

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, February 9, 2018/Magha 20, 1939 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;  
Coal; Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;  
Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing Industries;  
Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs; Railways)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Benefits of A2 milk**

801. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to promote indigenous breeds of cows across the country;

(b) whether Government has undertaken a study regarding benefits of A2 milk; and

(c) whether there is any medium term plan to increase focus and awareness about indigenous breeds and A2 milk if they are found to be beneficial?

#### **Milk processing capacity in the country**

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

(a) the total number of projects related

to the Dairy sector out of the 236 cold chain projects in the country assisted by the Ministry, the State-wise details thereof, including those of Maharashtra;

(b) the total daily milk storage capacity in the country at present, including that of Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance the milk processing capacity in the country, including Maharashtra along with the details of the milk processing capacity, State-wise?

#### **Setting-up of KVKs in all districts of the country**

†803. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country, State-wise, including Madhya Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government proposes to establish such Kendras in all districts of the country, if so, the details thereof and whether any target has been fixed for this; and

(c) whether Government proposes to increase the amount of financial assistance being given to these KVKs, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Assured MSP for farm produces**

804. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked all State Governments to ensure payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers for farm produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of States which have adhered to Central Government directive and the action proposed against those States which have not followed the same; and

(c) whether Government is considering to extend some financial assistance to the States in order to safeguard the interests of the farmers?

#### **Remunerative price for agricultural produces**

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

(a) whether agricultural growth has shrunk to 2.1 per cent during the current year, as per the recent projection, in spite of favourable monsoon conditions;

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

(c) whether non-provision of remunerative price for agricultural produces and non-implementation of recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, along with demonetization are main reasons behind agrarian crisis and large scale suicides by farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Merger of telecom players**

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

(a) whether Government has approved merger of some telecom players;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to protect telecom consumers from monopolistic/oligopolistic hegemony of collusive telecom players; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Supply of cow milk and agricultural produces**

†807. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating/running any special scheme to enhance the supply of cow milk, vegetables and other agricultural produces, if so, the details of the scheme in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has consulted the State Governments in this regard or received suggestions from them, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds spent under the above scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

**Deaths due to occupational exposure to pesticides**

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

(a) whether there have been deaths due to occupational exposure to pesticides in the States of Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana in 2017-18 in addition to Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including deaths and hospitalisations from each State and the districts affected;

(c) the names of common pesticides involved in these cases; and

(d) whether Government plans to ban or prohibit the use of these pesticides to protect public health?

**Illegal use of controversial herbicide Glyphosate on cotton crops**

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

(a) whether controversial herbicide Glyphosate is being used illegally on cotton crop in the country, due to the illegal cultivation of HT cotton, being referred to as BG3;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has done studies on the human and ecological toxicity of Glyphosate;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether other countries have banned or severely restricted Glyphosate due to its adverse impacts and whether Anupam Verma Committee of the Ministry reviewed this chemical for a similar ban in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Agitations by farmers for increase in MSP**

810. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers across various parts of the country have been agitating from time to time demanding increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for oilseeds and pulses;

(b) if so, the details of such agitations during 2016-17 and 2017-18; and

(c) whether Government has considered demands of the farmers and if so, the extent to which MSPs have been increased during the period?

**Prices of pesticides**

811. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held a meeting with Pesticide industry with a view to bring down the prices of pesticides to address the farmers' grievances;

(b) if so, the details of outcome of the meeting and extent to which the Pesticide industry has brought down the prices of pesticides; and

(c) the other measures taken by Government to address the problems of farmers across the country during the last two years?

#### **Employment in Agriculture sector**

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

(a) the details of measures being taken to increase the availability of employment and enhancing the scope thereof in Agriculture sector of the country and the manner in which it is being carried out; and

(b) the measures taken to increase the income of farmers dependent on agriculture and analytical details of their present economic condition with reference to part "a" above?

#### **Remunerative price for agricultural produces**

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

(a) the main recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers and the measures taken to implement them along with the details of the remaining recommendations;

(b) the policy for doubling the income of farmers and the results thereof so far; and

(c) the status of protecting the remunerative prices of agri produces of farmers, including potatoes, onions, tomatoes, garlic and other produces?

#### **Impact of climate change on agriculture**

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

(a) the impact of climate change on Indian agriculture in the 21st century;

(b) whether it is a fact that there would be an impact of US \$ 10 billion loss every year on the country due to climate change; and

(c) if so, in what manner the Ministry is planning to address this problem since it impacts production and productivity of agriculture items which is likely to start from 2020 till the end of the century?

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

815. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has declined in the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that every year, farmers lose ₹ 63,000 crore for not being able to sell their produces; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken to prevent the same?

#### **Bollworm attack on cotton crops**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

lost 84 per cent cotton crop to bollworm in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to protect cotton crop from bollworm and also to provide relief to the cotton producers of the State who have lost their crop?

#### **Functioning of KVKs in the country**

817. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing any programmes to support the functioning of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country;

(b) the number of KVKs in the country, State-wise;

(c) the budgetary allocations and expenditure for the KVKs since 2014; and

(d) the steps taken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to support the KVKs?

#### **Assistance for drought affected farmers**

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

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

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

(c) whether any area is declared as drought affected by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any financial assistance has

been distributed to the farmers of drought affected areas during 2014-15 to 2016-17?

#### **MSP of paddy**

819. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been any assessment of per acre expenditure for growing paddy in States like Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, etc.;

(c) whether the increase in the support price has been made corresponding to the expenditure required for production of per quintal paddy; and

(d) whether the Central Government is considering the request of Government of Odisha to increase the MSP of paddy and fix it at ₹ 2930/- per quintal, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Ill-effects of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers**

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

(a) whether Government has studied the fact that indiscriminate use of urea and other chemical fertilizers in Haryana and Punjab has considerably increased the number of cancer patients therein; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government is providing training to the farmers to use urea, other chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the minimal quantity?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Ending the monopoly of APMC**

821. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to end Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) monopoly with a view to liberalize the trade in farm produces and aid better price realisation for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the meeting of Chief Ministers has been convened recently to deliberate on the matter; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

#### **Production of honey**

822. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented any plan to boost production of honey in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and amount spent in this regard during the last three years and its impact on production of honey?

