

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, July 28, 2017/Shravana 6, 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

Debt burden on farmers due to higher cost of production

†1441. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that debt-burden
of farmers is increasing due to high cost of
farming, which is disheartening for them;

(b) whether Government is considering
to enhance MSP, giving 50 per cent profit
margin, to farmers for their agricultural
produce so that their economic condition
could be improved; and

(c) the quantum of increase in income
of Government employees due to

implementation of recommendations of
Seventh Pay Commission and the hike
effected in the prices of agricultural produce
of farmers in the meanwhile, the details
thereof?

Sanctioning of funds to Odisha for Crop Insurance Portal

1442. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR
SWAIN: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government would
take steps to sanction the proposed amount
of ₹ 1.50 crore to Odisha for procurement
of mobile phones and activation of bank
linkages in Crop Insurance Portal; and

(b) whether Government will also take
steps for capacity building of State Officials
and Bank Officials of Odisha on use of Crop
Insurance Portal along with making
provision of funds for programme
monitoring?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Damage of crops by animals

†1443. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:

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

(a) the number of oxen being used traditionally for cultivation-sowing in farms across the country and the number of tractors being used for the same;

(b) the cheaper and convenient method for cultivation-sowing by farmers in farms out of the two options; and

(c) whether Government is planning to build yard for unusable animals and cattle which cause heavy damage to farmers' crops, if so, the details thereof?

Sale of milk through Fair Price Shops

1444. SHRI RANGASAYEE
RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pasteurised milk is made available to the public in cartons by major dairies through Fair Price Shops in urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Poor construction of green houses and shade nets under NHM in Chhattisgarh

†1445. SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released to build green houses, shade nets and cooling chambers under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in Chhattisgarh during last five years;

(b) whether construction done with the amount released under the said head was of very poor quality and all the green houses and shade nets failed in just after a few months of their installation due to which beneficiaries could not get the targeted benefits; and

(c) whether any investigation has been done regarding poor quality of construction so as to take action against those usurping the fund of the scheme?

Lapses in addressing the problems of farmers

†1446. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of suicides by farmers have increased incessantly due to failure in appreciating and addressing the problems of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the suicides committed by the farmers in the last five years across the country; and

(c) the lapses in understanding and addressing the problems of farmers due to which they are being forced to commit suicide, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Relief under PMFBY

†1447. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to provide relief to farmers through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of districts in Bihar in which nodal officers have been appointed by Government to provide relief through PMFBY and the system put in place to inform the farmers about the same, the details thereof?

Inferior quality of agricultural appliances

†1448. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appliances and machines such as water pumps, ploughs, sowing machine, pesticide spraying machine and digging machines are of poor design and inferior quality resulting in less production by farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to upgrade the irrigational machines being used in agricultural activities?

Funds for drought relief to Karnataka

1449. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released from

the National Disaster Response Fund to the Government of Karnataka during the financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16 for drought relief in the State;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a report to the Ministry on the utilisation of the above funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Agriculture courses without permission of ICAR

1450. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed any educational institute to run the agriculture courses without the permission of ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details of the rule in this regard?

Ensuring proper price for agro products

1451. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unrest among farmers for multiple reasons in different States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Centre has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of certain commodities;

(c) if so, the details of increase in the MSP of these commodities; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure procurement of agro products to ensure proper price of these products?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Price Support Scheme for farmers

1452. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton has been implemented across the country;

(b) if so, the details of procurement of farmers' produces under the said scheme, when the prices of the produces fell below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the current period; and

(c) the other corrective steps taken by Government to provide adequate price/proper procurement mechanism to farmers for their produces in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh?

GST rates on pesticides

1453. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the GST rates on pesticides from the existing rate of 18 per cent, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce input cost on agriculture and to double the farmers' income by 2022?

Promoting Happy Seeder Technology

1454. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Happy Seeder

Technology and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote the technology, State-wise, including Karnataka; and

(b) whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry in Punjab and other States regarding the same and where this technology is being used?

Plan to replenish fish resources in Tamil Nadu

1455. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish resources have exhausted within 12 nautical miles of coastal areas, including Tamil Nadu in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to replenish fish resources within 12 nautical miles of coastal areas, including Tamil Nadu; and

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

Shortage of fodder

1456. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is substantial shortage of feed and fodder in the country;

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

(c) whether livestock is a major source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of the fodder in the country, particularly during the lean periods and crisis situations?

Functioning of KVKs

1457. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been established in the country since 1974;

(b) if so, the number of such Kendras established in 1974 and the total number of these Kendras in the country till June, 2017;

(c) the average amount spent annually for each KVK by Government; and

(d) the annual amount spent on an average basis for various activities by KVKs and the mechanism developed by Government for monitoring the functioning of these Kendras?

Impact of drought on farmers of Tamil Nadu

1458. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the fact that State of Tamil Nadu was worst affected due to the recent drought, what measures were taken by Government to support the affected farmers in the State; and

(b) the total amount of crop insurance given to the farmers in the State of Tamil Nadu during Rabi season-2016?

Use of cotton seed cakes for animal feed

1459. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton seed cakes are the mainstay of animal feed, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a considered policy approach has been evolved to declare Bt. Cotton seed as safe enough to be continued as animal feed?

Impact of GST on the rate of agricultural tools

†1460. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of tools used in farming have risen significantly with the introduction of GST;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would request the Ministry of Finance to keep the tools used in farming out of the ambit of GST, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider giving grants for buying farming tools?

Launching of e-Krishi Samvad

1461. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to the newly launched e-Krishi Samvad, an online interface platform;

(b) whether the interface will also be able to generate employment as more and more specialists and institutes will be required to provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the number of jobs Government proposes to generate in first year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Threat of yellow rust fungus on wheat crops

1462. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yellow rust fungus threatens to ruin wheat crops in many parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers have been advised to consult experts for confirmation of yellow rust and to spray a solution to control its spread, if so, the details thereof?

