

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, August 4, 2017/Shravana 13, 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

#### Cold storages for potatoes

2241. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 90 per cent cold storages are for potatoes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the categories of cold storages, State-wise?

#### Average income of farmers

2242. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new technologies which are being developed for agricultural advancement and doubling the income of farmers in the next five years;

(b) the targets set/achieved so far;

(c) whether the average farm household

in the country earns less than ₹ 6,500 a month from all sources of income, if so, the details thereof, and whether this amount is sufficient for a family to survive, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has any plans/schemes to support the farming community, if so, the details thereof?

#### Growth rate of the Animal Husbandry sector

2243. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Animal Husbandry sector is facing challenges such as delivery of services, shortage of feed and fodder and frequent occurrence of deadly diseases in animals; and

(b) if so, the present growth rate of the sector and the schemes prepared and implemented by Government to achieve the growth rate?

**Issues pertaining to temple situated on IVRI land**

2244. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) owns the land on which an ancient Mukteshwar Temple is located within its campus, if so, the details of complete land records;

(b) whether the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti has fraudulently taken over the temple premises in connivance with IVRI employees;

(c) the steps taken to restore the possession of temple to the head Swamiji who is the disciple of Mukteshwar Maharaj; and

(d) whether action would be taken to evict the Mukteshwar Mandir Samiti Office bearers from the temple premises, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Role of middlemen in manipulating price of agricultural produces**

2245. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the involvement of middlemen between the producer-farmer and end user-consumers is the main cause for steep increase or fatal fall in prices of agricultural commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that the farming community and the consumers are ultimate losers and the middlemen, the only beneficiaries; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any specific strategy to curtail the involvement of these middlemen?

**Implementation of crop insurance schemes**

2246. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the details of the various crop insurance schemes introduced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the crop insurance has covered all the States and all the farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the crops covered under different crop insurance schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited from these schemes?

**Implementation of Soil Health Card scheme**

‡2247. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched the Soil Health Card scheme for the farmers in the country in order to increase the productivity and strengthen the quality of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details of the farmers of the districts—Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Jalon etc. of Bundelkhand region deriving benefits from the scheme, district-wise and amount allocated for the implementation thereof; and

(c) the details of the policy adopted to extend the benefits of the scheme to the poor farmers?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Non-coverage of vegetables under  
MSP mechanism**

2248. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 14 of the 51 major crops are covered under the MSP price mechanism of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-coverage of vegetables under the MSP mechanism; and

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

**Demand for waiving off farm loans in  
Tamil Nadu**

2249. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from the farmers and Government of Tamil Nadu for waiving off the farm loans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/to be taken by Central Government in this regard?

**Strengthening marketing system for  
farmers' produces**

2250. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why farmers did not get remunerative prices for their produces in 2016-17;

(b) how does Government propose to strengthen the marketing systems and reduce post-harvest losses;

(c) the Government's strategy to divert farmers to high-yielding variety crops; and

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose in 2017-18?

**Steps to improve the condition of  
farmers**

2251. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are sighting not only the drought but also falling prices, while support prices have been stagnant; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to improve the condition of farmers, especially the marginal farmers?

**Infrastructure for fishing and cold  
storage in West Bengal**

2252. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up fishing harbours and cold storage facilities in coastal areas of West Bengal to create infrastructure for the Fisheries sector in the State, in not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard along with the present status thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and released for these projects over the past three years?

**Inter-State online trading in e-NAM**

2253. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the model

APMC Act has failed to address monopolistic, cartelistic and uncompetitive practices in the Inter-State trading of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the mechanisms to be adopted to counter such practices; and

(c) the number of States that have been integrated under e-NAM to facilitate Inter-State online trading?

#### **Implementation of e-NAM**

2254. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM), launched amid great fanfare a year back, has failed to take off; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the problems being faced in implementing the system along with the corrective measures being taken for the success thereof?

#### **Internet connectivity of e-NAM portal**

2255. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the e-NAM is not functioning upto the mark due to slow internet connectivity in the rural areas, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 13 States, where the e-NAM is functioning, 7 States did not make any single transactions through e-NAM portal; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is taking to improve it?

#### **Digital database of high-end seed varieties of crops**

2256. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for creating digital database of high-end seed varieties of crops present in the country;

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

(c) the details of steps taken and plan outlay for completion of the aforesaid project, if any?

#### **Funds for Rajasthan under CMP and NPDD**

2257. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released amount, as per approved outlay, for Clean Milk Production (SIQ-CMP) and National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) for the year 2015-16 to Pali, Alwar, Bhilwara and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan; and

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

#### **Illegal fishing by foreign deep sea trawlers**

2258. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information about foreign deep sea trawlers looting the sea wealth by operating in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and then

transferring the catch through illegal mid-sea trans-shipments;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such mid-sea illegal trans-shipments; and

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

**Damage to onion due to rain and bad weather**

2259. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large quantity of onion is getting damaged during the current year due to rain and bad weather, leading to heavy losses to farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government is taking to prevent such situation;

(c) the total quantum of onion that has been damaged during rain in this year, State-wise; and

(d) whether prices of onion will be affected in future due to such loss?

