

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 16, 2018/Phalgun 25, 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 — 15

Suicides by farmers

†*226. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of farmers' suicides are continuing unabatedly in the country, including Maharashtra;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent farmers' suicides;

(d) whether Government has provided financial assistance/funds to the States for the solution of farmers' problems;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increasing storage capacity of godowns in Maharashtra

*227. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER

AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to construct new godowns for foodgrains and other agricultural produces at different locations in Maharashtra to help farmers and strengthen Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State;

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

(c) whether Government also proposes to increase the storage capacity of the existing godowns in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in milk procurement prices

*228. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite record milk production, small dairy farmers are facing hardships because of reduction in milk procurement prices by some co-operatives in different parts of the country; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help small dairy farmers in the country?

Enquiry into contract for National Internet Backbone and AMC

*229. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 107, Unstarred Question 3424 and Starred Question 138 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25 November, 2016, 16 December, 2016 and 28 July, 2017 respectively and state:

(a) whether advice sought from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) regarding ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract (AMC) along with purchase of new hardware, has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date of receipt and legal/penal action taken against the culprits; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking action against the culprits by Government?

Model railway stations under Ratlam railway division

†*230. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations which are to be transformed into Model railway stations under Ratlam railway division of Western Railway and the time bound action plan for providing modern passenger amenities; and

(b) the details of the works to be carried out for renovation and expansion of Indore, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Mandsaur and

Nimach railway stations in the year 2018-19 with reference to 'a' above?

Execution of railway projects in Odisha by RVNL

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

(a) whether the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), which has been entrusted with the execution of two railway projects, *i.e.*, Haridaspur-Paradip and Angul-Sukinda in Odisha, is unwilling to take up construction work of these projects due to conflict of interest; and

(b) by when Railways are going to fix up a new agency for early completion of the above projects, which have been targeted for their completion in March, 2018 and June, 2018, respectively ?

Restructuring the FCI

*232. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning for restructuring of the Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the major steps being taken by Government therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to dissolve or dilute the responsibilities of the FCI, including that of procuring foodgrains from the farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the dissolution or reducing the responsibilities of the FCI; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Gramin Dak Sevaks

*233. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new Gramin Dak Sevaks employed since 2010, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the total number of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government intends to regularise the jobs of Dak Sevaks as demanded by their union bodies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

FPIs in Karnataka

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is one of the States which has got the maximum invested capital in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of names/locations of the FPIs that have been set up in Karnataka during the last three years?

Procurement of farmers' crops

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

- (a) the details of crops that will be covered by the new formula for MSP announced by the Minister of Finance in the Budget; and
- (b) the steps that are being taken by Government to ensure that all the produces of farmers, which are covered by MSP, are procured by the procurement agencies?

Reforms in the Ministry

*236. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has implemented any key administrative reforms pertaining particularly to the functioning of departments under it during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Ministry had received any suggestions from public or Members of Parliament pertaining to key reforms during the last three years, if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such suggestions accepted and implemented ?

Provision of food security allowances

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

- (a) the total number of complaints received by Government regarding lack of ration depots within mandated distance, rotten/poor quality foodgrains, insufficient/unavailability of foodgrains, along with the steps taken to address each of these issues during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has the provision for giving Food Security Allowance in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the list of beneficiaries?

Infrastructure in Agriculture sector

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

(a) whether the income of farmers has not increased to the expected level due to absence of proper and developed infrastructural facilities in Agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has introduced various new schemes and incurred heavy public expenditure on development of proper infrastructural facilities in Agriculture sector of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Use of drone cameras

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given green signal for the use of 'drone' cameras (UAV/NETRA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted on the use of drones, if so, the details of the research conducted along with the results thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the additional

financial burden, which the Ministry will have to bear, on the use of this technology on monthly/yearly/Zone/division-wise basis ?

Checking the spread of BG-III cotton cultivation

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

(a) whether Government is aware that unauthorised cultivation of herbicide-tolerant cotton seed, popularly known as BG-III cotton, is spreading across the country, which is harmful to the bio-diversity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has complained to the Central Government to check the spread of BG-III cotton, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check the spread of BG-III cotton cultivation ?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th March, 2018
Phalgun 19, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	226, 228, 235, 238, 240,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	—
Coal	:	—
Communications	:	229, 233,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	227, 232, 236, 237,
Electronics and Information Technology	:	—
Food Processing Industries	:	234,
Law and Justice	:	—
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Railways	:	230, 231, 239.