; and

(c) whether Government plans to give incentives to Private sector to set up additional storage capacity for foodgrains in the country along with other efforts being made by Government in this regard?

Incidents of cyber attacks

732. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently country faced a wave of cyber security incidents ranging from targeted attacks on Government organisations to ATM malware attacks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country is ill-prepared to combat potential risks associated with cashless transactions and pushing hundreds of millions of citizens' private information into the digital space; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is taking to deal with sophisticated financially motivated espionage actor groups focusing on critical systems and maturing businesses in 2017?

Losing of jobs by IT engineers

733. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about two lakh IT engineers are going to lose jobs annually in the next three years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) if not, the views of Government on this issue?

Encouraging online services

734. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging the States to adopt online services through its schemes and projects, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government helps infrastructural development in the States for achieving the same, the details thereof;

(c) the projects sanctioned for the purpose with their corresponding amounts in Manipur during the last five years; and

(d) the details of plans of action for computerization and cyber connectivity of Central and State Government offices in the State?

Augmenting cyber security

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

(a) whether Government considers any need to improve and augment cyber security after the recent ransomware threat to digital infrastructure in the country, and

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

Cyber attacks and GST networking

736. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during the recent past, a number of cases of

major cyber attacks were reported, which have taken entire digital network on task;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking cyber safety measures to combat such attacks;

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

(d) whether GST network would also be safe from cyber attackers?

Cyber security pact with Spain and Germany

737. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a cyber security pact with Spain and Germany;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the likely benefits to India from the pact; and

(c) the steps Government is planning to undertake to address the challenges pertaining to the cyber security?

Steps to control ransomware attacks

738. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to control the spread of a ransomware called 'wannacrypt', which locked the data in computers across globe including India, demanding a ransom; and

(b) the precautions and measures taken/ considered to be taken by Government in handling such situations in future?

Cyber attacks and preventive measures

739. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the details of number of cyber attacks that happened in the country in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to ensure cyber security and warnings issued to the corporate sector;

(c) the impact of recent Petya ransomware in the country and proactive measures initiated by Government; and

(d) the details of preventive measures being taken to guard against such attacks in future in view of increasing digitization in the country?

Issues related to Aadhaar linked payments

740. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the issue related to Aadhaar linked payments wherein security and other problems occurred during linking with PAN cards; and

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

Fraudulently issued Aadhaar numbers

741. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 crore residents were enrolled in Aadhaar under the weak enrollment system existing before the Aadhaar Act; and

(b) the steps and guidelines Government has issued to ensure that fraudulently issued Aadhaar numbers do not become gateways to obtaining Voter ID and passports?

Cold chain units/cold storages in Himachal Pradesh

742. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold chain units/cold storages set up in collaboration with Public-Private Partnership in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the problems being faced by the entrepreneurs and stakeholders of Food Processing Industries and the steps taken to solve these problems/issues; and

(c) whether Government has recently conducted any survey to identify the places for setting up of cold chain/food chain in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof?

FDI in FPIs

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

(a) the norms and extent to which the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is

permitted in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

(b) whether any concern and apprehension has been expressed in regard to aforesaid issue and if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the impact of FDI on the domestically established FPIs in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Creation of National Food Grid

744. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to create a National Food Grid to oversee the food processing and allied sector activities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of SAMPADA scheme with budget allocation;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government's approval for FDI in food retail, the Ministry is struggling to get any concrete response from the investors, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate issues such as farm-gate to market, reefer vehicles, cold chain grids, Food Park clusters and Mega Food Parks?

Pendency of cases in courts

745. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of pending cases in courts has been increasing consistently over the past few years;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, down to lower courts during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether functioning of courts could be improved to expedite judgement in these cases; and

(d) if so, the types of improvement which could be made?

Empowerment of Election Commission with contempt powers

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of a request by Election Commission (EC) that contempt powers be given against those who make unfounded allegations and question the EC's credibility, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government agrees with the Poll Panel and proposes to amend the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 to empower EC to act against those who question the authority of the Poll Panel?

Constitution of All India Judicial Service

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

(a) the present status of the constitution of All India Judicial Service;

(b) the details of various views given by the State Governments and Courts on the issue;

(c) whether Government has finalized the consultative process in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to overcome the objections raised by the different High Courts in this regard?

Shortage of Judges and pendency of cases

†748. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are not getting justice timely due to shortage of Judges in courts and the burden of cases continue to increase on courts, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for Government not taking any concrete steps in this regard in spite of being aware of it;

(c) if not, the number of pending cases in courts as of now and by when these cases will be disposed of; and

(d) by when shortage of Judges in courts will be fulfilled?

