

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, July 24, 2017/Shravana 2, 1939 (Saka)

(Ministries : Coal; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Earth Sciences; Environment,
Forest and Climate Change; Mines; New and Renewable Energy; Panchayati
Raj; Power; Road Transport and Highways; Rural Development; Science and
Technology; Shipping; Water Resources, River Development and
Ganga Rejuvenation)

Total number of questions — 160

Unsafe coal mines in Maharashtra

801. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to wind up unsafe coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of such coal mines which are located in the State of Maharashtra?

Coal cess collections for clean energy initiatives

802. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) total amount of coal cess to financially support clean energy initiatives, collected since 2011-12, State-wise;
- (b) total amount of the collected fund spent so far in supporting clean energy initiatives, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of such clean energy

initiatives supported by Government, so far?

Underground fire in Bihar coal beds

†803. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that subterranean fire is smoldering in the coal bed area of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the date on which information was received by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to control the fire and the extent to which it has been controlled?

Re-allocation of coal blocks

804. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has re-allocated 47 coal blocks through

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transparent auction after the Supreme Court had cancelled the allotment of 204 coal blocks made during the previous UPA Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this issue;

(c) whether the decision to allocate the remaining coal blocks has also been taken and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has formulated strict rules and norms for grant of permission and allocation of coal mines to curb corruption and favoritism of any kind; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Price of coking coal

805. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) raised the price of coking coal without any discussion with its key customer SAIL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that SAIL did not turn up for deliberations despite repeated pleas by CIL;

(d) whether CIL is considering to revise the price to accommodate the request of various steel manufacturers, including SAIL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Sale of coal as per consumer requirement

806. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited plans to set up a joint venture in order to sell blended coal as per consumer requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cut down the logistics cost component in landed prices of coal?

Strike by Singareni coal workers against merger of coal workmen PF with EPF

807. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the strike by Singareni coal workers who protested against the merger of Coal Workmen Provident Fund with Employees Provident Fund, as it would reduce the accrued amount, if both are merged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to resolve these problems and protect monetary loss?

Splitting of CIL into seven companies

808. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog proposed splitting Coal India Ltd. (CIL) into seven units as independent companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose behind such proposal;

(c) the response of Government;

(d) whether all stakeholders will be effectively consulted including labour unions before taking any decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Coal reserves under Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail track

809. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total coal reserves under the Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail track and adjoining areas;

(b) the opinion of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) about the extent of underground fire;

(c) whether options have been considered for dousing the underground fires; and

(d) the details of plan to mine coal underneath the Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail track and adjoining areas?

Specialist doctors at CIL Hospital, Dhanbad

810. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of specialist doctors at the Central Hospital, Dhanbad in key streams like neurology, cardiology etc.;

(b) whether there is any proposal to raise the retirement age of doctors serving in hospitals of Coal India Limited like what has been done by the Central Government;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, by when?

Potable water in Government schools and rural areas

811. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints about the impure drinking water in Government schools and in rural areas;

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

(c) the steps taken to provide safe and pure drinking water to Government Educational Institutions and to the rural population so far?

Fund allocation for drinking water

†812. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas in the country, including the State of Maharashtra which were fully and partially covered and where water quality was affected with regard to drinking water, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds released and utilised for drinking water schemes during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of schemes for drinking water, if so, the details and outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed by Government to provide the safe drinking water to all households in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mortality due to polluted drinking water

‡813. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people die in the country every year of diseases borne due to polluted water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large part of rural population is deprived of drinking water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Central Government is working on any scheme to provide pure drinking water to entire population of the country; and

(f) if so, the details of the achievement so far against the target set?

Allocation for drinking water and sanitation schemes

814. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released and utilised under drinking water and sanitation schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(b) whether some State Governments/UTs have not fully utilised the funds provided under the drinking water and sanitation schemes during the last three years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Irregularities in ODF districts

815. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been observed in the districts which have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the respective State Governments after launch of Swachh Bharat Mission; and

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

Allocation for NRDWP in Rajasthan

816. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP);

(b) the extent to which Government has achieved the aims and objectives of the said programme in the country, especially in Rajasthan;

(c) whether any special objectives have been set to address shortage of drinking water in the State; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and released by the Central Government under the said programme along with its utilisation during each of the last three years and the current year, especially in the State?

Expenditure on SBM

‡817. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is not yielding the expected result;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the total expenditure incurred by Government on SBM, so far and the positive outcome thereof?

Construction of defective toilets

†818. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the toilets are being constructed just to increase figures, ignoring their utility and quality;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, Government agency responsible for monitoring utility and quality of the toilets to be constructed and the total number of toilets that have been found to be defective so far?

Drinking water from wells, ponds and borewells

†819. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families in the country which are getting drinking water from wells, ponds and borewells, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of rural families which are devoid of facilities of sanitation, clean drinking water, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) by when the rural population of the country would be declared open defecation free under Swachh Bharat Mission and the details there of along with present status?

Supply of clean drinking water to SC and ST areas

†820. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for supply of clean drinking water to the areas dominated by SCs and STs in the country;

(b) the percentage of work completed for the projects running under above schemes and the estimated time required to complete them, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of amount allocated/ released and utilized under drinking water schemes during the last three years and current year, the details thereof, State-wise?

Open defecation free villages

821. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as on June 2017, 33 per cent of the country's villages have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages;

(b) if so, the coverage of ODF villages so far, State-wise; and

(c) the proposed target of Government for 100 per cent individual sanitation, in the country, details thereof?