**Production of horticulture crops**

2260. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of horticulture crops like vegetables and flowers have increased in recent years in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of potatoes, tomatoes and onions during the last three years;

(c) whether the farmers are getting remunerative prices for their produces at the time of bumper production; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Income of farmers of Jammu and Kashmir**

2261. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the income of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir specially in Diary, Fisheries and Horticulture sectors in view of the agenda of the Government to increase their income to almost double; and

(b) the total percentage of villages and districts covered under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes in agriculture subsidy?

**Awareness campaign to educate farmers**

2262. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committed suicide in the country during the years 2014 to 2017, as on date;

(b) the measures taken by Government to reduce agrarian distress in the country along with the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for an awareness campaign to educate farmers on latest and low cost agriculture methods, if so, the details thereof?

**Production of rice in Andhra Pradesh**

2263. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and area under cultivation of the

paddy has come down in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of area under cultivation of paddy in Andhra Pradesh during last 6 seasons along with production thereof?

#### **Share of agriculture in GDP**

†2264. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population dependent on agriculture and agricultural works, the details thereof including the farmers dependent on upto two hectares of agricultural land;

(b) the details of the income earned by said farmers from the agriculture and animal husbandry; and

(c) the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country and the percentage share of total budget given to agriculture since the last three years along with the details thereof?

#### **Fall in prices of vegetables**

2265. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crops under the Horticulture sector are not covered by the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to protect the interests of the vegetable growing farmers from steep fall in the prices of almost all the vegetables, particularly onion and potato?

#### **Irregularities in Government funded NGOs, involved in Agriculture sector**

†2266. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) receiving financial assistance under various agricultural schemes being run by Government in the country, including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the NGOs during the last three years and in current year, State-wise and NGOs-wise;

(c) the NGOs found involved in the irregularities; and

(d) the action taken by Government against such NGOs?

#### **Compensation to farmers of J&K for crop loss**

2267. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir are not receiving compensation under Fasal Bima Yojana for the loss/damage to their crops due to unseasonal rain and drought, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to compensate the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir under the scheme?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Promoting Poultry sector in Maharashtra**

2268. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the achievement of Maharashtra in Poultry sector, particularly in production of eggs and chicken;

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

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to promote Poultry sector in the State in a big way?

**Ph.D pass out SC/ST/OBC students from Agriculture Universities**

2269. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data regarding the Ph.D pass out SC/ST/OBC students from the Agriculture Universities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of Agriculture Universities in Gujarat?

**Production of sugarcane**

2270. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under sugarcane cultivation has declined in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/ Union Territory-wise along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether sugarcane growing farmers are diverting towards the farming of other crops like pulses, floriculture, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance sugarcane production in order to meet the shortage of sugar in the country?

**Use of APIs in manufacture of medicines**

†2271. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that owing to growing use of generic medicines and a fall in profits, majority of pharmaceutical companies are using 62 per cent Chinese APIs for manufacturing drugs in the country while using Indian APIs in drugs manufactured for export to other countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 3.16 per cent of drugs were found to be sub-standard in the Drug Survey Report; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps being taken by Government to ensure the quality of medicines being sold in the country?

**Ban on pesticides**

2272. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an Expert Committee headed by an ex-Professor of the IARI to look into the use of 66 pesticides being used in India which are banned in most of the countries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Expert Committee has submitted its report and recommended immediate ban on 18 of those 66 pesticides that it was asked to look into; and

(c) whether despite the Committee recommending immediate ban, orders have been issued banning them from a prospective date, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Making farmers aware about MSP**

2273. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to make farmers aware about the MSP in place for various foodgrains, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to make sure that farmers are able to sell their agriculture produces to the Government without any middleman or other barriers along with the details thereof?

**Insurance of crops**

2274. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the volume of insured crops since 2014 till date, State-wise and UT-wise;

(b) the details of loans provided to the farmers along with the repayment of these loans and defaulter, State-wise and UT-wise; and

(c) the details of companies involved in insuring the crops with criteria of waiving off the loan paid for crops insurance?

**Increasing number of castrated bulls in the country**

2275. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of castrated bulls/oxens have increased in the country and it has become a problem for State Governments to manage them;

(b) if so, the detailed plans for keeping such animals; and

(c) whether Government has any scheme for immunization/vaccination of such animals, if so, the details thereof?

**Remunerative prices for crops grown by farmers**

2276. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated hectares of land to be brought under kharif crop cultivation in respect of paddy, soyabean, pulses, cotton, bajra this year;

(b) whether there is a marked increase in cultivation of pulses this year;

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

(d) whether Government is working towards providing good seeds to farmers to ensure high yield per hectare, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices for the crops grown by farmers?



**Subsidy to Agriculture sector**

2277. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the subsidy schemes going on in the Agricultural sector;
- (b) the amount of subsidy given under RKVY, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and agricultural marketing infrastructure during the last three years, State-wise, and
- (c) the total subsidy given to Kerala under RKVY during the last three years?

**Bio-metric cards to farmers and fishermen**

2278. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is implementing a scheme to provide bio-metric cards to the farmers and fishermen if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of the agencies involved in issuance and distribution of these cards?

**Affiliation of private agricultural colleges with ICAR**

2279. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private agriculture colleges offering B.Sc degree must be affiliated with the ICAR; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of plants for making bio-fertilizers**

‡2280. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total accumulated area under bio-farming in the country, including in Maharashtra during 2011-14 and in 2014-17, the percentage increase in areas along with the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the details of total budget allocation in the year 2017-18 to promote bio-farming; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up plants to manufacture bio-fertilizers at Panchayat level and in mandis, if so, the number of plants installed so far, State-wise, and the number of plants proposed to be installed in the next year?