Regional Benches of Supreme Court

†749. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that lakhs of people in the country have to travel from remote areas to New Delhi to file appeals in the Supreme Court against the verdicts/judgements of High Courts of States;

(b) if so, whether Government, on advice of the Supreme Court, will take initiative *de novo* to establish regional Benches of the Supreme Court in four regions of the country in view of various representations, recommendations of Law Commission and in the interest of general public; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Computerization of courts

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

(a) the number of courts computerized in the country till date the details thereof with special emphasis to the courts in NE States;

(b) the number of Judicial Service Centres currently being operated by the Ministry and out of them, the number of those constructed in the last three years;

(c) whether all the court proceedings, judgements and information on pending cases are made online by the courts in the country including High Courts, District and Subordinate Courts, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Ministry for computerization of courts in the country during the last three years?

Steps to increase Subordinate and District judiciary

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

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the strength of Subordinate and District judiciary considering the large number of pending cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, in what manner does the Government propose to deal with this problem?

Speedy disposal of cases pending against MPs and MLAs

†752. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special provisions have been made for the disposal of criminal cases pending against Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies; and

(b) whether Special Courts have been constituted to dispose of such cases in a fixed period of one year?

Status of Special Mentions

753. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Mentions laid in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017;

(b) the number of Special Mentions laid in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017 that have been responded to, by the respective Ministers within 30 days; and

(c) the steps being implemented currently to ensure that all Special Mentions are responded to, within 30 days?

MSP for agricultural produces

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have not been given an appropriate price for their produce to keep inflation in food items under check;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various agricultural produces during a decade;

(c) the details of the increase in the income of Government employees in the corresponding period; and

(d) the details thereof?

Implementation of assurances of Ministers

755. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of assurances given by Ministers in Parliament is a function of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the percentage pendency of assurances made in the Rajya Sabha between the 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017;

(c) the Ministry-wise percentage pendency of assurances between the 7th of July, 2014 and the 12th of April, 2017; and

(d) whether on comparing between the 15th and 16th Lok Sabhas, there is an increase in the pendency of assurances, if so, the reasons therefor?

Rail connectivity with capital of Manipur

756. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the capital of Manipur would be connected through railway;

(b) whether many deadlines could not be met in the past, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed railway stations in the State;

(d) whether the Imphal to Jiribam railway line is part of the Trans-Asian railway network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed stations of the network in the State and the time-frame of actions proposed?

Corruption cases against railway officials

757. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has filed any cases against any senior railway officials for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004-2014 along with the details thereof?

Option of alternate choice to waitlisted ticket holders

758. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waitlisted train ticket holders will get an option of selecting an alternative choice of any other train on the same route, if the original ticket does not get confirmed on the day of the journey;

(b) whether the said scheme might give Railways a realistic idea of demand for a special train for the route to be rolled out to meet the rush so that no demand remains unmet; and

(c) whether country-wide, the overall vacancy of berths in trains is in the range of just 12 per cent?

New railway line from Baramulla to Kupwara

759. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for a new railway line from Baramulla to Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

Cadres of railway officers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways is divided into eight structured cadres of officers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to send out officers of one cadre to work for another cadre for a fixed period in order to qualify for top post, if so, the details thereof?

Derailment of 15014 Kathgodam-Jaisalmer Express

761. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten coaches of 15014 Kathgodam-Jaisalmer Express derailed between Thayat Hamira-Jaisalmer recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government suspects involvement of ISI in the said derailment; and

(c) if so, whether Government has ordered any inquiry into this?

Incidents of unlocking of coupling of train coaches

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incidents of unlocking of coupling of train coaches have been noticed in the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year, Division-wise;

(c) whether it is due to mechanical failure or human negligence;

(d) whether any corrective action has been taken so that it does not recur in future; and

(e) the details of such action taken by Government?

Modernization of railway network

763. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are undergoing a US \$ 139 billion, five year overhaul to modernize its network, which is blighted by aging tracks and saturated capacity; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have also introduced a US \$ 15 billion fund to improve rail safety, if so, the details thereof?

Supply of steel for rail tracks

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are

considering ending State-owned Steel Authority of India Limited's virtual monopoly on supplying steel for standard rail tracks; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to purchase steel worth upto US \$ 700 million from the private sector, if so, the details thereof?

Dedicated Freight Corridors

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in the process of developing Dedicated Freight Corridors in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when these will be operational and the sectors that would be covered; and

(c) the total estimated cost of the projects and the mode of financing the projects, along with the details thereof?