#### **Assistance to tackle drought**

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the large number of deaths/suicides by farmers across the country;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for Central

assistance to tackle the drought situation in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, as on date, along with the present status of the said proposal; and

(d) by when the said proposal is likely to be finalized?

#### **Organizing farmers under institutional mechanism**

†824. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several studies have brought forward the fact that organizing the farmers under institutional mechanism has the possibility of increasing agricultural production and providing remunerative price to them from the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has taken steps to organize the farmers under institutional mechanism and promote collective action in the Agriculture sector keeping the target of doubling their income by 2022 in mind; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Contract farming**

†825. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contractual farming helps the farmers to have access to inputs and advanced technology, skill transfer, guaranteed and remunerative prices and reliable market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has taken several policy initiatives during the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

last three years to promote contractual farming and announced to bring a model law for contractual farming in the Budget 2017-18; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Changes in Crop Insurance Policy**

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

(a) whether Government is considering any changes in Crop Insurance Policy based on feedback received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the crop insurance done, cases settled and compensation paid during last three years, State-wise?

#### **Workforce involved in agriculture**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 55 per cent of the total workforce in the country is involved in agriculture;

(b) if so, its trend during the last five years;

(c) how does this high percentage compare with developed countries; and

(d) whether there is any agency to monitor their problems and redress their grievances?

#### **MSP for fruits and vegetables**

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

(a) whether Government is considering

to fix Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for fruits and vegetables;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide remunerative prices to fruit and vegetable growing farmers in order to improve their condition?

#### **Benefits of agricultural schemes to farmers**

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

(a) the name of schemes being implemented by Government to reduce the agriculture cost along with the details thereof;

(b) the amount of budget allocated for the said schemes and the amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) the number of farmers benefited from the said schemes along with the details thereof;

(d) the reduction in cost of agriculture per hectare by implementation of the schemes and the amount of increase in the income of farmers, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) whether Government proposes to reduce the rate of GST on necessary resources for the agriculture?

#### **Increase in price of organic fertilizers**

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

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of type of organic fertilizers used in agriculture;

(b) whether organic fertilizers have scientifically proved effective in agriculture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the advantages of the organic fertilizers in comparison with inorganic fertilizers;

(e) whether Government is aware that many organic fertilizers are being sold at exorbitant prices in the market;

(f) if so, whether Government has taken any measures to control the price and manufacturing of organic fertilizers in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Prices of fertilizers**

831. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of fertilizers have not decreased during the last few months;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to keep the prices of fertilizers under check;

(d) whether Government has data regarding State-wise differences in prices of fertilizers;

(e) if so, the details regarding trends in prices of fertilizers in Rajasthan; and

(f) the details regarding steps being taken to provide fertilizers to farmers in Rajasthan at cheap rates, especially in drought-affected and low-yield areas?

#### **Cases of overcharging for medicines being pursued by NPPA**

832. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of overcharging for medicines and medical equipments being pursued by the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the total amount recovered as a proportion of the total amount for which demand notices have been sent to pharmaceutical companies;

(c) whether Government is taking steps for early resolution of such cases which get stuck in litigation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Study to assess impact of Neem Coated Urea**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has started producing Neem Coated Urea (NCU) in full-fledged manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government undertook any study to assess its impact on the crops after full-fledged use;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Prices of industrial chemicals**

834. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:



(a) whether prices of various industrial chemicals have increased during the last one year;

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

(c) whether decrease in production of industrial chemicals in China is a reason for such rise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether industrial chemical manufacturers in our country have made windfall profits from such rise in the last one year; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of industries using such chemicals against such rise?

#### **Drug pricing policy**

835. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a change in the method of approving prices of new drugs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether non-essential drugs might be affected by the change in drug pricing policy; and

(c) if so, the steps Government will take to protect any adverse effects of this pricing policy change on the Pharmaceutical sector?

#### **Providing customised fertilizers to farmers**

836. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to distribute/provide customised fertilizers to the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of plan and model applications therefor; and

(c) the proposal to revamp fertilizer units of the country to meet the demand for production and supply thereof?

#### **New Drugs Policy**

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

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

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a New Drugs Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy; and

(c) the manner in which it would be beneficial to consumers, especially the common man?

#### **Strategy to prevent coal crisis**

838. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is coal surplus, if so, the reasons for shortage of coal at power plants;

(b) whether it is a fact that several States were forced to resort to load shedding due to severe shortage of coal; and

(c) if so, the strategy to be adopted to prevent coal crisis?

#### **FIR against former and serving officers of BCCL**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that very recently an FIR has been registered by CBI against

a former CMD of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and other senior serving officers of BCCL;

(b) if so, the grounds for registration of the FIR;

(c) the status of investigation in the instant case; and

(d) the number of cases of investigation by the prosecuting agencies which are currently under progress against officers of BCCL?