Mission on provision of Fluoride and Arsenic free water

†822. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate mission has been set up under National Rural Drinking Water Programme for a permanent solution, through surface source based drinking water system in settlements affected from excessive Fluoride and Arsenic; and

(b) whether 5108 Fluoride affected rural settlements in Madhya Pradesh have been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

included in this mission, wherein drinking water facility of permanent nature are yet to be developed and if not, by when they will be included?

Allocation for sanitation facility at Nandla in H.P.

823. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a letter from Prime Minister's office regarding sanctioning of sufficient funds for provision of sanitation facility at village Nandla in Chirgaon Tehsil in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh (H.P.); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the sanitation facility will start functioning in this village?

Contribution of funds under Swachh Bharat Kosh

824. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) when was Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK) started and contribution of private or public funds to this Kosh since its inception, year-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that private sector contribution to SBK has been dwindling during the last couple of years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that private sector companies are escaping from contribution by saying that they are constructing toilets under their CSR; and

(e) if so, the number of toilets each of the private company constructed in 2015,

2016 and till June, 2017, company-wise and year-wise?

Allocation for Bihar under SBM

†825. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) amount allocated to Bihar under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in the current financial year;

(b) whether the target for construction of separate toilets for boys and girls in all schools, has been achieved;

(c) whether the achievements with regard to the target set for construction of toilets for all municipalities/gram panchayats, have not been satisfactory; and

(d) the efforts being made for construction of toilets in all homes under SBM?

Construction of toilets under SBM (G) in M.P.

†826. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households benefited under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin SBM (G) Yojana during the last three years and current financial year, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of efforts made to expedite the drive of toilet construction under this scheme during last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) details of the amount so far allocated under SBM (G) Yojana, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assessment of sanitation status under SBM (G)

827. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin SBM (G), a country-wise and yearly independent third party assessment of sanitation status is mandatory;

(b) if so, the details of such assessments undertaken during 2015, 2016 and 2017, State-wise;

(c) whether World Bank is yet to release the first instalment of \$ 1.5 billion loan to SBM-Gramin in July 2016, as Government has not fulfilled the condition of conducting and announcing results of independent verification survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the basis on which open defecation free villages/blocks/districts and States are declared without independent audit?

World bank loan for SBM

828. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) to States since 2014, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government is supposed to receive \$ 376 million loan from the World Bank for the SBM, if so, the details and status thereof;

(c) if the loan has been received, has it been released to the States, if so, the details of the funds allocated so far, State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of regarding the methods being used for tracking the usage of funds allocated?

Thinning out of rain clouds in Western and Central India

829. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per a study conducted by India Meteorological Department, over a period of fifty years (1960 to 2010 rain clouds are thinning out in Western and Central India;

(b) if so, the detailed highlights/findings of the study; and

(c) the steps proposed to counter the decline in rainfall in the above regions?

Setting up of a High Altitude Cloud Observatory near Munnar, Kerala

830. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a High Altitude Cloud Observatory near Munnar in Kerala;

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

(c) the expected benefit that this region will get from this move;

(d) the estimated cost involved in setting up the observatory;

(e) whether Government proposes to set up such facilities in other parts of the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken by Government in mapping the impact of climate change on agriculture, fisheries, tourism, biodiversity and forestry sectors in the long run?

Rise in global sea levels

831. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global sea levels are rising every year;

(b) if so, the rise of sea level in the Indian coastal regions during the last three years;

(c) the possibility of rise in the next 10 years; and

(d) the actions taken by Government and/or proposals to tackle the serious threat in near future?

Accurate prediction of monsoon rains

832. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Meteorological Department had predicted normal or more than normal monsoon rains last year;

(b) whether some of the States did not get good monsoon rains as predicted and suffered severe drought conditions; and

(c) whether there are any special plans to ensure that the forecast of the weather is almost accurate so that the agriculturalists are able to plan accordingly?

Pollution from thermal power plants

833. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 19 thermal power plants across the country are

polluting the air of the respective cities, if so, the details thereof, plant-wise;

(b) if so, whether those polluting power plants are not complying with the prescribed guidelines of Government, if so, the details thereof and since when these plants are not having pollution control equipments; and

(c) whether these power plants have been penalized for causing pollution and if so, the details thereof?

Clearance of seaport project at Tadadi

834. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Shipping Ministry sent a proposal to clear a seaport project at Tadadi on PPP mode;

(b) since when the proposal is pending with the Ministry and the reasons therefor;

(c) what constraints the Ministry is facing in clearing the above proposal; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared by the Ministry?

Cases under consideration of NGT

835. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases under the consideration of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), State-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken to speed up the process of disposing cases, if any?

Rise in average temperatures

836. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the average temperature in the country during the last ten years;

(b) whether the average temperature has shown an alarmingly rising trend as compared to rest of the world; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to tackle this situation?

Standard for noise pollution

837. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has specified any standard for noise pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the permissible standard of noise pollution in residential areas;

(d) whether Government has any data regarding places with higher pollution; and

(e) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has set up any monitoring mechanism to contain this pollution?

Spread of environmental protection

838. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry proposes to take up work related to environmental protection as a movement all over the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Ministry to move ahead in this direction; and

(c) the steps being taken to engage people's representatives in this work at different levels?

Control over increasing global warming

†839. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to check the increasing global warming, at a fast pace due to forest fires and the smoke emanating therefrom;

(b) the instances of fire in forests across the country during the last five years along with the names of the forests, State-wise;

(c) the clear policy of Government to save forests from fires or whether any changes have been made in the earlier policy after review; and

(d) the details thereof?