**Cold chain infrastructure near Mandis and Rural Haats**

‡2281. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to set up cold chain infrastructure near the Mandis and Rural Haats to ensure remunerative prices of crops to farmers and to stop the wastage of food in transit, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating making the farm-level infrastructure mandatory; and
- (c) if so, whether Government is also contemplating on providing at least one facility from integrated pack house cold storage or pre-cooling units in the villages

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

selected under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana?

**Setting up of Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat**

2282. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government is going to start more Agriculture Research and Development Institutes in Gujarat, the details thereof?

**Farmers' suicides in Maharashtra**

2283. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increase in farmers' suicides in Maharashtra from 852 in January to April of 2017 compared to 375 till April, 2016;

(b) whether Government is considering any special budget under agrarian crisis in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether Government has any programme in place to identify psychologically depressed farmers and counsel them, if so, the details thereof?

**Development of fish landing jetties/ wharf at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu**

2284. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to develop fish landing jetties/wharf at Cuddalore wharf in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu; and

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

**Implementation of the National Gokul Mission**

2285. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing the National Gokul Mission (NGM) in the country and setting up Gokul Grams under the mission, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Gokul Grams established so far in Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase their number in the State; and

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

**Compensation to farmers for damaged crops**

2286. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various crops in the country;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that a large quantity of various crops has been damaged due to various reasons; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken

to compensate the farmers for their damaged crops?

**Area under irrigation in the country**

2287. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the data regarding area under irrigation in the previous three years, State-wise?

**Corruption and irregularities in IFFCO**

2288. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:  
SHRI CHUNIBHAI  
KANJIBHAI GOHEL:

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

(a) whether Government is investigating cases of corruption, irregularities and misconduct of officials of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) including Managing Director and his family members, if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) whether Government has any plans or is mulling over reclaiming of IFFCO, and if so, the details in this regard?

**Setting up of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras**

2289. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the details of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to set up some more number of PMBJKs at the railway stations, bus terminals, petrol pumps in various cities/towns in the country;

(c) if so, the details of locations identified for the same, State-wise, including Maharashtra; and

(d) by when these Kendras are likely to be set up?

**Benefits of price reduction in fertilizers to farmers**

2290. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether since 2011-12, global price of diammonium phosphate (DAP) has fallen 43 per cent from 651 dollar to 370 dollar per tonne during 2016-17 but Government has not extended the benefits of price reductions of fertilizers in international markets to suicide committing farmers of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same; and

(b) the steps Government proposes to take to reduce prices of fertilizers in view of the unprecedented suicides by the farmers during the current year?

**Implementation of operational instructions on city compost**

†2291. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status and progress of the implementation of the operational instructions issued for city compost jointly by his Ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under which

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

permission has been granted to the civic bodies to sell city compost directly to the farmers;

(b) whether there is any provision of having differences in the urban and rural rates; and

(c) the details of the civic bodies which are permitted to sell city compost directly to farmers as per the operational instructions?

**Commissioning of Matrix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. at Panagarh**

2292. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Matrix Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. is ready for commissioning at Panagarh, West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that commissioning of the aforesaid concern is being delayed for want of requisite quantity of Coal Bed Methane (CBM); and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-availability of CBM for such a long period?

**Implementation of GST by Chemists and stockists**

2293. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of chemists and stockists across the country are not clear about GST aspects and are yet to initiate implementation process, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this is likely to create drug shortages in certain therapies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure smooth supplies of drugs?

**Integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu**

2294. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to set up any Integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has accorded its approval and conveyed to the State Government; and

(c) if not, by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

**Import of APIs from China**

2295. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian pharmaceutical industry imports around 85 per cent of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for manufacture of medicines from China;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to produce APIs in the country itself;

(c) the steps taken by Government to set up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country as per the recommendations of the Katoch Committee;

(d) the reasons for the failure of Government in setting up Mega Parks for API manufacturing in the country; and

(e) whether any such Park is also planned for North-east India?

**Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas**

‡2296. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:  
Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on establishing Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating on taking any step in this regard; and

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

**Migration of satellite phone users to BSNL**

2297. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has asked all satellite phone users in the country to migrate to its network by 31st July, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that satellite phone services are expected to be phased out soon; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL is now ready to provide Global Satellite Phone Services, if so, the details thereof?

**Modernisation and mechanisation of postal services**

2298. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the process of

modernisation and mechanisation of the postal services and what it entails;

(b) whether the budgetary allocation for mechanisation and modernisation of postal services has increased in the past three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for the disparity between budget estimate 2014-15 and revised estimate 2014-15 for mechanisation and modernisation of the postal services?

**Participation of women in electronic start-ups**

2299. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:  
Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women have little participation in electronic start-ups;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the road map for increasing their participation in this sector?

**Disconnection of landline connections by customers of BSNL and MTNL**

2300. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the customers of BSNL and MTNL are disconnecting their landline connections due to increase in monthly rental charges and service problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of landline telephones that have been disconnected by BSNL and MTNL customers during the last three years; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by BSNL and MTNL to

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

provide landline connections at affordable rate and quality service to the consumers?