Hope of bumper harvest in view of good monsoon

1463. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether total rainfall recorded across the country in June, 2017 at 168.9 mm which is 4.0 per cent more than long-term average, has raised the hopes for a bumper harvest;

(b) whether, according to Meteorological Department's projection, with the prospects of El-Nino receding, above monsoon rainfall is likely to continue in the coming months; and

(c) whether good monsoon rainfall for the past few days has ensured major pick up in planting of pulses, cotton, coarse cereals and sugarcane?

Development of high yielding seeds

1464. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given nod for the GM seeds and to foreign companies to distribute and sell their GM seeds in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for giving such permission despite being opposed vehemently by the farmers, local people and civil society groups;

(c) whether Government has initiated research and development programmes to produce good quality seeds for high yield of crops like rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and fruits of good quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to double the yields by 2023?

Decrease in crop sowing area in Tamil Nadu

1465. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a 29 per cent decrease in crop sowing in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decrease in the crop sowing;

(c) whether Government has taken any measures to increase the area of crop sowing/cultivation in the forthcoming year; and

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

Upgradation of cold storages

†1466. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of cold storages, in crore metric tonnes, which has been targeted to be built by Government at the country level in the year 2017-19, the policy of Government for it; and

(b) whether the National Centre for Cold Chain Development, which conducts studies on this from time to time, has submitted any report regarding upgradation of cold storages already built in rural areas for some specific purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1467. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has declared some parts of the State as drought-affected and submitted a proposal for assistance to the tune of ₹ 2,282 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Inter-Ministerial Team has also visited the State to assess the damage caused due to drought; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Team and action taken by Central Government to help the State?

Agriculture market reforms

1468. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States

will once again be pushed to adopt provisions of the new model farm Act to usher in agri market reforms in the country in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this issue has been discussed with the Agriculture Ministers of the States recently; and

(c) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting?

Policy to ensure remunerative price for farmers' produces

1469. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent report, wherein it has been stated that due to wrong policies of Government, the farmers of the country are forced to sell their crops to private players at cheaper rates; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to frame a new policy for fixing MSP of every crop of farmers and purchase them under MSP to ensure that the farmers may get remunerative prices for their produces?

MSP for cotton, oilseeds and pulses

1470. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of pulses, cotton and oilseeds during last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended increase in MSP of above

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

crops for 2017-18, if so, the details of MSP fixed for these items;

(c) whether Government has also asked States to procure all farm produces to protect the farmers from distress sale, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government also held meeting with seed companies to cut prices of hybrid seeds by 10 per cent, if so, the outcome thereof?

Agitation by farmers in various States

1471. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the farmers' unrest has taken place recently;

(b) the reasons for the farmers agitation in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether Government will conduct a study on the various grievances of farmers in different States;

(d) the amount-spent from the exchequer by State Governments for waiving off the loans of farmers, State-wise;

(e) whether the Central Government will compensate the State Governments to meet the loan waiver; and

(f) the steps that Government proposes to take to solve farmers' grievances in the country, including changes in the policy?

Production of pulses, foodgrains and edible oils in West Bengal

1472. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects carried out to support and improve production of

pulses, grains and essential edible oils in West Bengal;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the above purpose during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate financial, logistic and technical support to West Bengal to improve production of pulses, grains and essential edible oils; and

(d) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the above purpose during the last five years?

Ban on use of toxic pesticides in agriculture

†1473. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are many pesticides which are being used for production of vegetables and fruits in the country and many countries of the world have banned their use considering them dangerous;

(b) whether the National Nutrition Institute located in Hyderabad has conducted any study in this regard, if so, the report thereof; and

(c) the stringent steps Government is going to take to ban the use of pesticides like Endosulphan, Cypermethrin and Chlorpyrifos in production of vegetables and fruits?

Fishing by foreign deep sea trawlers

1474. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

reports regarding the quantity of fishing done by the foreign deep sea trawlers, which had been operating since 1997 on the basis of Letter of Permits (LOPs) issued by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the absence of such information?

Remunerative price for farmers producing grapes, onion and sugarcane

1475. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the leading grapes, onion and sugarcane producing States in the country, and the total production recorded thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the facilities provided by Government to the farmers cultivating these crops;

(c) whether the farmers producing these crops are not getting remunerative prices; and

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

Output of foodgrains

1476. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the total foodgrains output for the crop year 2016-17; and

(b) if so, the details of various foodgrains

output for the last two years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Fish cage farming

1477. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fish cage farming is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana;

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

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

Organic farming in Maharashtra

1478. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any road-map for promoting organic farming in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government proposes to have such a road-map?

Remunerative price to farmers' produces

†1479. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement made for safe storage of agricultural produces like potato, onion, garlic, green peas, tomatoes and such other vegetables along with the measures taken to provide remunerative price to farmers in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the case of bumper crops of these vegetables; and

(b) the procedure followed to fix the acreage for sowing crops conforming to the demand and supply in the interest of farmers with reference to (a) above?

Prices of hybrid seeds

†1480. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to decrease the prices of hybrid seeds;

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

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

Effect of bollworm on Bt. Cotton

1481. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that Bt. Cotton is no longer resistant to pests as bollworm has developed resistance, thereby affecting farmers using these seeds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra has written to the Ministry for its intervention;

(c) whether other States have also written to the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on those requests?

Creating a separate Ministry for Fisheries

1482. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is considering to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries; and

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been set to form the said new Ministry?