#### **Utilization of Ventilation Air Mine Methane**

840. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ventilation Air Mine Methane (VAM) is vented into the atmosphere along with large volumes of ventilation return air, which constitutes a major source of greenhouse gas emissions;

(b) whether it is a fact that our country does not have the proper technology in place to capture and utilise the VAM;

(c) the measures Government has taken to develop such technology to harness VAM; and

(d) whether any proposal is pending with Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allotment of coal mines to CIL**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to allot 11 coal mines to Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) whether it is also a fact that CIL is planning to increase the production capacity by 225 million tonnes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CIL had informed the Government that its three subsidiaries do not have adequate coal reserves at present; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Joint Ventures for evacuation of coal through Railways**

842. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to float more Joint Ventures for evacuation of coal through Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such Joint Venture has been proposed in the Southern Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Revival of thermal power plants by coal linkage policy**

843. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to revive thermal power plants in the country by coal linkage policy, if so, the details of the scheme;

(b) the total demand for coal from the unregulated sector; and

(c) whether Government is planning to offer any discounts/rebates to independent power producers (IPPs) participating in the auction, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Recommendation to break up monopoly of CIL**

844. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government officials tasked

with reviewing energy security by the Prime Minister are recommending the break up of the country's coal monopoly by the Coal India Ltd. (CIL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allocation of coal to Karnataka**

845. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between April and December, 2017, Karnataka was allocated 119.57 lakh metric tonnes of coal, of which only 63.09 lakh metric tonnes was supplied;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of coal demanded by Government of Karnataka for the period from January to March, 2018; and

(d) the quantity of coal allocated and expected to be supplied to Karnataka between January and March, 2018?

#### **Price of non-coking coal**

846. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has increased the prices of non-coking coal, aiming to rake in ₹ 1956 crore for the remaining part of this fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that following the increase in price, CIL projected annual incremental revenue at ₹ 6421 crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Modernisation of post offices**

847. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to modernise/upgrade the post offices in view of the important works being assigned to them viz., issuance of train reservation tickets, Aadhaar enrolment centres, Passport seva, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of post offices in which modernisation/upgradation has already been undertaken; and

(d) the details of post offices in which modernisation/upgradation is proposed to be undertaken?

#### **Penalty on telecom service providers for denying interconnection**

848. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom regulator, TRAI, had recommended a hefty penalty of ₹ 3050 crore on three telecom service providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this was done for the denial of interconnection to another service provider; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Suspension of internet services**

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

(a) the details of instances where internet services were suspended 2014 onwards along with details of reasons for ordering suspension, places where it was suspended, duration of suspension and the law invoked to suspend services, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether, in future, such suspensions will be ordered by invoking the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017;

(c) if so, what consultations were held with stakeholders, civil society, etc., before finalizing these Rules; and

(d) how these Rules are an improvement over the earlier rules/laws using which, internet services could be suspended?

#### **Free data services to rural masses**

850. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested Government to consider providing free data services to the rural masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision in the matter; and

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

#### **Use of drones for delivering parcels**

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

(a) whether Government is considering to provide postal services by using latest technology with support of drones, for delivering mail and parcels at various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with indicating details of study done so far in this regard; and

(c) by when this system will be started in the country?

#### **Interconnectivity regulations for service providers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued new interconnectivity regulations, mandating service providers to enter into an interconnection agreement on non-discriminatory basis within 30 days of receiving a request from another operator;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the TRAI has fixed ₹ 1 lakh as daily penalty per service area for operators violating the new norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Maintenance of BSNL towers by private companies**

853. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to hand over the maintenance of BSNL towers to private companies;

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

(c) whether the BSNL employee unions have opposed the said plan of Government; and

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

#### **Foreign investments in telecom equipment manufacturing**

854. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of investments made in

telecom equipment manufacturing by foreign manufacturers in the country in the last five years and the current year, year-wise and company-wise;

(b) the details of profits earned by these plants;

(c) whether there is any regulatory mechanism overseeing manufacturing in these plants; and

(d) whether any new manufacturing plants have been approved by Government, if so, the details thereof?

**Regulation of installation of mobile towers in residential areas**

855. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regulate installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to minimize the effects of mobile tower radiation on people?

**Public Data Offices for Wi-Fi hotspot services**

856. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open Public Data Offices (PDO) in the country to provide Wi-Fi hotspot services on payment, on the lines of PCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any pilot project for Wi-Fi hotspot has been launched, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any criteria or guidelines have been finalized as to whom the PDO will be allotted, like PCO, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether, in view of internet becoming a necessity for availing welfare schemes, the services of PDO will be extended to rural areas also, if so, the details thereof?

**Shifting of WPC wing**

857. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is set to shift wireless planning and coordination (WPC) wing completely online;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will help to speed up network deployment, addressing longstanding grievances of carriers that have often asked the Government to simplify processes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the telecom regulator, TRAI, has recommended many things for implementing ease of doing business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**App-based calls**

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom companies are opposing app-based calls;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for such opposition;

(c) whether customers can avail the facility of calls on cheap rates from app-based calls;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry would consider to provide facility of app-based and cheaper calls to customers by formulating feasible policy for app-based calls; and

(e) whether BSNL is formulating its own app so that customers can avail facility of app-based calls, which the private companies are opposing?

#### **Converting post offices into Multi-Service Centres**

859. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data of the total number of post offices modernised and converted into Multi-Service Centres in the country under the 'Public Internet Access Programme-National Rural Internet Mission and deliver various citizen-centric services';

(b) the State-wise data of the total number of post offices yet to be modernised and converted into Multi-Service Centres in the country; and

(c) by when Government is planning to modernise all the post offices of the country?

#### **Making telecom services more accessible for differently-abled**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom regulator TRAI has recommended measures to make telecom services more accessible for the differently-abled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the handset manufacturers would be mandated to manufacture at least one model for differently-abled persons with assistive technology features such as hearing, visual aids and emergency button;

(c) whether it is also a fact that information on billing and pricing needs to be provided in a more accessible form for such persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Government mandated internet shutdowns**

861. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a rise in the number of Government mandated internet shutdowns in the country in the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether internet shutdowns have helped to achieve the aims, for which the Government sought these shutdowns?

#### **Setting up of grievance redressal mechanism and State Food Commissions**

862. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have completed the process of setting up grievance redressal mechanism and a State Food Commission as per the rules set under the NFSA; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in conducting social audits by the States?