Projects or programmes for the rivers of Manipur

840. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) has any projects or programmes for the rivers in Manipur and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Nambul River is highly polluted due to sewages from the Imphal City, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government contemplates to carry out a sewage project to save the river from pollution;

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

(e) the details of funds released to the State Government from the Ministry during the last three years, year-wise with their purposes?

Revenue from tourism in national parks

841. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue generated through tourism to national parks of the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount of funds spent during the last three years to preserve national parks of the country, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to increase the tourism in the national parks of the country?

Poaching of tigers

842. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of poaching of tigers in the country and to what extent it has been controlled; and

(b) whether all the tiger reserves in the country have special guards to control such a loss, if so, the details thereof?

Increasing attacks on human beings by wild life

843. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there has been increasing incidents of attacks on human beings by wild animals in recent years;

(b) if so, the number of persons attacked/killed by wild animals during the last three years;

(c) if so, the compensation for wild animal attacks are being misused by tribals in some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Impact on weather due to increasing temperature and pollution

†844. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether weather of earth is getting affected due to increasing temperature and pollution, and other resources including agriculture have been adversely affected due to harsh summer-winter, rain and snowfall and unseasonal hailstorm and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government with regard to the above; and

(c) whether Government is taking steps in the direction of implementing the proposals suggested at global level for keeping the environment safe, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pollution due to plastic in oceans and beaches

845. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale pollution due to plastic in oceans and their beaches, including those in the country, which is affecting the marine life and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

Forest clearances and CAMPA funds in Madhya Pradesh

†846. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state the number of pending cases concerned with forest clearance and the details of 'CAMPA' funds of Madhya Pradesh, and the amount yet to be released therefrom and by when the said amount would be paid?

Environmental clearance for industrial units in Rajasthan

847. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of industrial units in Rajasthan have been functioning without obtaining environmental clearances;

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

(c) the action Government proposes to

take against the owners of the industrial units?

Funds for wildlife protection

848. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals from various State Governments including Rajasthan requesting for funds for wildlife protection; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated to each of the States?

Non-disclosure of high tide line for coastal States

849. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a policy of non-disclosure of high tide line for coastal States, particularly Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of information related to high tide line for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry?

Programmes to control air pollution

850. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that, in spite of several programmes being run to control air pollution, desired results have not been achieved;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to modify the present air pollution control programmes; and

(c) whether Government proposes to continue with present programme for some more time?

Projects under NRCP

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

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects launched under the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) by Government during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned and utilised till date and current status of these projects;

(c) whether the target to decrease pollution in rivers, has been achieved under the programme, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to rejuvenate NRCP; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Denotification of forest lands for industrial purposes in Andhra Pradesh

852. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request from the Andhra Pradesh Government to denotify forest lands for non-forest uses or for industrial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of land requested and the purpose for which it was requested; and

(d) whether Government has denotified any forest land during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh?

Elephants straying into human habitations

853. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of elephants straying into human habitations has been increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of human casualties which have taken place due to their attacks during the last three years; and

(d) the details of steps taken to tackle this problem?

Consideration of environmental concerns of NBWL in project clearances

854. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper and due consideration has been given to environmental concerns of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) while granting clearances, given the extremely low rate of rejection of projects; and

(b) the details of the procedure adopted by the NBWL in order to arrive at its decisions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Central funds to check pollution in Karnataka

855. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has released any funds to Karnataka to check pollution in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the details of the pollution control related works carried out from this fund during the said period?

Rise in conflict between humans and animals

856. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increase in population of some wild animals such as nilgai, elephants and rhesus monkeys are leading to a rise in human-animal conflict;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India is considering mercy killing as a method of controlling the population of wild animals for the first time;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken the views of all stakeholders including wildlife conservationists;
- (f) if so, details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government for preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable utilisation of species and ecosystem?

Funds for plantation in forest lands

857. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is sanctioning any funds to States for plantation in forest lands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of funds released to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, under these schemes?

Death of tigers

858. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 11 tigers had died every month in 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether there has been a nexus between influential persons, poachers and forest rangers for causing death of tigers; and
- (d) if so, the swift action taken by the Ministry to break this nexus?

Ratification of Paris Climate Agreement

859. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) when India has entered/ratified Paris Climate Agreement;
- (b) the details of amount that India received as foreign aid under the above agreement in 2015, 2016 and till June, 2017, year-wise;

(c) whether there are any provisions under the Paris Climate Agreement to renegotiate any country's exit and reentry; and

(d) the total Green Climate Fund (GCF) accrued so far and the details of countries that have contributed to GCF, country-wise?

Animals falling prey to electric lines

860. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more animals are falling prey to electric lines in farmlands, plantations, around human settlements, etc.;

(b) if so, the total number of animals electrocuted during the last year and the current year;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Centre to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments for violation, if any, of those guidelines due to which animals fell prey to electric lines?

Reduction of ESZ areas

861. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed to reduce the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) area of certain wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks in the country;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to protect the habitat of a number of endangered animal species belonging to these sanctuaries and National Parks?

Pollution in mines, streams and rivulets

†862. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rivers are getting polluted on a large scale, due to flowing of untreated sewage and industrial and hotel wastes directly into rivers, streams and rivulets and if so, the total number of polluted rivers and rivulets in Maharashtra;

(b) the schemes being implemented by Government to save these rivers from pollution; and

(c) the details of the above schemes and the streams and natural rivulets apart from the big rivers included under this scheme to make them pollution free?