**Internet facility in remote villages of Chhattisgarh**

†2301. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no internet facility in many remote villages of Chhattisgarh despite Digital India Campaign and the speed of internet is very slow in those villages in which it is available, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of villages devoid of internet connections in the country, especially Chhattisgarh, district-wise;

(c) by when the high speed internet connectivity in each and every village of Chhattisgarh could be expected; and

(d) the measures taken to improve internet speed in the villages?

**Repaying of loan amount by MTNL**

2302. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL has decided to pay back all its loan amount to the financial institutions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has already paid a sum of ₹ 125 crore recently to Punjab & Sind Bank, if so, the details thereof?

**Optical fibres laid under NOFN**

2303. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed laying of optical fibre network in all Gram Panchayats in the country under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) programme;

(b) if so, details thereof including length of fibre network laid in each State;

(c) whether optical fibre cable already laid in underground or overground;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh has been included in NOFN;

(e) whether Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh is also laying optical fibre in all villages and has established a separate company known as 'Andhra Pradesh State Fibrenet Limited' for the purpose; and

(f) if so, details thereof and funding of the programme in Andhra Pradesh?

**Internet speed**

†2304. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internet speed in the country is even slower than that in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, country's position in the world in terms of internet speed; and

(c) by when internet speed will be improved in the country

**Cases in consumer courts**

2305. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of pending cases in consumer courts have been constantly increasing year on year;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of all cases filed and cleared over the past three year, sector-wise;

(c) the funds spend on infrastructure of consumer courts and details of vacancies of judicial staff over the past three years; and

(d) the details of steps taken to fast-track cases in consumer courts?

#### **Registration under AAY**

2306. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of APL and BPL ration card holders benefited under the PDS;

(b) the monthly entitlement of quantity of foodgrains to a ration card under AAY;

(c) the total number of persons registered or eligible under AAY all over the country; and

(d) the number of persons registered under AAY in Kerala?

#### **Payment of arrears to sugarcane growing farmers**

2307. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for the payment of sugarcane price arrears of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with amount disbursed and number of farmers who received the arrears; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Sale of GM food products without proper labelling**

2308. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether GM food products are being sold in the country without proper labelling despite the enactment of amendment in legal Metrology Act which makes labelling mandatory on all packaged products; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon, so far?

#### **Alleged humiliation of BPL card holders in Rajasthan**

†2309. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a slogan 'I am a poor person and I receive ration under the National Food Security Act' has been written on the walls of the houses of BPL card holders who are living below the poverty line in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, in view of this agonising fact, the steps taken in this direction to do away with this trend and in which other States this kind of slogans are being written, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sale of products after introduction of GST**

2310. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether any review has been made by the Ministry to ensure that traders do not take consumers for a ride after introduction of GST, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, how the Ministry is dealing with complaints that traders are not selling the products at decreased prices where the rates have decreased;

(c) whether instruction have been issued for displaying new price stickers on all consumer products following introduction of GST, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Ministry proposes to launch awareness drive on the MRP aspects and the final price to protect consumers' interests?

**Release of funds to States under NFSA**

2311. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released funds under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to States for the year 2016-17;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds and amount released to States under various schemes of NFSA, State-wise including Rajasthan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Misleading advertisements by celebrities**

2312. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) the status of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015, after the report submitted by the Parliamentary panel recommended major changes;

(b) by when Government proposes to initiate the process of introducing the Bill in view of a large number of complaints regarding misleading advertisements by celebrities; and

(c) whether Government contemplates creation of a Consumer Protection Authority to fast-track grievance redressal of consumers on the lines of US and European countries, the details thereof?

**Leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS**

2313. SHRI. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of complaints of large scale leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS use, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor quality foodgrains are being supplied under PDS;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received and the steps taken to redress this; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to ensure a foolproof system of PDS?



**Strengthening of public distribution outlets**

2314. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public distribution outlets for ration are far less than required because long queues are seen everywhere;

(b) whether there is any guideline to open ration outlets based upon the number of ration card holders or it is just an arbitrary decision; and

(c) if so, whether Government will issue advisory to States to open more ration shops depending upon reasonable number of ration card holders in a locality to minimize long queues?

**Production of white sugar and its export**

2315. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many European countries do not accept white sugar processed in the country because of its inferior quality and prefer to import raw sugar from India for processing at their end for consumption;

(b) if so, the measures Government proposes, to be followed by the sugar industries in the country, for production of white sugar to even meet the standards of European countries; and

(c) the total quantity of sugar produced in the country during 2015-16 and 2016-17 and the quantity exported thereof?

**Food Security to socially and economically weaker sections**

2316. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the objective of the National Food Security Act is to ensure food security to all socially and economically weaker sections;

(b) whether there are complaints that many people belonging to such sections are denied food material according to this Act, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the limit of 50 per cent of population for urban areas and two third for rural areas prescribed by the Act has become hindrance to ensure food security to all deserving people; and

(d) if so, whether Government intends to rectify the situation?

**Misleading advertisements in electronic media**

2317. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that false/misleading advertisements in electronic media are rapidly growing all over the country, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken/proposes to take any action against those companies which are issuing misleading advertisements in electronic media?

**Setting up of storage capacity by FCI**

2318. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India (FCI) is setting up 100 lakh MT storage capacity storages in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the special efforts of FCI for procurement in the Eastern States, including Jharkhand?

**Protection to foodgrains from getting rotten**

2319. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of total stock of foodgrains like rice, wheat and pulses stored in the FCI godowns in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the storage is more than the storage capacity of such godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the capacity of such godowns and the quantity being stored in each of such godowns separately; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect them from getting rotten?