**Telephone density in villages of Maharashtra**

863. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present telephone density in the villages of Maharashtra; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take to increase the telephone density substantially in the State?

**Sugar subsidy**

864. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any other States, like the State of Tamil Nadu, had requested the Central Government to enhance the subsidy rate of sugar from ₹18.50 to ₹28.50 per kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the request made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu?

**Linking of ration card with Aadhaar**

865. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that no individual is denied PDS benefits even if he/she does not have Aadhaar or has not linked his ration card to the number; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Refusal of ration to BPL people due to non-availability of Aadhaar card**

866. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fair Price Shops under Public Distribution System (PDS) are refusing to distribute foodgrains to people from BPL category due to non-linkage of Aadhaar number;

(b) the provision for providing Government benefit schemes to those from the BPL category that either do not have an Aadhaar card or have not yet registered due to absence of permanent address, which is essential for procuring an Aadhaar card; and

(c) the number of BPL category people who have so far been denied the benefits of Government schemes due to non-availability of Aadhaar card during the last two years?

**Procurement of farmers' yields**

867. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of farmers owing to procurement of their various agricultural yields by the private sector below the prescribed rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government agencies have been negligent towards procurement of farmers' yields from time to time; and

(c) if so, whether Government is contemplating to prepare a blueprint for total procurement of yields of farmers by Government agencies along with the details thereof?

#### **Consumer complaints**

†868. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is receiving a large number of complaints from the consumers against various manufacturers/ companies and E-commerce companies towards harassment and unfair trade practices in the country;

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

(c) whether Government is seriously considering to replace the existing 31-year-old Consumer Protection Act to provide relief to consumers against unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the new Consumer Protection Law will be functional?

#### **Bonus on procurement of paddy**

869. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has issued direction to the State Governments not to give bonus to the farmers on procurement of paddy over and above the Minimum Support Price (MSP), if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the said directive stipulates that if any State Government allows bonus to the farmers, the Food Corporation of India will not procure additional quantum of rice from that State;

(c) whether it is a fact that some State Governments, including Chhattisgarh, are allowing subsidy to farmers over and above the MSP; and

(d) if so, whether that relaxation will be allowed to other States also?

#### **Revision of fair price rates of food items supplied under PDS**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to revise the rates of food items that are being supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the prices of the items that are being increased along with the details thereof?

#### **Reduction in FPSs in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Andhra Pradesh have come down from 45322 as of 1 January, 2014, to 28,663 as of 1 January, 2018;

(b) how does Government look at this

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



40 per cent reduction of FPSs in Andhra Pradesh and how does it hamper distribution of essential commodities to poor and AAY families;

(c) whether Government is also aware that Government of Andhra Pradesh has also decided to convert all the 28663 FPSs into Chandranna Village Malls; and

(d) if so, whether it would not defeat the very objective of PDS?

#### **Import of onion**

872. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of onion imported since 2014 till date;

(b) whether the Ministry proposed import of 20,000 tonnes of onion to control onion prices, if so, the details thereof along with the date of order/countries and date of consignment received and distributed in the market; and

(c) the details of similar steps being taken by Government with regard to other vegetables?

#### **Complaints lodged with National Consumer Helpline**

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

(a) whether a complaint lodged by consumer with the National Consumer Helpline is transferred to the company complained against;

(b) if so, whether such companies report action taken back to the Ministry or it is between consumer and the company; and

(c) if companies do not report back, the reasons therefor?

#### **Setting up of procurement centres in North-Eastern States**

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

(a) whether Assam is the only State in the entire North-East, having procurement centres, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government would conduct any survey for feasibility or viability to establish such centres in other States of the region to facilitate the farmers; and

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

#### **Requirement of warehouses**

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

(a) the details of the number of agro warehouses, built or contracted under Food Corporation of India (FCI), functional in the country;

(b) whether Government is aware of any gap in the actual and desired number of agro warehouses which is approximately 15 MMT;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend the number of agro warehouses, if so, the details of the proposed number, time-frame and revenue sources for the same; and

(d) whether it is also proposed to ease the multiple regulatory mechanisms and requirements to improve the viability of agro warehousing as a business?

**Construction of steel silos**

876. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to create 100 lakh MT storage capacity in the form of steel silos;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified for the purpose across the country; and

(c) by when the construction of steel silos is likely to be completed and made available for storage of foodgrains?

**Mismatching of fingerprints in biometric system**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes lot of time for customers in receiving ration due to mismatching of fingerprints in biometric system and slow speed of internet and they have to come repeatedly to ration shops;

(b) whether Government is aware that in order to avoid such situation where customers have to repeatedly go to ration shops they comply with ration shop operator and accept half the ration that they are entitled to receive and remaining part of their ration reaches to black marketeers through a nexus; and

(c) the details thereof?

**Rise in prices of essential food items**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential food items are rising continuously due to which common consumers are not able to buy food items in adequate quantity; and

(b) the retail inflation in the month of December, 2017 and the extent to which it has been successfully reduced at present along with the details thereof?

**BHIM app for all mobile payments**

879. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is working on a strategy to make BHIM app for all mobile payments for its seamless nationwide network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the transaction cost for (a) above when compared to the existing ones and whether it accepts all modes of digital payments?

**Unique Biometric Competency Centre**

880. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of challenges posed by biometric recognition and the steps taken/being taken to face/overcome these challenges;

(b) whether the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has set up a Unique Biometric Competency Centre (UBCC); and

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

**Challenge grants to start-ups to spur research and development**

881. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to encourage development of new technologies in the field of cyber security, the Government will offer challenge grants of upto ₹ 75 crore to start-ups to spur research and development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is in the process of working with Data Security Council of India to conduct challenge grant for cyber security; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country would invite cyber security scholars from the Asia-Pacific region to do their research here, if so, the details thereof?