Use of unsafe pesticides in farming

1483. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pesticides declared unsafe for human consumption are being used for agricultural farming;

(b) whether the retailers have no direction for controlled selling of the dangerous pesticides, not fit for human consumption;

(c) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers of the dangerous pesticides are actually encouraging the retailers to sell more of such pesticides to the farmers; and

(d) if so, whether there is any measure put in place by the Ministry to monitor the use of dangerous pesticides by the farmers for agricultural purposes?

Fishing in coastal areas

1484. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in availability of fish in western

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

coastal areas of the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide fish famine package to support the fishing community in coastal areas of the country?

Facilities and schemes for small and marginal farmers

1485. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various facilities and schemes of Government provided to the small and marginal farmers of the country in the last two years in order to empower them;

(b) whether Government has waived or planning to waive off farm loans of small and marginal farmers upto ₹ 1 lakh; and

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

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1486. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drought conditions prevailing in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of Mandals declared as drought-affected during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the details of assistance sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh and provided by Central Government, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that every State is supposed to submit its drought-relief proposals before August every year; and

(e) if so, whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted drought-related details of the year 2016-17 so far?

Banning of pesticides

1487. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:
SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding banning of 66 types of pesticides like Aluminium Phosphide, Corbosulfan, dezomet, DDT, Zinc Phosphide, Captan, etc., as they are detrimental to the health of mankind, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has taken any decision against the registration of these pesticides, if so, the details thereof?

Availability of essential drugs post GST

1488. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Government has made any review of the prices and availability of essential drugs after the implementation of GST in the country;

(b) the steps taken to make available

adequate quantity of medicines, in view of low stocks and restricted inventory of certain medicines across cities in the country;

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to ensure that the benefit of price difference is passed on to the consumers; and

(d) the details of measures taken to allay the fear of retailers and wholesalers about getting tax refund in time, in case of expired goods?

Price cap on medical devices

1489. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after cardiac stents, Government is planning to cap price of four more devices; and

(b) if so, what are those four devices and the reasons therefor?

Smuggling and diversion of fertilizers

1490. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of urea is diverted for non-agricultural purposes while other fertilizers are smuggled to Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government to curb diversion and smuggling of fertilizers to neighbouring countries and to maintain strict vigil on the borders to check smuggling of fertilizers; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish an institutional mechanism, in cooperation with State Governments, to take notice of instances of smuggling and diversion of fertilizers for non-agricultural purposes and to ensure stringent punishment for those who are involved in such activities?

Analysis of price data of critical devices by NPPA

1491. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has started analyzing price data of critical devices;

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

(c) whether the NPPA has called for a stakeholders' consultation in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Growth of Pharma sector in Visakhapatnam

1492. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pharma sector in Visakhapatnam is growing rapidly with ₹ 15,000 crores of Pharma exports every year;

(b) the steps taken to attract more and more Pharma companies in Jawaharlal Pharma City which helps in generating more and more employment;

(c) whether Government is planning to acquire additional 2,000 acres of land for another Pharma City and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how the Ministry is going to help Andhra Pradesh to make Visakhapatnam a pharmaceutical hub of the country?

Retaining fertilizer retail sellers in fertilizer business

1493. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many retail sellers have left the fertilizer business due to confusion in implementing PoS/Aadhaar-based scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any remedial action has been taken to retain fertilizer retail sellers in fertilizer business in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Adulteration in neem-coated urea

1494. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for fertilizer companies to produce 100 per cent neem-coated urea under New Urea Policy of 2015;

(b) if so, the total metric tonne of urea produced *vis-a-vis* imported neem-coated urea during last two financial years;

(c) the total savings accrued to exchequer in fertilizer subsidy due to such neem-coating during the said period;

(d) the measures taken to curb malpractice of using spurious/cheap oil in lieu of neem oil in neem-coating of urea; and

(e) the steps taken to promote organised cultivation of neem and processing of neem oil under New Urea Policy?

Supply of fertilizers to Maharashtra

1495. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has supplied fertilizers to Maharashtra in accordance with the demand for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18;

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

(c) the details of the plan to supply fertilizers for the next monsoon season?

Ensuring availability of generic medicines at affordable rates

1496. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure the availability of generic medicines at affordable rate to public at large in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to augment the existing Public Sector pharma company set up to ensure the availability of generic medicines at affordable rate in the country, if so, the details thereof?

New centres of CIPET in backward and tribal districts of Chhattisgarh

†1497. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, apart from Raipur, Government proposes to establish Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in backward and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

tribal-dominated districts of Chhattisgarh also, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any proposal has been received from State Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Revival of closed fertilizer plants

1498. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to revive closed fertilizer plants with the help of cash-rich Public Sector energy companies;

(b) if so, the number of closed fertilizer plants in the country and the number of fertilizer plants proposed to be revived under the plan; and

(c) the details and time-frame for implementation of the plan?

Range of generic medicines available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras

1499. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had opened a few Jan Aushadhi Kendras at Government hospitals, in collaboration with State Governments, Red Cross Society and NGOs in last three years;

(b) whether the number of such Kendras were to be increased gradually to make available the basic medicines to the people at lower prices;

(c) whether in the existing Kendras, the range of medicines available is very limited comprising antibiotics, analgesics; and

(d) the current programme of Government to spread wide network of

such Kendras as also to keep in stock the entire range of generic medicines with them?

Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for fertilizer subsidy

1500. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed deadline for the National launch of Direct Benefit Transfers for fertilizer subsidies;

(b) whether all preparations, including installation of POS machines, have been completed for this purpose; and

(c) if not, by when all these preparations will be completed to avoid glitches and inconvenience to the farmers?

Percentage increase in internet penetration

1501. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the internet penetration in the country in terms of percentage;

(b) the target of Government in increasing the percentage and the initiatives taken therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government towards the finalization of a policy on Net Neutrality; and

(d) the impact of Net Neutrality in the increase of internet penetration percentage, the details thereof?