**Protection of Aadhaar data**

2320. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government protects or intend to protect privacy of citizens when

they intend to exchange information with each other or share it on internet, etc.;

(b) whether Government has allowed private entities, Indian and foreign, access to personal data of individuals stored in Aadhaar and other Government sponsored schemes; and

(c) if not, whether Government will make arrangement to protect/secure such vast data of the public more effectively?

**Loss of jobs in IT sector**

2321. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of techies are under serious depression in fear of losing jobs in the IT industry;

(b) whether there are job losses in the IT industry in the last two years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is planning to enhance the jobs in the IT sector?

**Villages under Digital Village Project**

2322. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the number of villages targeted to be included in the Digital Village Project in 2017-18;

(b) the amount provided for implementation of digital villages in health, education and skill development for the year 2017-18;

(c) the details of facilities to be made available in such digital villages; and

(d) by when the work on setting up of digital villages is likely to take off?

**Hate messages through social media sites**

2323. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to talk to the CEOs of the social media sites operating in the country in order to check the propagation of hate messages through these sites; and

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

**Refund mechanism for BHIM App**

2324. SHRIN. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the National Payments Corporation of India to smoothen the refund mechanism for BHIM App, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the process of getting refund in BHIM App is more cumbersome compared to other applications; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to resolve it?

**Status of implementation of Digital India programme**

2325. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Digital India programme in the country;

(b) whether all villages and remote towns of the country have been covered by basic communication/internet services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how long will it take to cover the entire country?

**Unauthorised access of Aadhaar information**

2326. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a person, assigned an Aadhaar number, can know when and where an agency has accessed information associated with Aadhaar number, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether an Aadhaar holder can restrict use and access of information associated with Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an Aadhaar holder can relinquish or cancel their Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) number of complaints of unauthorized access of information/ fraudulent authentication that have been received by Ministry so far, State-wise and year-wise?

**Issuance of Aadhaar card on fake documents**

2327. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent

past, three Pakistani nationals were issued with Aadhaar card, based on fake documents, at Bengaluru;

(b) whether any action has been initiated against the officer who was responsible for verifying the original documents before logging in the details of those individuals; and

(c) in view of the above, the measures UIDAI is taking to ensure that such mishaps do not happen in the future?

#### **Common Service Centres in Telangana**

2328. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) were aimed to be set up in Gram Panchayats in Telangana under Phase II;

(b) whether target to set up CSCs in GPs in Phase I has been achieved;

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

(d) the services that are likely to be provided through these CSCs in GPs?

#### **National Encryption Policy**

2329. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the National Encryption Policy;

(b) the details of consultations with experts and other stakeholders that have taken place on the policy;

(c) whether Government will undertake

public consultation on the same, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Encryption Policy is likely to figure in the outcome and policy document for the Global Conference on Cyberspace, 2017;

(e) the details of the proposed outcome and policy document for the Conference and how is the Conference likely to benefit cyber security space in India; and

(f) whether different stakeholders would be allowed to participate in this Conference?

#### **Creating awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste**

2330. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to create awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste;

(b) the details of the number of organisations and educational institutes given funds for organising workshops and seminars to create awareness, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) in what manner the impact assessment of such workshops and seminars is done, alongwith the details thereof?

#### **Mandatory cyber audit of departments**

†2331. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on making cyber audit of every department mandatory;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(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?

**Appointment of security professionals at National Informatics Centre**

2332. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated a process to accelerate the appointment of more than 350 security professionals at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the requirement of 355 posts was examined by a committee way back in 2009 and the same was approved in 2013; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing these security professionals at the NIC?

**Hacking of Government websites**

2333. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 700 Government websites have been hacked over the last four years;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning on upgrading its digital interface and making it more secure; and

(c) in what manner Government plans to make websites less hack prone and also save data leakages?

**Ghost beneficiaries under Aadhaar's Direct Benefit Transfer scheme**

2334. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has identified ghost beneficiaries under Aadhaar's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme in the previous year, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of losses reported, if any, due to ghost beneficiaries of social welfare schemes such as pensions, LPG, scholarships, etc., State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to eradicate/prevent ghost beneficiaries?

**Cartelisation by Telcos**

2335. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telcos have resorted to cartelisation to take on Reliance Jio, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Reliance Jio has complained to TRAI in this regard, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to penalise Telcos against cartelisation, the details thereof?

**Employment in Food Processing Industry**

2336. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Food Processing Industry is growing very fast and has a large potential of generating rural employment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote the same?

**Food Parks in Manipur**

2337. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Parks operational or being considered for being set up in Manipur;

(b) whether any Mega Food Park is being conceived to be set up in the State; and

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

**Abolition of system of constitution of Tribunals/Commissions**

2338. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:  
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:  
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
BALMUCHU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to abolish the constitution of Tribunals/Commissions system as they have become outdated and do not suit to the present needs of the Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has envisaged any other system for introduction in their place, if so, the details thereof?

**Regulation of non-popular unrecognized political parties**

2339. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended for regulation of sprouting of non-popular unrecognized political parties in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of Government to the said recommendation, the details thereof?

**Complaints relating to online applications for voter I cards**

‡2340. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the number of new voters or voters applying for transfer who have filled Form 6 online through the website of the Election Commission during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to difficulty in getting approval of link to upload photo, address and age certificate while filling the Form 6 online, lesser number of online applications are received; and

(c) the details of complaints related to such online applications along with details of the steps to be taken to address them?