**Authentication failures for Aadhaar identity verification**

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

(a) the details of authentication failures for identity verification through Aadhaar since 2015, State-wise, month-wise and Scheme-wise;

(b) whether such data is maintained by UIDAI, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for authentication failures;

(d) whether authentication failure can lead to benefits associated with Aadhaar card being denied;

(e) if so, the details of complaints of denial of benefits received in last one year, State-wise, month-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(f) the remedy available in case of authentication failure?

**Software to identify and check online criminal websites**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to ban and/or develop software to identify and thus check online criminal websites for viewing in the country;

(b) if so, the proposal details thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to make consortium with web-tech giants to access such obscene contents; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Cyber security collaboration**

†884. 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 considering to discuss the issue of cyber

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

security collaboration with Government of Britain;

(b) if so, whether Government has considered the issue till now; and

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

**Appellate mechanism against  
unsatisfactory response by  
Aadhaar centres**

885. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Grievance Redressal Mechanism as mentioned in the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations provide for an appellate mechanism to allow residents to appeal against an unsatisfactory response provided by the contact centre; and

(b) if so, the procedures and processes pertaining to this appellate mechanism, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Linking of driving licence with  
Aadhaar**

886. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will soon start linking driving licence with Aadhaar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that serious concerns have been raised about the security of Aadhaar data; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the biometric information, which includes iris

scan and fingerprints, is stored in an encrypted form and is very secure?

**Setting up of ITIR in Visakhapatnam**

887. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received and the present status of the same;

(c) whether the proposal has been placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be placed before the CCEA?

**Switch over to Internet of Things**

888. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that by 2019, more than 80 per cent of the organizations in Asia-Pacific region are likely to switch over to Internet of Things (IoT), *i.e.*, devices, appliances, equipments and machines with the capability to connect, communicate and control each other;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the benefits to Information Technology sector and preparedness in the country for the adoption of IoT by 2019; and

(c) whether the switch over to IoT in

the country shall increase additional opportunities for unemployed youth?

**Revenue from IT sector**

889. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan/roadmap to increase the revenue from the Information Technology (IT) sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the competition from other countries in IT sector and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to increase domestic manufacturing of electronic components by incentivizing them and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government also plans to increase the availability of computer/IT programming in regional languages across the country and distribute the same free of cost, if so, the details thereof?

**Legal framework to regulate online transactions**

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

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to establish a legal framework to regulate online transactions, e-wallets, payment gateways, prepaid cards and other payment platforms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is planning to implement the recommendations made by the Ratan Watal Committee for the same;

(c) the deadline for the implementation of a legal framework to protect the privacy

and financial details of people using electronic payments; and

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

**Technology to stop cyber crimes**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cyber crimes are increasing on a large scale day by day;

(b) whether in view of the increasing incidents of cyber crimes, the Ministry is working towards developing a technology through which incidents of various crimes can be prevented from entering into the cyber space and their prompt monitoring could be ensured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**ITIR in Visakhapatnam**

892. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting for release of necessary funds for the proposed IT Investment Region, Visakhapatnam in the State;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the project at an early date?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Irradiation projects**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that to tide over shortages and the resultant price rise, the Centre has approved four irradiation projects under the Integrated Cold Chain scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the approved projects, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of the project cost and the total grant approved by the Ministry; and

(d) whether Government is planning to set up irradiation centres under PPP model, if so, the details thereof?

### **Setting up of FPIs at locations other than Mega Food Parks**

894. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to encourage setting up Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in locations other than those at Mega Food Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for withdrawing capital subsidy offer to FPIs being set up in locations other than at Mega Food Parks?

### **Setting up of small FPIs**

895. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has proposed to set up 200 small Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in country;

(b) if so, details thereof with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the facilities and benefits to be

extended to these 200 units:

(d) whether, in the absence of cold chain bogies to, at least, Superfast Express Trains, Food Processing sector is not able to speed up food processing in the country;

(e) whether any consultations have been held with Railways in this regard;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) if not, whether the Ministry would consult Railways in this regard?

### **Progress of schemes for promotion of food processing units in Karnataka**

896. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of various schemes of the Central Government for promotion of food processing units in Karnataka;

(b) the details of district-wise progress in Karnataka and the reasons for inadequate pace of implementation in certain districts of the State;

(c) the estimate of livelihood opportunities made available through promotion of food processing units in Karnataka after June, 2014; and

(d) the comparative figures of amount spent on promotion of food processing related projects implemented in Karnataka between 2009-14 and 2014-17?

### **Achievement of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana**

897. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:  
SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana has helped in providing better prices to farmers and contributed in doubling of their income and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether it has led to generation of employment opportunities, especially in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it has led to reduction in wastage of agricultural produce and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Regulation of conduct of legal profession**

898. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to enable the poor have access to justice, the Apex Court has asked the Centre to bring a law to regulate the conduct of legal profession and to prescribe floor and ceiling of advocates' fees;

(b) whether Apex Court deprecated the practice of lawyers demanding a share in clients' pecuniary gains/benefits awarded by the Courts and termed it a professional misconduct for which action should be taken; and

(c) whether terming the exorbitant fees, charged by lawyers, as a barrier to access justice, the Law Commission had recommended a regulatory mechanism for legal profession, including capping of lawyers' fees?

#### **Filling up of vacant posts of Judges**

899. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are vacant posts of Judges in High Courts at present;

(b) if so, the number thereof and by when they will be filled up;

(c) the number of vacancies of Judges in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country;

(d) the average time taken to fill up such posts;

(e) whether Government has drawn up a programme to speed up the process; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Controlling online betting**

900. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission is considering a series of regulations to control illegal online betting in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Law Commission wants either to ban the illegal online betting or put stringent regulations in place;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Law Commission is of the view that people who are interested in placing online bets will have to play through licensed operator; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Digitisation and uploading of records and proceedings on websites of courts**

901. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the judicial proceedings/decisions are available on the websites of courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) whether the records and proceedings of the courts are being digitised by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other initiatives taken by Government for digitising the records and proceedings of courts to bring more transparency in their functions?