Damage to Yamuna flood plains

863. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Experts appointed by National Green Tribunal opined that serious damage has been caused to Yamuna flood plains in Delhi where the World Culture Festival organised by the Art of Living was held in March, 2016;

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

(c) the actions being taken by Government to rectify the damages?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Glacier melting at
Gomukh**

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

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of
melting of glacier at Gomukh is increasing
every year because of global warming;

(b) the measures taken by the Ministry
for balancing the pace of melting and
formation of glaciers and the result thereof;

(c) the details of steps being taken/taken
for minimizing the pace of melting of
glaciers like Gangotri, Dukrani,
Chaurabadi, Doonagiri in Uttarakhand;

(d) the opinion of experts on adverse
effects of climate change causing natural
calamities including floods and droughts;
and

(e) whether any study has been
conducted regarding those effects?

**Expansion of Shamshabad
Airport**

865. SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry
has consented for expansion of
Shamshabad Airport and given its
clearance for the same; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Economic implications of Prevention of
Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of
Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017**

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

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed
economic implications of the
implementation of newly introduced
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
(Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules,
2017 pertaining to farmers and meat
producing industry and if so, the details
thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to
provide market linkages for farmers to sell
their old and unproductive cattle for
slaughtering and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan
to rehabilitate the people employed in the
meat industry, who will be adversely
affected and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what alternatives have been
provided?

Prior permission for linear projects

†867. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to get prior
permission for linear projects like widening
of railway tracks and roads under Forest
Conservation Act and Environment
Protection Act; and

(b) whether Government considers
traffic density or future traffic report

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

essential before giving permission for construction of new railway tracks or widening of roads?

Initiatives and policies for development and exploitation of mineral deposits

†868. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken new initiatives and adopted new policies for total development and exploitation of mineral deposits in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of profits earned by various mining companies during the last three years and also during the current year; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is considering disinvestment of loss making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and it has taken over some profit making PSUs and if so, the details thereof?

Rescue package for distressed power plants

869. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has evolved a rescue package for distressed power plants of Tata, Adani and Essar groups; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the financial status of these plants at present?

Auctioning of mining leases

870. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:
SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has auctioned about 21 mining leases and these minerals blocks have a cumulative resource value of around ₹ 94,000 crore;

(b) whether Government has already facilitated the auction process extending support from IBM and GSI and various PSUs such as MSTC, MECON, MECL and SBICAP; and

(c) whether Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha are among the States preparing for auction of mineral blocks like iron-ore, limestone and bauxite in the next financial year and if so, the details thereof?

Auctioning of mineral blocks

871. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would auction around 300 mineral blocks in the country during 2017-18 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the States have very large number of mining leases; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Karnataka alone has about 100 odd leases which would be put for auction and if so, the details thereof?

Electricity generated through NRE

†872. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the quantum of electricity being generated through new and renewable energy sources in the country;

(b) the quantum of energy generated during the last two years; and

(c) the amount of fund allocated for the development of energy production through new and renewable sources of energy in Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken for its promotion?

(b) the status of installation of solar lights in hilly and remote villages of the country with special emphasis to Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether Prime Minister's Office has forwarded any request for installation of 16 solar lights in village Nandla which falls in Chirgaon Tehsil of district Shimla to the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh and if so, by when the solar lights would be installed at Nandla?

Encouragement to bio-gas and other renewable energy sources

873. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy to encourage people from the remote and rural areas to produce bio-gas and other renewable energy for cooking, heating and other purposes;

(b) if so, whether Government is extending any financial or infrastructural assistance to such people; and

(c) if so, a list of the schemes and assistance that Government is providing to the people of rural and remote areas for production of bio-gas?

Installation of solar lights in remote and hilly areas

874. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Government guidelines for installation of solar lights in the country especially in the hilly and remote areas across the country and the agencies/ organizations responsible for bearing the entire cost of installation;

Contribution of solar and wind energy

875. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contribution of solar and wind energy as compared to total electricity generation of the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of top five and bottom five States in the usage of solar energy for the generation of electricity and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by how much Government is planning to increase the generation of solar and wind energy in next five years?

Beneficiaries under Right to Light Scheme

876. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under Right to Light Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether Government would extend the benefit to hilly and tribal areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of villages in forest areas through NRE

877. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposals from various State Governments regarding electrification of villages in the forest areas including backward areas and remote areas through New and Renewable Energy (NRE) sources;

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

(c) the details of the proposals sanctioned out of the said proposals for approval, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the funds released during the said period, State-wise?

Estimated solar power generation by 2022

878. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target fixed for generation of solar power energy by 2022 was revised in 2015 from 22 GW to 100 GW;

(b) the plans for solar power energy generation to achieve revised targeted capacity and the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on setting up of the plants and whether these would be set up by Government controlled agencies or private players would also be pooled in to achieve the target?

NRE programmes in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

879. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of New and Renewable Energy (NRE) programmes in the two Telugu speaking States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the number of projects initiated under solar and wind energy in the two States?

Modalities for setting up of National Solar Mission

880. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the modalities of setting up of the National Solar Mission in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the modalities are likely to be finalized?

Electricity to farmers through renewable energy sources

881. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide electricity to the farmers through renewable energy sources by formulating subsidy based Renewable Energy Policy in the country;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to provide financial assistance for new research and development in renewable energy sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any proposal has been received by the Central Government in this regard; and

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

Environmental impacts due to solar cells

882. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the non-biodegradable nature of most solar cells and its impact on the environment and if so, the details of steps taken by Government to tackle the same;

(b) whether Government is aware of the various poisonous by-products produced during the manufacturing process of solar cells; and

(c) whether Government is working on a sustainable energy plan instead of just moving completely to renewable sources and if so, the details regarding the same?