Abolition of posts in Railways

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

(a) whether Railways are considering abolition of a large number of posts, which are now vacant due to retirement of staff, for privatizing various components of work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Second broad-gauge line from Mumbai to Madgaon

767. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start a second broad-gauge railway line from Mumbai to Madgaon on Konkan railway route;

(b) if so, whether the work has commenced;

(c) whether help from Government of Goa has been sought in writing by Government;

(d) the quantum of land which will be required in Goa sector for the purpose; and

(e) whether any initiative in this regard has been made?

Upgradation of railway stations

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

(a) the total number of railway stations under South Central Railway (SCR), Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR);

(b) the number of stations upgraded during the last three years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure availability of minimum essential amenities at all the stations under SCR, CR and WR?

Flexi Fare System

†769. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the passengers are facing difficulties due to Flexi Fare System introduced for Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains; and

(b) if so, by when the Government will withdraw said fare system?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of electric loco workshop in Kalahandi, Odisha

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

(a) whether Railways have sanctioned setting up of an electric loco periodical overhauling workshop in Kalahandi, Odisha, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways will set up the workshop at its existing land or any new site has been identified for it;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the purpose in the current year's budget; and

(d) by when the workshop is likely to be commissioned?

Efforts to increase the speed of trains between New Delhi to Jaipur

†771. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average speed of various trains running from New Delhi to Jaipur at present; and

(b) whether Railways are making any efforts to increase the speed of these trains from New Delhi to Jaipur to reduce the journey time, if so, the details thereof?

Bullet train

†772. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bullet train project is going to take a long time to materialise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the country will get a chance to travel by a Bullet train?

Non-imposition of fine on minors travelling without train ticket

†773. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after accepting the suggestion of Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government has decided that neither fine nor any action would be taken against minors travelling without ticket/violating any rule of Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most gangs execute crimes in trains through minors;

(c) if so, the likely impact of that on law and order of Railways; and

(d) whether Government would reconsider its decision if it has adverse impact on law and order?

Recreational amenities in major trains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide recreational amenities in certain major trains running through various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is also considering to provide such amenities in the trains running through Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the names of such trains and the timeline specified thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Jan Aushadhi stores at
railway stations**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce generic drug medical shops in the railway stations in the name of "Jan Aushadhi"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Running of private-owned rakes in
Railways**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to run private-owned rakes in the Railways primarily under the cargo sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any proposal under the Special Freight Train Operations Scheme therefor; and

(c) if so, the details of offer and the infrastructural award process thereof?

Reasons for loss to Railways

777. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for loss to Railways at present inspite of rise in fare of passengers/goods;

(b) whether Government is contemplating any plan to overcome the loss by removing the reasons behind it, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has planned to change the previous structure of income sources to patch up the losses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Losses incurred in certain Divisions
and Zones of Railways**

778. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are incurring huge losses in certain Divisions and Zones despite the best efforts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of income and expenditure during the last two years, Zone-wise and Division-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such losses and strategy of the Government to minimise them?

**Railway Zones and Divisions in the
country**

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

(a) the number of Railway Zones/ Divisions in the country at present along with their names and headquarters;

(b) whether some States have been kept under more than one Railway Zone and Division, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the people's representatives of Uttarakhand have requested to keep the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

complete State under the Northern Railway; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking action on the said request so far?

Measures for timely running and safety of trains

†780. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of special measures taken for timely running, protection and safety of trains during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2014, 2015 and 2016 along with the outcomes thereof?

Representation against circular of Railway Board

781. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received representations from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association against Railway Board circular No. 22/2017;

(b) if so, whether Association has drawn attention of Government towards unemployment caused/going to be caused to thousands of small catering vending licensees and their vendors as a result of implementation of circular;

(c) if so, whether Railways have received suggestions for withdrawal of circular No. 22/2017 so as to protect employment/livelihood of thousands of vendors and their dependent families working on different catering vending units of Railways; and

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

Pending railway projects

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects are pending due to lack of coordination between various State Governments and the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that State Governments nominate their representatives to sort out different issues for speedy execution of railway projects in their respective States?

Commissioning of Khurda Road bypass line

783. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the target date of Railways for commissioning of the Khurda Road bypass line (1.3 kms) to facilitate smooth movement of trains between Puri and important south Odisha cities like Brahmapur, Ganjam, Chhatrapur, Chilika, etc.?