**Campaign to register new adult voters**

2341. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a campaign has been launched to register new young adult voters in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

particular reference to Bihar and Jharkhand?

**Pending cases and their disposal**

‡2342. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is working through Fast Track Courts to dispose of old cases, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years; and

(c) the number of cases still pending, the details thereof?

**Strengthening of the Anti-Defection Law**

2343. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has received any representation regarding strengthening of Anti-Defection Law, if so, the details thereof and the status of the said representation?

**Shortage of officers in Legislative Department**

2344. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of officers in Legislative Department, specially those for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations, etc.;

(b) if so, the actual and required strength; and

(c) the details of the position regarding vacancies?

**Debarring convicted persons from contesting elections**

2345. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn a to recent Supreme Court's observation to ban convicted persons from contesting election for life, made by it while hearing a Public Interest Litigation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to debar convicted persons from contesting elections for life, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Fast Track Courts in Odisha**

2346. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in Odisha;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allotted for them to remain operative;

(c) how many of them have stopped functioning and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government proposes to make FTCs operational once again?

**Double tracking of North East Frontier Railway**

2347. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to start the double track in the North East Frontier Railway zone as the railway is in poor state in North Eastern States; and

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when the work of electrification of the North East Frontier Railway will start and the current status of the schemes with regard to it in view of the fact that North East Frontier Railway is not running on the electric tracks, if so, the details thereof?

**Inclusion of food price in ticket fares**

‡2348. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of the food served in trains like Shatabdi and Rajdhani is added in their fare, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways plan to remove the price of food from the train fare of the above trains so that the passengers travelling in those trains are not compelled to have that food, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Jaleswar-Digha broad-gauge line**

2349. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date for commissioning of Jaleswar-Digha new broad-gauge rail line, as the project was sanctioned in the year 2010-11 and land acquisition process and filling have not been started by South Eastern Railway, citing non-cooperation from Government of West Bengal; and

(b) the present status of this important project?

**Emission regulations and standards**

2350. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will

soon come under emission regulations and standards to achieve the targets submitted by India under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the necessary measures taken by the Ministry to ensure compliance to the emission standards?

**Earnings from cancellation of reserved tickets**

2351. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways collected ₹ 1400 crore in 2016-17 through cancellation of reserved tickets of passengers;

(b) the cancellation fee which Railways obtained in 2016-17 from South Central Railway (SCR);

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise of 26 per cent in ticket cancellation earnings in 2016-17 over the previous year;

(d) in what manner Railways justify this oppressive ticket cancellation system leading to a penal rate on passengers; and

(e) the steps proposed to refund such cancellation charges?

**MoU with Australia in textile, clothing and fashion sectors**

2352. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Australia have signed MoU to intensify cooperation in textile, clothing, handloom and fashion, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the benefit that Indian weavers will get out of this MoU;

(c) the estimated Indian textiles to be

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



exported to Australia through this MoU and the estimated quantum of foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to connect the Australian and Indian textile and fashion sectors and to promote collaboration?

**Commissioning of new lines and electrification of tracks**

2353. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are aiming at commissioning of 3500 kilometre new railway lines in the financial year 2017-18, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have almost doubled the target for electrification of tracks by keeping it at 4000 kilometre in the current fiscal; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the infrastructure targets were scaled up after Railways managed commissioning of 2855 kilometre new lines and also exceeded the electrification target by electrifying more than 2000 kilometre in 2016-17?

**Construction of underpass at Gorakhpur railway station**

†2354. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of any underpass is proposed at the eastern end of railway station of North Eastern Railway headquarters, Gorakhpur, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be started; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing the pathway for carrying goods booked from the platform no. 9 to the parcel office situated beside the platform no. 1 and the difficulties in its construction?

**Rajdhani train from Delhi to Patliputra via Lucknow, Gorakhpur**

†2355. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to run Rajdhani train from Delhi to Patliputra (Patna) via Lucknow, Gorakhpur;

(b) the reasons for not running important trains like Rajdhani on this railway route so far, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is contemplating to run Bilaspur Rajdhani (12442/12441) on all seven days?

**Passenger facilities at railway stations**

2356. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are satisfied with the level of passenger facilities available at

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

various railway stations of the country, particularly, those stations which are located in small cities/towns, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have prepared any action plan to improve passenger facilities available at railway stations of the country;

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government in this direction, particularly in Chhattisgarh, during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the mechanism in place for monitoring and supervising the facilities available at various railway stations of the country and for their maintenance?

#### **Changes in passenger fare and reservation rules**

†2357. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have changed rules pertaining to passenger fare and reservation since the financial year 2014-15, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any study had been conducted by the Ministry before bringing about such changes?

#### **Kurla-Madurai train**

2358. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to increase the frequency of the present Kurla (LTT)-Madurai train Nos.11043/11044 from weekly to at least 4 days a week; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase frequency of these trains in view of the

great demand of traffic from Mumbai to Madurai and *vice-versa* in view of the large Tamil population in Mumbai?

#### **Laying of new railway line in Himachal Pradesh**

2359. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving priority to connect hilly areas by rail network and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to lay new line and spread railway network in Himachal Pradesh which would result in development and increase in employment in the backward areas of the State; and

(c) if so, whether Rohru in district Shimla, which has a great strategic importance being near to the China Border and, a hub of apple growers, would be connected to Dehradun by rail?