Scope of BRGF

†883. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether scope of BRGF is expected to increase in future;

(b) if not, whether the Central Government has stopped funds to States under BRGF;

(c) if not, the details of amount given to districts in border States under BRGF during financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16; and

(d) the names of districts for which funds would not be released under BRGF along with the reasons therefor?

Training to public representatives of Panchayats and municipal bodies

†884. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to run a special training programme to impart training to public representatives of Panchayats and municipal bodies with regard to their rights, duties and powers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of rural projects for PRIs

†885. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate rights have been conferred on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for implementation of rural projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain basic problems were raised at Prime Minister's level and in the conferences of representatives of Gram Panchayats held under the aegis of the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to address them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rural electrification

886. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rural electrification and the time-frame to electrify all the villages in the country;

(b) whether Government is implementing the Decentralised Distribution Generation (DDG) scheme for the electrification of villages located in backward and inaccessible areas through new and renewable energy sources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of villages covered under DDG scheme, so far, State wise?

Coverage of electricity

887. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent population still do not have any access to electricity;

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

(c) the details of the achievement made during the last three years in providing new electricity connections?

Environmental clearance hampering hydro power projects

888. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of hydro power projects planned in different parts of the country have been stalled due to environmental concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether obtaining environmental clearance for hydro power projects takes a long time causing undue delays and if so, the steps taken by Government for simplification of the procedure to obtain early environmental clearance?

Thermal power generation

889. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electricity generation from conventional energy sources was same during February, 2017 as compared to this month during the last year;

(b) whether electricity generation from thermal power plants slipped marginally, but it has remained the main source of electricity catering to more than 92 per cent of the country's total power supply;

(c) whether the generation achieved a total monitored capacity of about 265 GW; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Power situation in the country

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generated from various sources in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether, despite a number of measures being taken by Government, there exists a huge gap between demand and supply of power resulting in shortage of power in most of the States/UTs;

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

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power?

Taking over of short term liability of discoms by State Governments

891. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are required to take over the short term liability of power disoms in their States;

(b) if so, the details of debt taken over during the last three years, so far, discom-wise, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether it is likely to affect electricity tariffs for the common man;

(d) if so, the details of States where it has resulted in lowering of tariffs;

(e) whether it is likely to push up financial burden on the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the manner in which this will be dealt with?

Surplus generation of electricity

892. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aims to make our country surplus with electricity and also able to export it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering for reduction of electricity tariffs/prices in the domestic consumption; and

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

Discouragement of hydro power generation

893. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to discourage hydro power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of stressed hydro power projects in the Central sector; and

(d) the steps being taken to revive/start them?

Status of UMPP at Cheyyur, Tamil Nadu

894. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the Tamil Nadu Government to expedite the bidding process for the 4,000 MW Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) at Cheyyur in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there are any bottlenecks in implementation of the said project;

(c) whether Government has taken any appropriate remedial steps to clear the bottlenecks if any, to expedite the implementation of UMPP; and

(d) if so, the details and the current status thereof?

Additional power generation

895. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target of additional power generation for the current Five Year Plan period, year-wise;

(b) the annual target of contribution from the Central, State and private sector power generation facilities;

(c) the details of the actual addition made in power generation during the first two years of the plan period;

(d) whether it is a fact that the targets of annual capacity addition have been missed; and

(e) if so, which sector, out of the Central, State and private sectors, has shown slippages and the reasons therefor?

Debt of power distribution companies

†896. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of debt, profits and losses of power distribution companies during the last three years;

(b) whether Government-owned power distribution companies are increasingly more in debt than the privately-owned power distribution companies and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to reduce burden of debt of power distribution companies, if so, details of steps taken, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Electrification of uninhabited villages

897. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has electrified more than 700 villages where there is no habitation;

(b) if so, the reasons behind spending money in such villages;

(c) the amount spent to join grids with such villages, State-wise; and

(d) the present status of the 'power to all' project?

Plantation under Green Highways Scheme

898. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD:

SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has begun planting trees on the land of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under Green Highways Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of such plantations done in the country during 2016, State-wise?

Construction of highways along coastline of Odisha

899. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had proposed for construction of highways along coastline of Odisha in June, 2015, and appointed a consultant for preparation of feasibility report and Detailed Project Report (DPR) but no action appears to have been taken in the matter despite lapse of one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken in this regard, so far, and the present position thereof; and

(d) by when construction would start?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Highways projects in Karnataka

900. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new National Highway projects have been earmarked for Karnataka;

(b) the rate of conversion of the present highways into 4/6 lanes in the State; and

(c) the total budget outlay for the current financial year for all the highway projects in the State?

Identification of old bridges for repair

901. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has identified various bridges in the country which have outlived their utilities; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with a particular reference to Bihar and Jharkhand?

Taking over of incomplete expressways/road projects of States

902. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incomplete State expressway/road projects taken over by Government during each of the last three years and the current status thereof, year-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether proposals received from some of the States to take over incomplete expressway/road projects are still pending with Government;

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

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

Declaration of roads as National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

903. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared a few roads in Himachal Pradesh as National Highways;

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

(c) whether Government has awarded the contract for construction therein;

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

(e) the amount allocated/released and utilized on the project so far, and the current status of the projects, road-wise?

Cashless treatment to road accident victims

904. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing cashless treatment to road accident victims on certain stretches of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not extending this facility to all road accident victims on all stretches of National Highways;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend this facility to all road accident victims on all stretches of National Highways; and

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

Maintenance of National Highways

905. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted for maintenance of National Highways;

(b) the legal/administrative provisions laid down for the purpose by the Central Government and/or State Governments; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor during the last three years and the names of National Highways in Northern States?