Irregularities in offers of mobile Telecom Service Providers

1502. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mobile Telecom Service Providers are luring the customers by resorting to illegal offers which restrict the customers from shifting from one provider to another, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether TRAI has noticed any such irregularities being offered by mobile Telecom Service Providers, if so, the details thereof?

Predatory pricing rules by TRAI

1503. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR
BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is contemplating on unveiling predatory pricing rules shortly to bring transparency in tariff assessment of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), keeping in view the fight between TSPs and blaming each other on disruptive pricing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any punitive measures are also being initiated against the erring TSPs, the details thereof?

**Alleged scam in Network for
Spectrum equipments**

1504. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam of ₹ 2000/- crore has been reported in Purchase Order No. CT/

APO/12/2014-15 dated 19/06/2014 for supply, installation and commissioning of IP-MPLS Edge Routers and associated equipments for Network for Spectrum (NFS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of complaints received in this regard, complaint-wise; and

(c) the details of action Government has taken against erring authorities?

**Formulation of new National
Telecom Policy**

1505. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a National Telecom Policy to meet the developments in the industry;

(b) if so, by when the draft policy will be ready;

(c) whether the new policy will seek to address over the National Telecom Policy of 2012 and look at areas such as technology innovation and security, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the new policy will meet the targets on broadband speed and formulation of National Mobile Property Registry, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the interests of consumers will be protected in the new policy?

**Tracing lost/stolen mobiles through
IMEI number**

1506. SHRI SAMBHAJI
CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is difficult to trace lost or stolen mobile phones in the country even

on the basis of IMEI number, if so, the main reason for this slip;

(b) whether Government has taken any cognizance of the hardship which the mobile owners face in everyday life; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken or to be taken in this regard?

Covering of Gram Panchayats under BharatNet

1507. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the various deadlines for covering all Gram Panchayats under the Bharatnet project, the reasons for delay and for coming out with new deadlines;

(b) how many Gram Panchayats have been covered so far, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the deadline for covering the rest of the Gram Panchayats;

(d) whether active broadband connections have been made available to all Gram Panchayats, the State-wise details of all Gram Panchayats which have active internet connections; and

(ë) the reasons for delay in covering all Gram Panchayats with active internet and the deadline for completion?

Complaints regarding non-availability of mobile network of BSNL

1508. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding non-availability of mobile network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam

Limited (BSNL), frequent call drops etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the complaints received from Himachal Pradesh, during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the BSNL connectivity in Himachal Pradesh?

Mobile and internet facilities in rural and tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh

1509. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that mobile and internet facilities frequently remain out of order for a long period in rural and tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the services in rural and tribal areas of the State?

Shortage of telephone equipments in MTNL and BSNL

†1510. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of telephone equipments in MTNL and BSNL across the country;

(b) whether production of telephone equipments is not in proportion to the number of subscribers and many subscribers are not being given new connections just because of shortage of telephone equipments; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps being taken to compete with private companies?

Total internet connectivity in rural areas

1511. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide total internet connectivity in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated for rural areas, State-wise, including Tripura and North Eastern States?

Differential pricing for data

1512. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI recently released its decision on differential pricing for data by operators in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this has affected services of operators in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether TRAI held consultations before arriving on this decision, if so, the details thereof?

Increase in number of subscribers of BSNL

†1513. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in number of subscribers across the country made by BSNL which

is making losses for the last few years, by offering new plans during 2016-17;

(b) the average increase achieved in number of subscribers by offering many attractive plans like local/STD/ISD/night free plan on basic phone;

(c) if the number of subscribers has increased the profit earned by BSNL during 2016-17; and

(d) whether more interest/purchasing was seen in rural areas or in urban areas with regard to these plans for subscribers of mobile/basic phone, if so, the number of subscribers that has increased?

Signal towers in Goa

1514. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is facing problems in erecting signal towers in the State of Goa;

(b) the number of proposals for erecting towers that are pending;

(c) whether the assistance of State Government has been taken;

(d) whether it is a fact that towers erected during BRICS event in Goa have been removed; and

(e) whether any technology has been invented to replace towers, the details thereof?

Failure of telephone services in Samastipur, Bihar

†1515. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

is committed to strengthen the communication system, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether owing to the repeated failure of telephone services in the Samastipur district of Bihar, the public has to face a lot of inconvenience; and

(c) the reasons why the officers do not heed despite repeated requests, the details thereof?

Procurement of wheat

1516. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of wheat produced since 2014 and that procured by Food Corporation of India, year-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of wheat production in the current harvesting of Kharif season;

(c) the quantity of wheat targeted to be procured from farmers by Government during the current season and at what price and the quantity procured, so far; and

(d) whether large quantity of wheat is contemplated to be imported from overseas, if so, the details thereof?

Printing of post-GST rates on old stock

1517. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that some companies are not printing post-GST rates on old stocks manufactured and packed before 1st July, 2017; and

(b) if so, the response of the Ministry to the statement of some of the big companies that printing or stamping of any price other than MRP is illegal and it is impossible to do so in view of huge inventory?

Timely payment to sugarcane growing farmers

1518. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to raise the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2017-18 season, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the problem being faced by sugarcane growing farmers is the absence of timely payment by mill owners and accumulated arrears; and

(c) if so, the details of the arrears being reported in different States and the steps being taken to ensure timely payment to the farmers?