#### **Disposal of pending cases**

902. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in every High Court of the country judgments on appeals are pending for over forty years;

(b) if so, High Court-wise oldest pending cases and average disposal time of cases therein;

(c) the total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court for the last thirty years;

(d) whether over 50 per cent of posts of Judges are lying vacant in High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, the number of vacancies of Judges in all High Courts as on 31 December, 2017?

#### **Fake and unqualified lawyers**

903. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Associations in the South have intensified a drive to identify black sheep among its fraternity, who do not hold a valid law degree to practice in courts;

(b) whether during such drives, many persons practicing in courts with fake degrees, have been caught and their enrolment revoked; and

(c) whether during one such operation, it was discovered that a person has been working as a Magistrate for the last ten years in a Tamil Nadu court, without holding any valid law degree?

#### **Transparency in appointment and functioning of Judges**

904. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government, including the introduction of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in Parliament with requisite provisions to bring transparency and accountability and to check corruption and other undesirable practices in appointments and functioning of Judges in the higher judiciary; and

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

#### **Transparency in the appointment of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court**

905. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check corruption and to bring transparency in the appointment of Judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court after the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act passed by the Parliament was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional; and

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



**Cases disposed off by Lok Adalats**

906. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up more Lok Adalats in the country to clear pending cases in High Courts and Lower Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of Lok Adalats presently functioning in various States;

(c) the number of cases cleared by the Lok Adalats during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which it has reduced the number of pending cases in High Courts and Lower Courts?

**Functioning of Nyaya Mitras in Kerala**

907. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nyaya Mitras functioning in the country, along with the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of Nyaya Mitras started in Kerala so far, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Central assistance released to Government of Kerala for the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary during 2014-15 to 2016-17?

**Computerization of courts in Odisha**

908. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of District and Subordinate Courts in the country, particularly in Odisha, at present;

(b) whether a large number of these courts have been computerized under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project;

(c) if so, the number and details of Courts in Odisha fully computerized so far and the funds incurred to computerize them;

(d) the number of remaining courts in Odisha proposed to be computerized by Government during the next two years; and

(e) the funds sanctioned and released in this regard?

**Cases pending in POCSO courts**

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

(a) whether the working of POCSO courts dealing with crimes against children are upto the desired level;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in these courts in each State as on date;

(c) whether these courts have the qualified personnel and adequate infrastructure to deal with such sensitive cases; and

(d) the total number of courts set up/ designated for cases of crimes against children established under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012?

**Filling up of judicial vacancies**

910. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the delay in finalizing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary;

(b) if so, the action taken to expedite the MoP and by when it is likely to be finalized; and

(c) the details of judicial vacancies in the Supreme Court and various High Courts at present and the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies in the higher judiciary?

**Setting up of Legal Information Kiosks in Jharkhand**

911. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to establish voice-based Legal Information Kiosks in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the total number of active District Legal Services Authorities in the State of Jharkhand; and

(d) the details of the number of persons getting benefitted by these services in the Financial Year 2017-18?

**Appointment of Judges and pending cases**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has considered the recommendations given in the 245th report of the Law Commission, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Judges appointed by the Ministry for Higher Judicial Service and Subordinate Judicial Service in the last two years;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering setting up of Special Traffic Courts in the

country as recommended for speedy disposal, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of pending cases in the High Courts and the District Courts of the country; and

(e) the current rate of disposal of cases by the High Courts?

**Ensuring legal aid to the poor**

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

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

(a) whether Government is concerned about the hurdles to common citizen for accessibility to legal services;

(b) if so, whether Government has already initiated free legal services scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of legal aid clinics established by Government, State-wise, and the financial assistance provided to the States during last three years in this regard; and

(d) whether Government has made any effects to ensure that legal aid reaches the poor and the people residing in rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

**Linking of Aadhaar with registration of marriage**

914. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Law Commission for linking of Aadhaar with registration of marriages to prevent fraudulent marriages and denial of subsistence to deserted women;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) the action taken/to be taken by Government on their request?

**Filling up of posts of Judges and other staff**

†915. 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 vacancies of Judges and other staff in different courts and the steps taken to fill them up during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for not making appointments against those vacancies within a fixed time-limit;

(c) whether the recruitment process for filling up of posts, lying vacant since 2007, in some High Courts had not started even in 2016;

(d) whether the Ministry would ensure that recruitments are made in advance against posts that are likely to fall vacant soon; and

(e) the impact on the functioning of courts due to said vacant posts?

**Stopping of train services on certain routes**

916. SHRI MANAS RANJAN  
 BHUNIA:  
 SHRI RITABRATA  
 BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways

have decided to stop services at the eight train routes of Burdwan-Katwa, Sonapur-Canning, Santipur-Nabadwipghat, Barasat-Hasnabad, Baruipur-Namkhana, Ballygunj-Budge Budge, Kalyani Simanta-Sealdah and Bhimgarh-Palastali in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that these routes are availed by lakhs of common commuters daily; and

(d) if so the reasons for stopping the routes?

**Employees in various cadres of Railways**

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

(a) the number of employees, in officer and other cadres, in Railways at present in executive, technical and other sectors;

(b) the number of vacancies in administrative and technical sectors at present;

(c) whether the total number of employees working in Railways has increased or decreased during the last three years;

(d) the changes in numbers; and

(e) whether vacancies are affecting efficiency and quality of services in Railways?

**Coach Mitra Facility**

918. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the clean my coach initiative by Railways, a passenger can get Coach Mitra services by requesting online;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of requests filed by the passengers in the last one year, month-wise;

(c) the number of times action was taken on those requests during the said period, month-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the passengers aware about the availability of this facility?