Deaths due to road accidents

906. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road agencies would be booked for deaths caused by potholes;

(b) whether Government has accepted the proposal for treating drunken driving cases, resulting in deaths, as culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the Indian Penal Code which attracts a 10 year jail term or life imprisonment; and

(c) whether at present, drunk, drivers, causing deaths, are booked under section 304A of IPC, attracting two years jail term or fine or both?

Roads construction using plastic wastes

†907. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to use plastic wastes for road construction;

(b) if so, the length of roads, in kilometres, constructed from plastic wastes, so far, and the quality of such roads; and

(c) the target of road construction, in kilometres, from plastic wastes during 2017-18?

Development of Green Highways

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

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand Government for development of greenery along the sides of highways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hike in expenditure on road sector

909. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of money is going to be spent on road sector in the coming five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of public and private spending in this sector?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Use of plastic/jute in construction of National Highways

910. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to construct National Highways with the help of products like plastic, jute, etc.;

(b) if so, the current status of the progress of the project and the expected period for initiation of the usage of such products in actual creation of National Highways in the country; and

(c) the details of steps taken along with the allocation and utilisation of funds for research and development on innovation in road transport sector during last five years?

Safety audit of bridges and culverts

911. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created a data on all bridges and culverts in the country as part of steps to avert mishaps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether safety audit of bridges has been conducted;

(d) if so, the number of bridges found in dilapidated condition, particularly in Odisha; and

(e) the action taken by Government repair/replace old bridges?

Status of new highway projects

912. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new highways being constructed throughout the country;

(b) the number of ongoing highway projects still pending in the country particularly those in Odisha;

(c) whether Government has targeted any specific period for completion of these pending projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Feasibility studies for new ROBs

†913. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any feasibility study of new Road Over Bridge (ROB) projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of ROB projects initiated during last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken various measures to mobilise funds for certain ROB projects which are incomplete/pending due to shortage of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such projects, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trucks with air conditioned cabins for drivers

914. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:
SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new trucks manufactured after the 1st April, 2017 will have to be provided with air conditioned cabins for drivers;

(b) whether this was notified, explaining that drivers should not get tired owing to the harsh conditions;

(c) whether trucks were responsible for about 11.5 per cent of the total 1.4 lakh road deaths in 2015 and similarly buses were involved in 10,745 deaths last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Registration of BS-III vehicles

915. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether registration of BS-III vehicles is possible after the 1st April, 2017;

(b) whether manufacturing of such vehicles will not be allowed after the 31st March, 2017;

(c) whether stopping such registration without stopping the production would lead to huge loss for vehicle manufacturers like in 2001 and 2005 when migration to BS-II and BS-III took place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agreement with the Asian Development Bank for improvement of State Highways

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

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry and the Asian Development Bank have signed a loan agreement to improve connectivity, transport efficiency and safety on State highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many State Highways will be benefited from this agreement and the total length of roads that would be covered;

(d) whether similar agreements will be signed with global financial institutions to improve other State highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Contracts for four and two laning of NHs

†917. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contracts awarded for the four and two laning of various National Highways in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Jharkhand since 2014-15 till date;

(b) whether traffic density of the above segments of roads have been studied before awarding contracts for the above works and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Financial

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

burden of the construction of the above roads is being borne?

Penalties on contractors for poor maintenance and operation of highways

918. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to impose heavy penalties on contractors for poor maintenance and operation of the highway stretches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any survey on condition of National Highways in the country which need immediate maintenance before heavy rains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned therefor, State-wise?

Reduction in targets under PMGSY

919. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to reduce targets under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY); and

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

Tendulkar Committee recommendations on rural poverty

920. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the Tendulkar Committee recommendations on the rural poverty figures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to reduce poverty levels in the country?

Implementation of PMAY-G in Odisha

921. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether online registration, sanction and payment of installment under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has not been allowed by the Ministry in Odisha; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to update the Socio Economic Caste Census list 2011 for selection of eligible beneficiaries in missing villages of the State?

Construction of houses under PMAY-G in Manipur

922. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would sanction more dwelling units under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in special consideration of the large scale destruction of houses by present flash floods in the valley districts of Manipur;

(b) the assistance provided for a dwelling unit and whether Government would raise the cost of a dwelling unit in view of the local costs in the State and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of beneficiaries under the scheme in the State during the last three years, block-wise?

Implementation of SVEP in Chhattisgarh

†923. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain locations have been identified in Chhattisgarh under Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of areas identified in the State for the said programme; and

(d) the number of rural people, proposed to be assisted every year under this programme and whether any target has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Meeting of NMC with dalits displaced in Pydipaka

924. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 435 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th February, 2017 and state:

(a) whether the National Monitoring Committee (NMC) has sent a team to Pydipaka and Polavaram to meet dalit and OBC farmers facing eviction;

(b) the dates when NMC visited Polavaram area in 2017 and whether NMC met dalit and OBC representatives;

(c) how NMC proposes to ensure implementation of assurance quoted in the above referred answer that the persons

losing land, belonging to Scheduled Castes, etc. will be provided equivalent land; and

(d) the steps proposed by NMC to meet displaced people of Pydipaka in Delhi to resolve the issue?