Consumer grievance redressal system in the country

1519. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country does not have a quick and effective consumer grievance redressal system;

(b) if so, the manner in which the standard specifications in different areas are monitored; and

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

Subsidy on sugar

1520. 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 has recently withdrawn subsidy being given on sugar, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from any State to continue the subsidy being given on sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

Supply of subsidized foodgrains through ration shops

1521. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to hike prices of foodgrains sold under the Food Law in various ration shops for one more year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government supplies highly subsidised foodgrains at ₹ 1-3/kg. to over 81 crore people in the country costing the exchequer about ₹ 1.4 lakh crore annually, if so, the details thereof?

Distribution of quality foodgrains under PDS

†1522. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure followed by the FSSAI to test foodgrains distributed under PDS along with the number of times foodgrains distributed under PDS has been tested by FSSAI, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has issued directions to distribute quality foodgrains under PDS, if so, the mechanism put in place to monitor the same, the details thereof; and

(c) whether complaints have been received with regard to distribution of rotten and substandard foodgrains under the PDS, if so, the details with the action taken thereon?

Storage facilities

1523. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage facilities available with the FCI are sufficient to store foodgrains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains that got rotten recently; and

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the storage infrastructural facilities, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Making Post Offices compatible for physically challenged persons

1524. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received official notification with regard to making Post Offices compatible for the physically challenged persons with wheel chair;

(b) whether despite repeated requests and reminders, the Post Office at HAL, Bengaluru Karnataka has refused to make its Post Office compatible for the physically challenged persons with wheel chair; and

(c) the action the Ministry has proposed against those responsible for such negligence?

Legislation to bring e-commerce platforms under consumer law

1525. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government, since the inception of e-commerce platforms, for consumer protection;

(b) whether Government is planning to bring in a separate legislation to cover such platforms under consumer protection in the near future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received complaints regarding poor quality goods and services of e-commerce firms, if so, the details thereof including number of complaints received; and

(d) whether many firms did not respond to action taken by Government, if so, the

details thereof indicating Government's plan for addressing the issue?

Procurement of foodgrains in Maharashtra

1526. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware that in Maharashtra purchasing foodgrains from farmers below MSP will be an offence;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take similar steps for the entire country to protect the interests of the farmers; and

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

Allocation of wheat and rice to States including Karnataka

1527. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice and wheat released to Karnataka Public Distribution System during the last three years under BPL, APL and AAY;

(b) whether a number of States have sought timely release of allocated quantum of rice and wheat; and

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

Steps taken to protect consumers in online purchasing/business

1528. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that online purchase/e-commerce business has grown speedily in the country during the last two years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether consumers are facing various problems like payment, quality, quantity and manufacturing defects, services, etc. after purchasing the products;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the protection of consumers in the country?

Standards for gold in the country

1529. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that standards for 18, 22 and 24 carat gold have not been fixed so far in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether gold, without hallmark, is also being sold in the market, if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

Implementation of NFSA in Manipur

1530. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under which PDS items are made available to the public at subsidized rates;

(b) the details of per capita or per family entitlements of items under those schemes in Manipur;

(c) the details of assistance provided to the State Government under NFSA, since its inception, district-wise; and

(d) whether PDS is being implemented with desired level of achievement, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking of Aadhaar with PDS

1531. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made Aadhaar compulsory for availing PDS subsidy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether eligible households, which do not have Aadhaar, have been given some time to get their Aadhaar in order to get PDS subsidy;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering granting more time to people in remote areas, such as Jaisalmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan; and

(d) the other steps being taken/contemplated to make PDS more effective?

Sale of bottled water on same rate post GST

1532. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite reduction in tax from 21 per cent to 18 per cent on bottled water post GST, the price of the same has not been reduced by the manufacturers and it is still being sold at the old rates; and

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take against such violators?

Hoarding of grains in forest areas

1533. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new digital mechanism to check the illegal hoarding of grains in the forest areas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of steps and organizational set up of aforesaid mechanism; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stored quantity of cereals, including maize, in Madhya Pradesh

†1534. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cereals stored, including maize, procured in Madhya Pradesh, till date;

(b) the manner in which Government would acquire the same for consumption under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme or other schemes; and

(c) the measure taken so far along with the future plan in this regard?

Wastage of foodgrains

1535. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 thousand tonnes of foodgrains have been damaged in the warehouses of Food Corporation of

India, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(b) the effect of such wastage on the implementation of the National Food Security Act along with the proposal to increase the storage facilities?

Rise in prices of vegetables and fruits

1536. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of vegetables and fruits in various parts of the country have shown a rising trend during the last three months, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the increase in prices of vegetables and fruits is mainly on account of high margins of middlemen and other factors, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard along with the steps taken to increase the production of vegetables and fruits in the country?

Subsidy on sugar

1537. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States may soon have to bear major share of the sugar subsidy, if they want to continue selling the sweetener under the Public Distribution System at cheaper rates, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Centre pays a subsidy of ₹ 18.5 per Kg.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for people to get sugar at ₹ 13.5 per Kg. at ration shops; and

(c) if so, the views of the State Governments in this regard?

Strengthening of storage facilities

1538. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce state-of-art Technology in foodgrains preservation and protection, distribution and supply to poorest people in rural/remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and effective methods adopted by Government to minimise wastage of foodgrains, pulses and other food items due to poor storage facilities, lack of technology, rotting and destruction by pests and rats, etc.; and

(c) the funds allocated to Tamil Nadu for strengthening and development of Central godowns of CWC and FCI as also godowns of State/private sector for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

Non-availability of PDS items in Manipur

1539. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FCI godowns under the Ministry, State-wise;

(b) the details of godowns being constructed and proposed for construction, State-wise;

(c) the details of the above with their locations in Manipur, district-wise;

(d) whether the Ministry would construct more godowns in Manipur in view of the frequent disruption of connectivity of the State from rest of the country, resulting in non-availability of PDS items in the State; and

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

Calculation of GST on products

1540. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to exclude advertisement cost of products, as GST is calculated on MRP, if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether there are any measures to curb extravagant advertisement on FMCG products in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Government network affected by Ransomware attacks

1541. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any IT network of Government of India or any State Government or any Government body has been affected by the recent Ransomware attacks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the quantum of damage by the said attack has been evaluated, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the security of online data being held by Government agencies?