**Drive against entry of unauthorized persons in reserved coaches of trains**

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

(a) whether Government has put in place any comprehensive plan to check entry of unauthorized persons in trains, particularly in reserved coaches, viz., Sleeper, AC III Tier, AC II Tier and First Class in long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any drive against entry of unauthorized persons in reserved coaches of trains originating from New Delhi/H. Nizamuddin and heading towards Chennai, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Fake interviews for jobs in Railways**

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

(a) whether a racket, which conducted fake interviews for jobs in Railways, in Room No. 09, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has inquired into how they got access to rooms for interview in Rail Bhavan and the involvement of railway officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of persons/officials involved therein; and

(e) the reasons for failure of Railways to detect the said racket early which was being run below the officer rooms of the Minister of Railways and MoS, Railways?

**Revision of flexi fare system**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways may soon revise its flexi fare system on premium trains to get more passengers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering selling half the seats without any surge pricing;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways want a system that does not pinch passengers' pockets much and also help it achieve its revenue targets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Connectivity of tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**

922. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of Railways to connect tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand to sea ports like Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether it is a fact that weak and outdated rails tracks in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are not being replaced and modern tracks being laid;

(c) the funds allotted for track renewal in these two States in 2017-18; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve rail connectivity in all backward areas to the nearest sea ports?

**Electrification and doubling of Chennai Egmore-Kanyakumari route**

923. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that electrification and doubling between Chennai Egmore-Kanyakumari route is pending for a long period;

(b) if so, the status of the electrification and doubling between Chennai Egmore-Kanyakumari project as on 31 January, 2018; and

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

**Water Management policy of Railways**

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

(a) the details of the proposed Water Management policy of Railways along with its objectives;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up National Railway Water Management Fund to give incentives to railway divisions to boost replacement of fresh water with recycled water and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways for preparing a strategy for water management?

**Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations**

†925. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations for the convenience of railway passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether railway stations have been selected for launching this scheme, if so, the details of the stations, particularly the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether the prices of the medicines, to be sold at these Kendras, would be fixed by the Government, if so, whether any Committee has been set-up for this, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Construction work on forest land**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken construction work on forest land since 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental clearances were obtained for the above;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Maintenance of railway tracks**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to give top priority to maintenance of railway tracks;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to take any steps in this regard; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Stopping of train services**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to stop train services on many routes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that train services of these were stopped due to losses incurred; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Dismal passenger train service on New Delhi-Ghaziabad route**

929. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether between New Delhi-Ghaziabad, there is no passenger/EMU/MEMU train after 2.30 p.m. till 6.00 p.m., a gap of more than 3 hours, building up crowds on stations in between;

(b) whether Train No. 64032 between Shakurbasti and Ghaziabad, serving home-coming commuters to some extent, has been put out of operations for no ostensible reasons;

(c) whether the suburban train service between New Delhi and Palwal section has been well taken care of because of likelihood of irate commuters turning violent and damaging railway property; and

(d) the reasons for neglect of New Delhi-Ghaziabad suburban train service?

### **Upgradation of trains to reduce journey time**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are finally moving to connect the country's most high profile route, Delhi-Mumbai, by upgrading the existing train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have any plans to upgrade the trains of other routes to reduce the journey hours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Improving safety of rail tracks**

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

(a) whether it is fact that Railways are planning a series of steps to improve the safety of rail tracks, including automated inspections and frequent traffic blocks for maintenance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the railway zones have been asked to procure self propelled cars for track inspection;

(c) whether a large number of rail fractures are occurring on railway tracks that have not even served 25 per cent of their lifespan; and

(d) whether this usually happens due to improper handling or laying of rail tracks and is a major sign of worry?

### **Time-bound implementation of electrification work of tracks**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to achieve 100 per cent electrification of tracks in the next four years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the railway officials have been asked to prepare

an incentive-cum-penalty programme for vendors in order to implement the plan in a time-bound manner;

(c) whether the total electrification of railway tracks is expected to reduce the energy bill from the current ₹ 26,500 crore per year to about ₹ 16,000 crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Action plan for cleaner bedding and better meals**

933. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place an action plan to provide cleaner bedding and better meals to rail passengers in running trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government proposes to implement the action plan with delinquent contractors who continue to work for Railways?

**Hacking of website of IRCTC**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tickets of touts were being confirmed instead of common men by hacking the website of IRCTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the officers identified by Government in this scam and the details of action taken against them?

**Railway stations with modern facilities**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of equipping the select railway stations with modern facilities has stuck midway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of railway stations equipped with modern facilities?

**Foundation stone of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Japan has recently laid the foundation stone of the high speed Bullet train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed and the number of passengers likely to travel in the said train, per day, along with the approximate fare likely to be charged from them?

**Cleanliness and maintenance of passenger rail coaches**

937. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have not yet been able to keep passenger rail coaches in perfect state of cleanliness and maintenance despite tall claims and increase in fare;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Railways have any concrete plan to strengthen the current system to improve the cleanliness and maintenance of rail coaches up to accepted standards?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Electrification of railway lines in  
Andhra Pradesh**

938. SHRI T.G VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have prepared a ₹ 35,000 crore plan to fully electrify railway network in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have identified any sectors in the State of Andhra Pradesh to be included in the electrification network plan; and

(c) by when this project will come into implementation along with the details thereof?

**Development of railway stations of  
Bihar**

†939. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had made certain announcements in the Budget 2017 for the comprehensive development of Buxar, Patna Sahib and other railway stations of Bihar;

(b) if so, the progress in implementation of the above announcements so far; and

(c) the latest status of construction of ROB at Itarhi railway crossing on the eastern side of the Buxar railway station?