Audit of PMGSY by CAG

925. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG had reviewed Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in 2005 and observed deficiencies in planning, fund utilisation, contract management, quality assurance, maintenance of roads and monitoring;

(b) whether CAG had conducted performance audit covering period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 to review the progress of PMGSY;

(c) whether the performance audit has disclosed instances of non-adherence to planning procedure, deficiencies in preparation of project proposals, inefficient contract management, poor maintenance of roads, ineffective quality control and online monitoring system; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to remove deficiencies in implementation of PMGSY to cover all eligible unconnected habitations thereunder?

Progress of NWDPRRA

926. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA) has not made enough progress;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made and the results achieved during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of the amount allocated and utilised for this purpose, State-wise?

Irregularities under MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh

927. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of misappropriation of MGNREGA funds in Makavarapalem and Mandalam villages in district Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court Bench directed Andhra Pradesh Government and Visakhapatnam Collector to explain reasons behind this misappropriation of funds;

(c) whether delay in payments, not giving average days of employment to more than 50 per cent of job seekers, misappropriation of funds in the State have become the order of the day; and

(d) if so, what action the Ministry has taken on the same?

Work under PMGSY in Madhya Pradesh

†928. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount provided and released under the Padhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Madhya Pradesh during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 as on date, year-wise; and

(b) the annual progress of construction and maintenance of roads during the said period in Ujjain division along with the amount spent thereon, district-wise?

Pucca houses and toilets in forest villages

929. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of Pucca house is not allowed in villages which are situated in forest areas and designated as forest village;

(b) if so, whether the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and the Swachh Bharat Mission do not cover such villages; and

(c) if so, how Government plans to provide them the basic facility of toilet and a Pucca house, which is a commitment of Government to every citizen?

Linking MGNREGA with agricultural wages

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

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to the Ministry to link the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with agricultural wages and pay 50 per cent agricultural wages to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision on the matter, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Target for construction of houses under PMAY

931. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target for construction of houses by 2018-19;

(b) the number of houses constructed during 2016-17 which were sanctioned for that year itself and the number of houses constructed in 2016-17 to clear backlogs for the previous years;

(c) whether Government intends to review the target under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to increase the pace of construction of houses to meet the target?

Verification of VDPs under SAGY

932. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to check and verify the Village Development Plans (VDPs) uploaded by the district authorities on the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) website for their compliance to the guidelines issued for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many VDPs were verified, so far, and how many conform to the guidelines?

Fraudulent withdrawal of money from accounts of MGNREGA beneficiaries

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

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of any case under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of usurping money of workers by colluding with bankers and making workers withdraw money from bank accounts;

(b) the number of such complaints received, so far; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to check usurpation of workers' hard earned money under MGNREGA and whether the Government would consider its monitoring by any independent agency or any mechanism to collect confidential information?

Sharing of Aadhaar details by MGNREGA beneficiaries

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

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under MGNREGA who have shared their Aadhaar details with authorities as on the 1st July, 2017;

(b) the number of beneficiaries out of them, who have been paid through Aadhaar enabled payment system in various States;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government maintains State-wise data of status of Aadhaar enabled payment authentication and if not, by when it would be done; and

(d) the details of the mechanism in place to monitor status of Aadhaar enabled payment to prevent leakages in disbursal of wages and promoting financial inclusion?

Construction of rural road in Shimla, HP

935. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received a letter during April or May, 2017 regarding remetalling of Magwani-Nandla road and construction of link road Jangla to Nandla in Chirgaon Tehsil in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of Bakhuli-Nandla link road in Chirgaon Tehsil, district Shimla, Himachal Pradesh is lagging behind its schedule; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and whether responsibility will be fixed for the delay?

Ph.D programme in database system and climate change informatics

936. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 34 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 2015 and state:

(a) whether 16th Senate meeting of Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) held on 6th, May 2015 had decided in-principle to reinstate Ph.D

programme in database systems and Climate Change Informatics at CSIR-NISCAIR;

(b) if so, the details of reinstatement and delay, if any;

(c) whether the above Senate meeting had constituted a sub-committee to assist CSIR-NISCAIR to conduct the course; and

(d) if so, the details including members of sub-committee, date of report submission, dates of meetings held and minutes of sub-committee?

Non-utilisation of National Institutes for technical surveys

937. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organisation like Archaeological Survey of India, IIT Bhilai, National Centre for Seismology had invited tenders of large amount for topographical and contour survey plans, climate change adaptation, geotechnical and geophysical investigations etc. during the year 2017;

(b) if so, whether the technical expertise available in National Institutes under CSIR, DST, MoES, IITs etc. is not being utilised for the above under consultancy schemes and instead tenders are being invited; and

(c) if not, why these institutions are not considered for technical bid qualification and exempted from the security guarantee for the bid?

Progress of National Supercomputing Mission

938. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the National Supercomputing Mission including its supercomputer proposed to be built by 2017;

(b) whether Government is collaborating with private entities on applications for the supercomputer and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any measures to develop High Performance Computing (HPC) and the human resource for running these applications and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to connect all academic and R & D institutions across the country to the national supercomputing grid and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction?

Indo-Canadian Science Programme on clean water technology

†939. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether focus has been laid upon clean water technology through the funds allocated for Indo-Canadian Science Programme;

(b) the results achieved from the technology adopted for ensuring the supply of clean drinking water and efficient water management;

(c) whether the above technology is being used in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the use of the above technology is likely to commence in the country?

Waterways for cities situated on banks of rivers

†940. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to introduce water transportation in the cities situated on the banks of the rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the names of those cities; and

(c) whether waterways would be used for goods transportation or public transportation?

PPP projects at Mormugao Port Trust

941. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under PPP model functioning in the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT);

(b) the cost of each project;

(c) the nature of agreement and main clauses under PPP model;

(d) whether PPP model agreements have been put on the websites of the Ministry and that of MPT; and

(e) the security measures taken as regards parties involved in PPP models and details thereof?