Leaking of Aadhaar details from Government websites

1542. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the leaks of Aadhaar details of citizens from its very own websites, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the data on the numbers of such leaks in the last three years and its impact on individual privacy; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that there are no further breaches of Aadhaar data of citizens?

STPI at Amritsar

1543. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Software Technology Park of India (STPI) at Amritsar, the foundation stone of which was laid on 7th November, 2016; and

(b) the tentative date by which this project will be completed?

Linking Aadhaar with SIM card

1544. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to link Aadhaar number with the mobile SIM card;

(b) if so, whether any official notification has been issued therefor;

(c) if so, the details of process of linking Aadhaar with SIM, card;

(d) whether the linking is valid only in the home town of the SIM card holder or is universal to make the link; and

(e) the notification of TRAI in this regard?

Increase in percentage of cyber frauds

1545. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that globally, India ranks 4th in cyber threats;

(b) if so, the proposed action of Government on addressing the instances of security breaches;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has an instance of increase in cyber frauds from 3.4 per cent in 2015 to 5.1 per cent in 2016; and

(d) if so, the proposal of Government to prevent such cracking of code and stealing of data identities?

Ransomware attack on Government computers

1546. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of the ransomware attack on Government computers;

(b) whether any sensitive data was stolen;

(c) the overall extent of the damage;

(d) the measures taken to reduce the effect of the attack and to ensure quick elimination; and

(e) the corrective action being taken to increase security and to protect information in case of a similar attack in the future?

Study to identify cyber threats

1547. SHRI ANIL DESAI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to control the rising trend of cyber attacks in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify the cyber threats in the country?

Schemes for development of fruit and vegetable processing units

1548. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:
Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government implements a number of schemes and extends financial assistance for fruit and vegetable processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the fruit and vegetable processing units set up/being set up in Karnataka and financial assistance extended under these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken for infrastructure development specifically meant for these processing units and to encourage them in exports?

Availability of value addition facilities under cold chain infrastructure

†1549. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are being trained by Government regarding value addition in respect of their produces and in order to create awareness about facilities which are being made available under cold chain infrastructure in the country, including Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the value addition facilities in operation at cold chain projects, State-wise; and

(c) whether any methodology is in place to fix the rates of storage of agricultural produce and value addition for farmers to avail the facility of cold storage, if so, the details thereof?

Law for compulsory registration of marriages

1550. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Law Commission has recommended need for a law to make the registration of marriages compulsory in the country;

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

(c) whether such registration would put a check on child marriages, bigamy and gender violence in the Indian society; and

(d) whether all stakeholders, like religious heads of various religions having personal laws will be consulted before taking a decision, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dip in e-transactions post demonetisation

1551. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cashless (digital) transactions are not picking up as expected post demonetisation, with e-transactions dipping by more than 29 per cent since peaking in March, 2017;

(b) whether Government's much-hyped BHIM-Aadhaar initiative, aimed at encouraging merchants to accept digital payments using customer's biometric authentication (Aadhaar), is also not performing as expected; and

(c) whether the cost of authentication device—between ₹ 3000 and ₹ 5000, is deterring small traders from getting onto the Aadhaar-based payment system?

Disposal of pending court cases

1552. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures Government has taken so far in order to reduce and dispose of the huge pending cases in different High Courts of the country;

(b) the number of cases still pending in the High Courts till date; and

(c) whether the judicial process is largely hampered due to the pendency of such large number of cases, if so, the details thereof?

Computerization of courts

1553. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has

computerized the courts in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of courts computerized during the last three years?

Linking Voter I Cards with Aadhaar number

1554. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to make it mandatory to link all Voters' I Cards with Aadhaar number and to cancel all such Cards which have not been linked there with to avoid fake Voter I Cards and fake voting, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it will be implemented?

Election Commission's recommendations on electoral reforms

1555. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any set of recommendations from the Election Commission on electoral reforms and other related matters; and

(b) whether these recommendations have been examined, if so, the details thereof?

Deadline to declare party funding sources

1556. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has extended the deadline to declare party funding sources, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has, so far, not issued any Show Cause Notices to political parties in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that whatever communications sent to political parties were just a routine practice, if so, the details thereof?

National level examination for selection of Judges

1557. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is planning to conduct NEET-like All India test to select Judges in the country;

(b) whether views from States have been sought by the Supreme Court regarding this;

(c) whether States are opposing an All India Judicial Service since, 1990; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Ministry plans to go ahead?

Servicing of court notices abroad

1558. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has appointed nodal officers to facilitate and oversee the serving of notices abroad; and

(b) if so, the number of appointments and other relevant details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Fraudulent withdrawal through BHIM App

†1559. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of withdrawing money fraudulently from the accounts of account holders through BHIM App have surfaced; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of account holders who suffered from such incidents and whether banks have refunded the amount illegally withdrawn through it to the account holders or whether the account holders will have to wait till the enquiry is completed to get their money back, and the details thereof?

Implementation of Court Judgements/Orders on parties abroad

1560. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether the Ministry has undertaken measures to ensure the implementation of Judgements/Orders by Indian Courts when the parties are located abroad, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacant post of Chief Commercial Manager in Eastern Railway headquarter

†1561. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Chief Commercial Manager in Eastern Railway headquarter is lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the experts have expressed possibility of its negative impact on the functioning of Railway, if so, the details thereof?