**Introduction and renaming of trains**

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

(a) the details of trains which have been cancelled alongwith the new trains introduced in the last three years and the ones which have been renamed; and

(b) the details regarding the new railway tracks and railway bridges proposed by present Government alongwith the status of projects?

**Major contracts to Japanese  
companies for Bullet train**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Japanese companies have got hold of all the major contracts for the \$ 17 billion Indian Bullet train project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether it would be a big blow for the Government's 'Make in India' initiative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Ongoing projects in Himachal  
Pradesh**

942. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the work on these projects is progressing as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

**Upgradation of railway stations**

943. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



introduce any scheme to redevelop/upgrade railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of railway stations in Himachal Pradesh indentified under the scheme; and

(d) whether any financial provision has been made under the scheme and if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Himachal Pradesh?

#### **Funds for safer coaches and electrification**

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

(a) whether Railways have any plan to raise funds to get safer coaches and give a boost to electrification; and

(b) if so, the ways and means Railways are going to consider to raise the funds?

#### **Upgradation of Nandyal railway station**

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

(a) whether Railways' attention is drawn to the plight of passengers and goods transporters at Nandyal railway station, which contributes ₹ 32 crore revenue in the Guntur division of South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to redress the grievances of commuters, and upgrade the Nandyal railway station?

#### **Core components for Bullet train**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported

in a section of the media on 18 January, 2018, Japanese companies will meet at least 70 per cent of core components for India's first Bullet train and train track;

(b) if so, whether the new venture would undermine India's new basic thrust on Make in India; and

(c) the steps proposed/planned/already taken to let Indian companies participate in the construction of the Bullet train either on their own with indigenous technology or as India-Japan JVs?

#### **Zero scrap balance**

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

(a) whether Government has fixed a target for Zero scrap balance till March, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of volume of scrap available, Zone-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the value of scrap materials sold in the last three years, Zone-wise and State-wise?

#### **Station Development Plan of Baramati and Pune railway stations**

948. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided for re-development of a number of stations under Station Development Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in execution of the Station Development Plan in respect of Baramati and Pune railway stations under Central Railway?

**Dhansiri-Zubza rail project**

949. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Dhansiri-Zubza rail project is pending for years due to local problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to complete this rail line in a fixed time-frame?

**Rail connectivity with Imphal**

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

(a) the details of completion and progress of the rail project to connect the capital of Manipur;

(b) whether the expected momentum of progress of the project to connect Imphal by Railways has not been achieved in spite of the strong push by the Prime Minister;

(c) the details of progress of the works in the crucial railway project; and

(d) the details of components of the Trans Asian railway network and its progress?

**Survey to identify Safai Karamcharis**

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

(a) whether Railways have undertaken any survey to identify the number of its Safai Karamcharis during the period 2014-17;

(b) if so, how many have been contractually employed by third-party agencies;

(c) the number of contractual/non-contractual employees who are currently involved in manual cleaning of human excreta from tracks and railway stations;

(d) whether during 2014-17, Railways have conducted an audit of the third-party agencies which hire Safai Karamcharis on contractual basis; and

(e) the number of cases which have been filed against agencies who have failed to provide protective gears to Karamcharis along with the details thereof?

**Encroachment of railway land**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that railway land is under encroachment in all metro cities and urban areas;

(b) if so, the State-wise and Zone-wise land encroachment details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has asked Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to formulate a unified policy to deal with the problem; and

(d) the action taken and further proposal of Government for eviction, protection and proper utilization of railway land?

**Railway projects in Karnataka**

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

(a) the number of new trains announced and started originating from a place in Karnataka between 2014 and 2017 along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of new railway tracks laid or the work pertaining to them started in Karnataka during 2014-17 along with the details of their progress; and

(c) the average of budget expenditure on various railway projects undertaken in Karnataka during 2009-14 and 2014-17?

**Eviction of slum colonies from railway land**

†954. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of slum colonies which could not be evicted by Railways due to lack of arrangement for their rehabilitation along with the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry has discussed with States for rehabilitation of slum colonies located on railway land, if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last three years?

**Implementation of railway projects in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects under implementation in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal with original project costs, revised project costs as on date, year of sanction of the projects, amount so far released and spent in each project and estimated time to be taken for their completion; and

(b) the impediments and obstacles that decelerate the implementation of each project and the steps taken in each case to sort them out?

**Extension of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**

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

(a) whether the Ministry has any plans to extend the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from Sonnagar in Bihar to Dankuni in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Assistance from ISRO for safer train journey**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are contemplating to take assistance of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to make train journey safe;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard, so far; and

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

**Identification of railway stations under Nirbhaya Fund**

958. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of railway stations identified under the Nirbhaya Fund where an Integrated Emergency Response Management System was to be installed and the number of stations where the system is operational; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the State-wise number of railway stations that provide all of the following services under the scheme—Security Control Rooms of Railways with 182 Security Helpline, Medical Facilities, RPF and police and CCTV cameras?

**Installation of bio-toilets**

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

(a) the total number of bio-toilets installed in passenger coaches as against respective yearly targets during last three years, year-wise and zone-wise; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for installation of bio-toilets in

passenger coaches during last three years, year-wise and zone-wise?

**Loco running staff**

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

(a) the number of loco running staff in Railways at present;

(b) their average work load per week;

(c) the maximum hours of continuous work they have to do in a week;

(d) how much increase in their emoluments have been given during the last three years; and

(e) how do they compare with emoluments of other railway staff?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd February, 2018*  
*Magha 14, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

<b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</b>	:	801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	:	831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837,
<b>Coal</b>	:	838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846,
<b>Communications</b>	:	806, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 863,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	:	862, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878,
<b>Electronics and Information Technology</b>	:	879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	:	893, 894, 895, 896, 897,
<b>Law and Justice</b>	:	898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915,
<b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>	:	—
<b>Railways</b>	:	916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960.