#### **Security and protection against crimes in trains**

†2360. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken to provide security and protection against crimes such as theft, looting, dacoity and crimes against women passengers being committed in trains along with crime-wise number of cases registered under each of the zonal railways during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(b) the details of compensation/relief or assistance provided to the victims?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Single digital platform for controlling and integrating information**

2361. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that having a single digital platform to control and integrate information from its various zones would save Railways as much as ₹ 50,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether Ministry is considering the same;

(c) whether the Minister announced setting up of an Enterprise Resource Planning System, which is an IT-based platform, in last year's Budget; and

(d) whether Ministry is working on the above platform and if so, the details thereof?

**Infrastructure for doubling and tripling of railway tracks**

2362. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to create robust infrastructure for doubling and tripling of railway tracks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the pattern of funding for this project, whether it is public-private partnership, soft loan from financial institutions or any other method; and

(c) whether private freight terminals are also proposed to be created, if so, the details thereof?

**Replacement of old/time-barred passenger coaches**

†2363. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-bound action plan of Railways to replace old/time-barred passenger coaches of trains with new coaches and the class-wise details thereof; and

(b) the status of manufacturing indigenous coaches in respect of part (a) above and the special steps taken to supply/manufacture coaches to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

**Aadhaar for booking of train tickets**

2364. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make Aadhaar number compulsory for booking tickets for train journey; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this would be introduced?

**Hike in railway fare**

2365. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its sanction for a hike in railway fare, which has remained suppressed for years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in passenger fares may be implemented some time later this year, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Regulator for passenger and freight fares**

2366. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has agreed to set up a regulator for Railways to recommend passenger and freight fares and regulate other things, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) to what extent this move will help Railways to bring down its losses on passenger front and increase revenue from freight?

**Provision of space for nursing mothers at railway stations**

2367. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to provide space for nursing mothers at more than 100 railway stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have received a representation in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have plan to extend the said facility to many more railway stations at a later stage, if so, the details thereof?

**Inquiry reports of derailing of railway coaches**

2368. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiry reports of derailing of railway coaches reveal that in most cases, coaches, which have been manufactured by old design of 1950, are prone to derailing;

(b) if so, the details of such reports and the action taken by Government;

(c) the number of coaches of old designs that are still on the track;

(d) whether Government would replace these coaches with new design coaches, which are very safe from derailing point of view; and

(e) if so, the time required for replacing old model coaches as safety is always prior to speed?

**Daily train service between Thiruvananthapuram and Mysuru**

2369. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering introducing a daily train service between Thiruvananthapuram and Mysuru on account of increased commutation between these two stations; and

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

**Long distance train from Mumbai to Uttar Pradesh/Bihar**

2370. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to start a new long distance train for Uttar Pradesh/Bihar from the northern suburbs and surrounding areas of Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the response of Railways to these demands?

**Replacement of old coaches of  
Kolkata Metro Rail**

2371. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to replace the old coaches of Kolkata Metro Rail with new generation coaches; and

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

**Railway track from Bhubaneswar to  
Konark**

2372. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has sent a proposal to the Ministry for laying down a railway track from Bhubaneswar to Konark on equal cost sharing basis; and

(b) if so, the decision that has been taken by the Ministry in this regard?

**Privatization of railway stations**

2373. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has privatized the maintenance of railway stations, including the stations situated in the State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of private entities to whom maintenance of railway stations has been entrusted so far; and

(c) the details of responsibilities that have been fixed on private entities while managing the maintenance of railway stations?

**New railway line in Assam and North  
Eastern States**

2374. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of proposed new broad-gauge railway line in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(b) the new proposed railway line in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(c) the estimated cost of the new railway line and how much funds Railways have released so far;

(d) whether survey for the proposed railway line has been completed; and

(e) if so, the estimated time-line to complete the railway line for commencement of operations?

**Physical verification of pensioners by  
Railways**

2375. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched a drive to physically verify its retired employees, above a certain age group, who are still alive and withdrawing pension, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether according to Railways, the number of pensioners above the age of 80 years far exceeds the other age groups, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereon; and

(d) the funds being used on the physical verification exercise by Railways along with the details thereof?

**Gas leak from Tughlakabad  
Container Depot**

2376. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of school students were taken ill after there was an incident of gas leak from a container parked in the Tughlakabad Container Depot in Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the number of such incidents reported from this Depot in the past; and

(c) whether Government has enquired into the cause of gas leak and if so, the details thereof?

**Transit-oriented development  
programme**

2377. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways plan on spending ₹ 1.3 lakh crore this year, more than double the average investment made between 2009-2014;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have taken up station redevelopment in a big way under PPP model; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have launched one of the largest transit-oriented development programme worth ₹ 100,000 crore, if so, the details thereof?

**Model railway stations**

2378. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of model railway stations

proposed to be started in the country, State-wise;

(b) the entity responsible for maintaining those railway stations;

(c) whether the scheme will be extended to all the important major railway stations in the country; and

(d) the expected expenditure for such stations and how it is proposed to be met?

**Average life of locomotives**

2379. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating replacing old railway locomotives with new ones in the foreseeable future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details regarding average age of locomotives in operation now and the standard average life of locomotives; and

(c) the details regarding diesel locomotives in operation and Railways' roadmap to do away with them in view of the air pollution caused by them?