Sanctioned and existing strength of officials in Railway Board and Northern Railway headquarter

1562. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sanctioned strength of Officials in Railway Board, New Delhi and Northern Railway headquarter at Baroda House, New Delhi as on date, category-wise;

(b) the details of existing strength of officials in Railway Board, New Delhi and Northern Railway headquarter at Baroda House, New Delhi as on date, category-wise;

(c) the reasons for difference in sanctioned and existing strength of officials at above said offices; and

(d) the corrective measures Government would take in this regard along with the time-frame therefor?

Survey to ascertain route worthiness of old bridges

1563. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted

any survey to find out route worthiness/strength of old bridges of old railway tracks, if so, the details of such study, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the report has also expressed concerns about the condition of many bridges which need immediate attention?

Pending railway projects in Kerala

1564. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects of the Ministry are pending in Kerala;

(b) the efforts that have been made by the Ministry, in the last three years, to expedite those projects in Kerala;

(c) the allocation that has been made in the last three years for those projects in Kerala;

(d) the details of allocated funds spent and remaining unspent during the said period; and

(e) the reasons for the unspent allocation during the said period?

Late running of trains from Delhi to North Eastern States

†1565. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that almost all trains from Delhi to North Eastern States run late due to which passengers have to face a lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, the reasons for late running of these trains;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government monitors departure and arrival of these trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to run these trains on time?

Making old style bogies safe and comfortable

†1566. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make the old style ICF bogies safe and comfortable;

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

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

Development of important railway stations

1567. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop important railway stations of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to sell major railway stations to private players for their development; and

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

Proposals received from Madhya Pradesh for extension of railway services

†1568. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public representatives

of Madhya Pradesh have sent many proposals to the Ministry regarding extension of railway services during the last three years;

(b) if so, the proposals to which approval has been accorded, out of the proposals sent, and the proposals which are yet to be accorded sanction;

(c) whether the Ministry has received proposals for extension of railway services in the Gwalior region also; and

(d) if so, whether those proposals are under consideration or have been considered?

New coaches with advanced facilities in Railways fleet

†1569. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to add 40,000 coaches, with new decor and advanced facilities, to the fleet of Railways;

(b) if so, the details of facilities to be provided to the passengers in these coaches alongwith the number of coaches to be manufactured every year; and

(c) the names of trains in which the new coaches are proposed to be utilized by Government?

Direct train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad

1570. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce a direct train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad to facilitate the business and religious tourism to Gujarat; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Bengaluru suburban railway system

1571. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the suburban railway system in Bengaluru; and

(b) whether Government would provide special financial assistance to make the suburban railway system a reality for Bengaluru, given the importance of additional public transport due to rapid growth of Bengaluru?

Manufacturing of train sets

1572. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to manufacture its own train sets which can run at a speed of 160 kilometre per hour, if so, the details thereof;

(b) since when this project has been in progress and whether this project has attained its proposed timeline, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Ministry has ensured that our present railway tracks are capable enough to handle these fast moving trains, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Bidding for redevelopment of railway stations

1573. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are

very soon going to bid 25 railway stations for redevelopment;

(b) if so, the details of each of the 25 stations so identified for redevelopment, with particular reference to those in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether redevelopment will be done on PPP model or by Railways on its own; and

(d) by when the entire process of redevelopment will be over and its estimated cost and from where Railways are going to pool the resources?

Derailments and shutdown in Assam

1574. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two derailments and one shutdown took place in Assam sector after Railways ignored safety warning, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Assam line is in operation now after corrective steps taken by railways, if so, the details thereof?

Late running of trains due to negligence of railway officials

†1575. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the trains are now running late due to negligence of railway officials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for late running of trains?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Train accidents

1576. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which took place during the last three years, including the current year, year-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) whether any investigation/inquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of these investigations/inquiries?

Cancellation and deviation of trains

1577. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of trains cancelled or deviated due to accident, bad weather or some other reason, since 2014 year-wise;

(b) the details of the reimbursement processed when an alternative option of travel was not provided to the passengers, since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the yearly loss to Railways due to cancellation and deviation of the trains because of accident, bad weather or some other reason, since 2014?

Progress of rail project from Imphal to Moreh

1578. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of rail projects works from Imphal to Moreh and Moreh to Kalay in Myanmar;

(b) the position of rail project of Agartala-Aakhaura (Bangladesh);

(c) the estimated cost of Imphal-Moreh and Moreh-Kalay and Agartala-Aakhaura projects; and

(d) the target of completion of the the projects?

Encroachment of railway land

1579. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large stretches of railway land are being encroached upon in various parts of the country, including under Southern Railway, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to remove such encroachments?

Increase in ticketless travelling

1580. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase has been registered in the number of ticketless travellers during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) if so, the exact number of ticketless travellers along with the amount recovered by Railways in the form of penalty during the above said period; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to dissuade the people from travelling without ticket in future?

Utilization of space of halt stations

1581. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering utilizing the space capacity of such halt stations where there are only one or two trains stopping during the day for organizing local functions;

(b) if so, the details of stations identified and also details of stations where permission for the above purpose has been granted;

(c) whether Railways are also considering to utilize the space at such stations for skill development activities for the benefit of railway men and local people, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in this regard, so far?

Catering services and food quality in premium trains

1582. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of railway passengers had to travel without food and security for more than 16 hours during their journey by Rajdhani Express;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the catering services and food quality in Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi and other paid services in pantry are not upto the mark; and

(d) the total number of complaints received by Government in this regard and

the action taken thereon during the last three years?

Operation of Kathgodam to Bhojipura-Bareilly-Lucknow train via Rampur

†1583. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that operation of Kathgodam to Bhojipura-Bareilly-Lucknow train *via* Rampur causes additional running of about 65 kilometre as there is lack of co-ordination between Eastern Railway and Northern Railway, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, the details of distance from Kathgodam to Bareilly *via* Bhojipura, Kathgodam to Rampur *via* Rudrapur and from Rampur to Bareilly;

(c) whether Railways have to incur additional financial burden and time due to running of Kathgodam-Rampur-Bareilly train; and

(d) if so, the details of additional financial burden and time incurred by Railways?

