

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 23, 2018/Chaitra 2, 1940 (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

Website for reporting lapses in safety operations

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have launched a website where its 13 lakh employees can report internal lapses in safety operations and hazards without disclosing their identity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such lapses concerning security reported on the said website and the action taken thereon?

Safety of labourers engaged by BSNL

†*302. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent, temporary and contractual labourers

engaged by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for laying of cables and repairing cable joints; and

(b) whether the personal safety equipments are being provided to these labourers engaged in such hazardous works so that their hands and fingers could be protected from becoming useless on getting burnt due to acid leakage?

Aquaculture and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Funds

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

(a) whether the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund and an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund are being established;

(b) the total corpus fund proposed for each of the above Funds; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any allocation has been made for the above Funds, so far, or any specific proposals are there with Government to build up the corpus?

Railway works in partnership with private sector

†*304. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to get a number of works done in partnership with private sector, including the accident insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount received, so far, from the railway passengers for accident insurance under online railway accident insurance scheme;

(d) the total amount disbursed to the passengers as accident compensation;

(e) the amount received by Railways under this head; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that the private sector is earning huge profit from the works being carried out for Railways?

Subsidy for horticulture and cash crops

*305. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the horticulture crops like orange, kinnu and cash crops like jeera, isabgol, etc., have higher preliminary expenditure (approx. ₹ 1 lakh per hectare) but as per the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms,

the Agriculture Input Subsidy for such crop damages is only ₹ 18,000/- per hectare;

(b) whether Government intends to increase Agriculture Input Subsidy up to at least ₹ 50,000/- per hectare for horticulture crops and cash crops due to high initial cost in the entire State of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Contribution of women in agriculture

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey or undertaken any study on participation of women and their contribution to agriculture in Maharashtra and rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the survey or study in this regard; and

(c) the welfare measures extended or proposed to be extended by Government to the women farmers of Maharashtra and rest of the country?

Promotion of FPIs in Himachal Pradesh

*307. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing units/ industries registered and functioning in the country along with the products which are being processed therein, State-wise, including Himachal Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there has been a shortage of food processing units, resulting in farmers not getting fair price of their produces in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up more food processing units/ industries or revive closed food processing units/industries in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, unit/ industry-wise?

Assessment of manpower in the Ministry

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

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole, together with all its Departments and also public sector organisations under it, has conducted any manpower need assessment for its own functioning and administration, if so, when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether, before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organisations, option of re-skilling and re-deploying existing human resources, that may be under-utilised, is explored as a matter of practice?

Awareness camps on Crop Insurance Schemes

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

(a) the number of farmers who opted for Crop Insurance Scheme and the quantum of compensation paid to farmers in the event of crop failure, during the last three years and the current year,

State-wise;

(b) whether the Agricultural Development Committee has organised several camps in the rural areas in order to make the farmers aware of the various schemes of Crop Insurance and also to sell policies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Poor condition of coaches of Kerala-bound trains

*310. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received complaints regarding the extremely poor condition of coaches of Kerala-bound trains, especially long distance trains, viz., Kerala Express, Himsagar Express, Vivek Express, etc.;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry to address the issue; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure good condition of sleeper coaches for long distance trains, considering the fact that the passengers who have to spend several days in trains need better coaches than the coaches for short distance trains?

Development of new railway stations in North Eastern States

*311. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have finalized a new plan to develop new stations involving private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of such railway stations located in Assam and other North Eastern States that are proposed to be developed;

(c) whether the process of identifying private players has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the work would commence; and

(e) the progress in implementation of work of model railway stations taken up earlier, particularly of the Kamakhya railway station in Assam?

Impact of deficient winter rainfall on agriculture

*312. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deficient winter rain *i.e.*, a shortfall of 64 per cent is likely to add to farm distress across the country; and

(b) if so, the alternative precautionary measures taken by Government to meet the situation?

Technology for tracing and tracking of missing children

*313. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has explored its 'Digital India' policy by using technology in dealing with crucial issues like tracing and tracking of missing children, rescuing those working in hazardous industries and children who are victims of sexual abuse;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ending social subsidies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to end social subsidies worth ₹ 30,000 crore, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Railways have appointed two financial institutes to conduct survey in this regard, if so, the details of these institutes and the cost incurred therein; and

(c) whether meetings have been held in this regard, if so, the details of meetings held till date along with the minutes of the meetings?

Doubling of railway lines

*315. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of railway lines in the country is being carried out every year;

(b) if so, the targets set and those completed, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the reasons for gap, if any, in achieving the targets; and

(d) the steps being taken by Railways to expedite completion of the projects?

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	:	303, 305, 306, 308, 309, 312,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	—
Coal	:	—
Communications	:	302,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	—
Electronics and Information Technology	:	313,
Food Processing Industries	:	307,
Law and Justice	:	—
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Railways	:	301, 304, 310, 311, 314, 315.