Environmental damage due to coal transportation at Mormugao port

942. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether transportation of coal through Mormugao port is meeting with stiff resistance in Goa;

(b) steps taken by the Ministry and Port Trust to address the issues involved;

(c) whether the beautiful State of Goa is going to suffer environmentally due to this;

(d) what issues have been raised by the members of public or NGOs in this regard; and

(e) details of how each of the issue is proposed to be addressed?

Virus attack on JNPT Computer Network

943. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's largest container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has been affected by a computer virus, namely Ransomware;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedies adopted thereof?

Inquiry on Kamarajar port accident

944. SHRIMATI VIJILA
SATHYANANTH:
SHRI N.
GOKULAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has instituted an inquiry under the Merchant Shipping Act (MSA) to ascertain the factors that led to the accident of collision of two ships recently off the Kamarajar harbour;

(b) whether it is a fact that the port was not adequately prepared to tackle such a situation;

(c) whether the oil sludge had been completely removed from the damaged vessel and only about 2,800 tonne were left in the ship that has been anchored to the harbour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Removal of encroachment on Ganga river bank

†945. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously considering to remove the encroachment in the areas through which river Ganga flows, in the various parts of the country;

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

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

Extinction of river Yamuna in Delhi and Agra

†946. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the holy river Yamuna is on the verge of extinction in the National Capital, Delhi and at Agra, a major tourist spot of the country and it has taken the shape of a rivulet;

(b) whether Government is implementing a concrete plan to restore the original and ancient nature of the Yamuna river in both these cities; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation to U.P. for Ganga cleaning

†947. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fund provided to Uttar Pradesh Government for cleanliness of Ganga during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which this fund has been utilized?

Construction of STP/ETP on the bank of river Ganga

†948. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of STP/ETP constructed on the bank of river Ganga in its surrounding areas under Namami Gange Mission during the last three years in order to prevent river Ganga from squalor; and

(b) details of the total amount of fund spent on the construction of STP/ETP constructed on the bank of river Ganga passing through different States and the places where they are constructed, State-wise?

Allocation of funds for checking erosion in the coastal areas

949. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check erosion in the coastal areas of the country;

(b) the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized for the purpose during the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the current work status on the coastal areas of the country, State/Union Territory-wise?

Receding ground water level in Rajasthan

950. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is monitoring decline in ground water levels in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) names of which States have experienced highest fall in the ground water levels during the last three years and reasons therefor;

(c) the five worst affected States where ground water table is lowest in the country and reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to maintain and to replenish the receding ground water level, especially in Rajasthan?

Revised expenditure of Polavaram project

951. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Project Development Authority of Polavaram project has revised expenditure for Polavaram Project at ₹ 45,000 crores;

(b) whether Government is releasing funds as per the estimates of 2010-11;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment about the expenditure involved for Polavaram in view of Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act mandating Government to bear project cost as per 2014 estimates;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount so far released and Utilisation Certificates (UCs) submitted by Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(f) the amount allotted for rehabilitation of evicted farmers and tribals in the revised expenditure?

Flood control in Bihar

†952. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards devastation by floods in Bihar every year;

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has received any representation for economic assistance from Bihar Government; and

(d) if so, the amount provided by the Centre to Bihar under the head-flood?

Additional STP projects for cleaning Ganga

953. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved 20 additional projects worth nearly ₹ 1,900 crores for the cleaning of Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the projects are related to setting up new sewage treatment plants, upgradation of existing STPs and laying of sewage network in cities in the river basins; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fast tracking scheme of big irrigation projects

954. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme such as fast track scheme/ National Project to complete the big irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds spent on each scheme in the States including the criteria adopted to include these schemes under the fast track scheme/National Project;

(c) whether Government proposes to include any canal in Maharashtra under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Depletion of ground water levels

955. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which have been taken up for recharging the depleting ground water levels; and

(b) annual budget provisions for aforesaid purpose and the actual expenditure in the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

Cleaning Ganga with Israeli technology

956. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sought the help of Israel Government to clean Ganga river with futuristic water technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Ganga river would be free of pollution?

Removal of silt from rivers

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to remove silt and to prevent/remove its deposition at its initial stages in various rivers including Ganga;

(b) whether barrages and embankments bring buoyancy in water of rivers by depositing silt which creates flood like situation in areas adjacent to rivers; and

(c) whether constructions in Himalayan region also increase silt deposition in Ganga water and if so, the details thereof?

Treatment plants for removal of arsenic contamination

958. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to provide special grants to the State Governments to deal with the issue of arsenic contamination in ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the plants to set up for removal of arsenic are rather new and expensive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cleaning of Ganga water at Haridwar

959. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ganga water at Haridwar has been found to be unfit even for taking bath as per reports of the Central Pollution Control Board and if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for increasing pollution therefor despite creation of a separate Ministry;

(c) whether Government had taken any step to clean Ganga water at Haridwar, if so, the details thereof and to what extent Government have been able to clean it; and

(d) what is Government's policy for cleaning Ganga water at Haridwar and by when it is likely to be implemented?

**Closure of tanneries in
Kanpur**

960. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER

RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tanneries operating in the Kanpur region and the number of tanneries, which have been shut down by the Ministry in the Kanpur region;

(b) the number of tanneries who are in compliance with Government effluent treatment and discharge standards;

(c) the reasons for tanneries still operating in the region despite the harmful impact of their effluents on the river Ganga; and

(d) other relevant details?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th July, 2017

Ashadha 27, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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