Crime against women in long distance trains

†1584. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with regard to railway safety, the main problem is the crimes committed against women in long distance trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the crimes committed against women in the trains and the action taken against the criminals in those cases during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether specific policy measures have been adopted/are to be adopted in order to strengthen safety of women in long distance trains, if so, the details thereof?

Entry to platforms on Balamau junction at Moradabad

1585. SHRINEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that authorised entry to platforms and booking window on Balamau junction of Moradabad mandal is opposite to main city side and passengers face a lot of difficulties and have to spare twenty minutes more to reach the platform/booking window after a level crossing, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(b) whether Government has received any representation to construct a platform and booking window towards city side for better facilities to the users; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, representation-wise?

Special coaches for tourists

1586. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to reserve special coaches for tourists on trains running through tourist spots across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways will auction such dedicated tourist coaches to tour operators at a premium, based on which, the tour operator may carry the booking of passengers/tourists on it; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways will look into increasing the frequency of hill tourist trains during peak season and

have proposed reviving steam trains to be operated in hill stations, if so, the details thereof?

Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Safety and Security in Railways

1587. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in its 'Safety and Security in Railways' report tabled in Lok Sabha on 14th December, 2016 observed that Railways have failed in maintaining safety standards of the rail tracks;

(b) if so, whether recommendations of the Committee have been implemented by Railways; and

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

Cost sharing of railway projects with Kerala

1588. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are demanding that State Government of Kerala should meet 50 per cent of the expenses for all pending projects in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have taken up only very few projects in the State;

(c) whether Railways are still meeting 100 per cent expenses of various projects implemented in other States; and

(d) if so, the justification for Railways to neglect already announced projects in Kerala, like coach factory, and take up similar ones in other States?

Water vending machines at railway stations of South Central Railway

1589. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway is installing water vending machines at all stations in phases for providing purified drinking water at lower prices in a bid to prevent fleecing of train passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry will replicate it at other stations across the country, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

Stoppage of trains at Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail route

1590. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trains that have been stopped due to closure of the Dhanbad-Chandrapur rail service;

(b) the basis for taking such a drastic measure by Railways;

(c) the steps taken to mitigate the hardship of the local residents on account of this closure; and

(d) whether there is any plan for restoration of train service on the above route, if so, by when?

Ambiguities in circular of Railway Board

1591. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH
NAGAR:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are ambiguities in

Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 22/2017, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether representations, letters, objections have been received from Zonal Railways against the Circular, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether suggestions have also been received by the Ministry for withdrawal of the Circular No. 22/2017 but not considered in spite of the ambiguities, the reasons therefor?

Late running of trains

1592. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the complaints that the trains are running late in certain parts of the country;

(b) the areas affected by late running of trains;

(c) the reasons for late running of trains; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways to improve the punctuality of trains?

Installation of new toilets in trains

1593. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are flooded with complaints about dirty toilets in train coaches and have planned to fit swanky toilets in 66 premium trains in the next four months aiming at improving passenger experience, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have been struggling for a long time to provide clean toilets in train coaches; and

(c) whether in a bid to make train journey more pleasant, Railways have

come out with two designs for new toilets with luxury finish, on par with personal toilets in big hotels , if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of Railway Safety Authority

1594. SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is taking steps to improve the security and safety of the passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a part of this mission, the Ministry is contemplating establishment of a separate authority for this purpose in the name of 'Railway Safety Authority'?

Under utilization of running capacity of new fast trains due to old tracks

1595. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are finding it difficult to utilize the full running capacity of the newly introduced trains like Tejas Express, Mahamana Express and Gatiman Express due to old tracks and are forced to run these trains under a maximum speed limit of 130 Kilometer per hour; and

(b) if so, the steps Railways are taking to lay new tracks to utilize full capacity of these high speed trains?

Bailing out knitwear sector from financial stress

1596. SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to announce a scheme to bail out the knitwear sector which is struggling under financial stress, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is also launching projects to encourage traditional Indian handloom and handicraft, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is trying to rejuvenate the textile value chain which has lost out to China and neighboring countries as a result of lack of automation leading to lower productivity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard so that exports could be enhanced?

Recommendations of the CMs Panel on Digital Payments

1597. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the CMs Panel on Digital Payments has submitted its report to the Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the CMs Panel has recommended for continuation of service tax exemption beyond 31st March, 2017 to make the digital currency comparable with the physical currency; and

(c) whether incentives to smart phone users and subsidies for such phones were proposed in the report and if so, the

response of the Government thereto, the details thereof?

Introduction of traditional Kunbi sarees of Goa

1598. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce traditional Kunbi sarees which women in Goa use;
- (b) if so, the status thereof;
- (c) whether such sarees are proposed to be exported; and
- (d) whether any assessment has been made in this regard?

PowerTex India Scheme

1599. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced PowerTex India Scheme for the development of Powerloom Industry

in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) the details of the incentives and assistance being offered under this scheme to the powerloom workers?

Negative effect of GST on Textile sector

1600. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Textile sector is going to be negatively affected because of the 18 per cent GST levied on fiber and yarn;
- (b) whether this sector is also going to be negatively affected because it would be difficult to get input tax credit as the raw material is mostly sourced from unorganized sector;
- (c) whether cotton will also become more expensive as tax incidence on cotton value chain under GST will be higher; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has consulted the Ministry of Finance or GST Council to consider grievances of Textile sector, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd July, 2017

Ashadha 31, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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