Revenue generated from Flexi Fare System

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

(a) the details of the revenue generated through Flexi Fare System from 9th September, 2016 till 11th November, 2016;

(b) whether it is a fact that 8,95,462 seats/berths remained vacant in this period, if so, the details of the total revenue which Railways would have generated if full seats/berths were sold out;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the reason of these vacant seats is surge pricing, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government is planning to introduce Flexi Fare System in other than the 148 trains at present?

Supply of power to Railways

‡785. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of power supply companies who have supplied power to Railways in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016;

(b) the details of the quantum and cost of power supplied by the said companies, year-wise;

(c) whether procurement agreements have been made with some other companies for power supply in the year 2017; and

(d) if so, the details of quantity and the cost involved therein?

Impact of GST on railway fare

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

(a) the impact of GST on railway fare;

(b) whether it has hiked railway AC fare too much;

(c) whether due to impact of GST, the present fare of every class has almost doubled in comparison to last few years; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce its impact on common man?

Increasing the speed of trains

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has approved a project to increase the speed of trains in select sectors, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether upgradation of signalling system and safety measures would be included, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost involved in the project and by when it would be operationalised, route-wise details thereof?

Railway employees facing major penalty

‡788. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group 'A' and 'B' employees of Railways who are facing cases of major penalty, the details thereof, Zone-wise; and

(b) the posts on which these officers are appointed at present and whether their appointments have been made in view of the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission, along with the details thereof?

Doctors working in Railways

‡789. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of doctors working in the Central Divisional Health Unit in Railways;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts along with the vacant posts against it and the steps being taken to fillup these vacant posts;

(c) the minimum educational qualifications prescribed for appointment of doctors in Railways and the number of doctors who possess higher degrees than the MBBS;

(d) whether any policy has been formulated by Railways for recruitment of specialist doctors for its different departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of vacant railway land

790. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken by Government to utilise the vacant lands belonging to Railways for additional income generation and production of energy, etc.;

(b) whether Government has any special plans to involve corporate companies in exploiting the railway lands for commercial ventures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the list of such corporate companies involved?

Schemes to National Handloom Development Programme

791. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of the National Handloom Development programme implemented in the country in the last three years ending June, 2017;

(b) the number of these schemes implemented in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) to what extent the handloom weavers of the State of Karnataka have benefited from such schemes?

Mega textile exhibition in Gujarat

792. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has organized a mega textile exhibition in Gujarat, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of countries which have participated in the exhibition;

(c) the main theme of the exhibition;

(d) the number of MoUs signed with global manufacturers during the exhibition; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to make India as a global sourcing hub and to provide a platform to connect and collaborate with global manufacturers?

Census of Handloom sector

793. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for conducting the census of Handloom sector is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in conducting the said census; and

(c) by when the said census is likely to

be conducted and the data released for formulation of development and welfare policies for the said sector?

Success of Textile India-2017

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

(a) whether 'Textile India-2017' organized by Government at Ahmedabad could achieve appreciable success, if so, the details thereof including the success achieved; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to organize similar mega shows in other countries also to promote Indian textiles which may result in much greater export?

Textile Parks

795. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of operational textile parks in the country, including the ones set in SEZs, along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of those set up under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks, the details thereof;

(c) the number of garment and apparel manufacturing units under these textile parks, the details thereof;

(d) the number of labour employed in these textile parks across the States in the country along with the details thereof with special reference to percentage of women therein; and

(e) the details of textile parks sanctioned by the Ministry in the last two years?

Implementation of NHDP schemes in Odisha

796. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) that have been implemented in the country;

(b) how many of them have been implemented in the State of Odisha; and

(c) in what manner the Handloom weavers of the State of Odisha got benefited from such schemes?

Production and export of cotton

797. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cotton commodities has fallen by over 30 per cent in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the cotton production during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to revive the export of cotton commodities?

Schemes/funds for development of handloom and handicraft sectors

798. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented for development of handloom and handicraft sectors in the country;

(b) the funds allocated/released to Himachal Pradesh and utilised by the State Government under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for development of handloom and handicraft sectors and for increasing the employment opportunities in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh?

Safeguarding Handloom Cooperative Societies

799. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the Handloom Cooperative Societies in Telangana have become powerless and at the stage of extinction;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to safeguard the Handloom Societies in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives and financial

assistance being given to these Handloom Societies and handloom workers?

Special package for displaced labourers in Textile sector

800. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many labourers have lost their jobs during the last three years in Textile sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to protect the labourers in this sector; and

(c) whether Government proposes any special package for the displaced labourers in this sector, and if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th July, 2017

Ashadha 24, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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