**Round the clock security of railway  
tracks**

†2380. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to elaborate/fortify round the clock security of the railway tracks throughout the country;

(b) whether any review meeting was

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conducted recently on this issue, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on this very sensitive issue during the last five years and the outcomes of the decisions made thereto along with the details thereof?

#### **Railway projects in Chhattisgarh**

‡2381. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects underway in the State of Chhattisgarh, zone-wise and project-wise;

(b) the number of projects which are behind schedule and the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(c) the cost overrun for each of the pending projects; and

(d) the measures that have been taken/ are being taken by Government to complete the projects within the stipulated time or extended time-frame?

#### **Proposals for better rail facilities from Madhya Pradesh**

‡2382. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received some proposals for approval from people's representatives to provide better rail facilities to the people of Gwalior region of Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether those proposals are being considered and an early decision being contemplated or approval is to be given, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Revamping of railway stations by private sector**

2383. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is giving railway stations to private sector for their revamping, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of stations which have been handed over along with the time-line for the completion of the job, till date; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private mode for revamping of railway stations is more economically viable than Government intervention, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Non-working of IRCTC website**

2384. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past, lakhs of people could not book potentially six lakh tickets because the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website was down for more than 17 hours, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to prevent such recurrences in the future?

#### **Doing away with rail fare subsidy**

2385. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to do away with rail fare subsidies; and

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Completion of construction of Conference Hall**

2386. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Conference Hall in building of Indian Railway Promotee Officers Federation, Delhi has been completed;

(b) if so, whether representation from Member of Parliament has been received regarding investigation into irregularities in construction, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted by Vigilance Department of Railways for irregularities in above work, item-wise expenditure, total cost, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against persons responsible for misappropriation of funds; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Employment to disabled persons**

2387. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by Railways for providing employment to the handicapped and blind persons on priority basis in the Railways in the last three years; and

(b) the employment given to the disabled persons in the last three years, Division-wise?

**Pending railway projects in Bihar**

‡2388. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is gearing up for early completion of the ongoing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of rail lines pending in Bihar, which have not been completed in time; and

(c) by when the Sakri-Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail line, which is still incomplete, is likely to become operational along with the details thereof?

**Gwalior-Indore Janshabdi Express**

‡2389. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any demand/proposal to run the Janshabdi Express between Gwalior and Indore *via* Guna-Shivpuri;

(b) if so, whether this demand/proposal is being considered and an early decision is likely to be taken on it;

(c) whether any demand/proposal is pending with the Ministry to increase the speed of Gwalior-Guna-Bhopal Express and to attach AC chair car coach with the train; and

(d) if so, whether this demand/proposal is being considered and an early decision is likely to be taken on it?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Setting-up of Rail Neer water plants**

2390. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new Rail Neer water plants in the country under PPP model during the current financial year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount of money Government plans to invest in these new water plants along with the details thereof?

**Loss of lives at unmanned level crossings**

†2391. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of lives are lost every year in the country on account of unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, the number of such unmanned railway crossings in the country as on date, the State-wise list thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has formulated any plan to bring down the number of unmanned railway crossings in the country; and

(d) if so, the funds released and provisioned during the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18 for this purpose?

**Solar EMU coaches in Howrah and Sealdah divisions**

2392. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce solar EMU coaches in the local trains plying in the Howrah and Sealdah divisions; and

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

**Bi-weekly trains between Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru**

2393. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the bi-weekly train (no. 22657/58) between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Bengaluru has not begun operations despite being announced in the Railway Budget of 2013;

(b) the reasons behind not starting this service even after four years of its announcement; and

(c) by what date does Government plan to begin operations of the said route?

**Station Redevelopment Programme**

2394. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the key benefits expected from the Station Redevelopment Programme initiated by the Ministry;

(b) the timelines set for the programme for Ranchi; and

(c) the additional revenue generation for Railways which is visualized under the programme?

**Setting up of Rail Safety Regulatory Authority**

2395. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up an independent Rail Safety Regulatory Authority in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the said regulatory authority will be in force?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Government subsidy to Railways**

2396. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy given by Government to Railways at present;

(b) whether Government proposes to launch any scheme for rail fares, giving passengers the option to voluntarily forego the subsidy on tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

**Modernisation of railway stations**

2397. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways floated tenders for modernisation of stations as part of its ambitious Station Redevelopment Plan; and

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

**Textiles India-2017 exhibition**

2398. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI) has expressed hope for better trade relations between India and South Korea;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between domestic and international organisations from textiles industry and Government, including Government to Government (G2G) MoUs; and

(c) the number of international and domestic exhibitors and buyers from various countries who participated in the Textiles India-2017 exhibition?

**Special package for Knitwear industry**

2399. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to announce a package for Knitwear industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the sops and discounts being given to knitwear workers as a part of the package, the details thereof?

**Special package to village-based Handloom and Knitwear industries**

2400. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiatives under special package to support the village-based Handloom and Knitwear industries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demonetisation and rupee appreciation have badly affected this employment intensive and export-oriented industry;

(c) the proposal of the Government to reback the employment generation, investment activity and to encourage entrepreneurships therein; and

(d) the decision and planning of Government to maintain a database and statistical details to monitor the functioning thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
The 29th July, 2017  

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Shravana 7, 1939 (Saka)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
Secretary-General.

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