

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Monday, March 26, 2018/Chaitra 5, 1940 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries : Defence; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Earth Sciences;  
Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and  
Broadcasting; Mines; Panchayati Raj; Road Transport and  
Highways; Rural Development; Science and Technology;  
Shipping; Textiles; Water Resources, River  
Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

**Total number of questions — 15**

#### **Rise in pollution in river Yamuna**

†\*316. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER  
RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT  
AND GANGA REJUVENATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water of Yamuna river is getting polluted, day-by-day, despite various cleaning schemes and due to rise in pollution and muck in the river, the ground water level and its quality has deteriorated in Delhi;

(b) whether the Ammonia level in the water of Yamuna river has risen to such an extent that it is not even potable for animals; and

(c) the details of expenditure during the last three years on maintaining cleanliness and purity of Yamuna and results thereof?

#### **Monitoring mechanism for implementation of schemes**

†\*317. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA  
UIKEY: Will the Minister of RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to establish a special monitoring mechanism for better implementation of schemes at Panchayat level;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this direction;

(c) whether Government is also considering to provide technical training to employees posted in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**AIBP funds for Tamil Nadu**

\*318. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated any funds to Tamil Nadu Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to construct a new flood carrier canal from the existing Kannadian Canal located in Vellankuzhi in Ambasamudram Taluk of Tirunelveli District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Drying up of water streams from Himalayas**

†\*319. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of NITI Aayog's report which states that 60 per cent of water streams, including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, coming from Himalayas, are on the verge of drying up;

(b) whether drying up of streams is due to retreat of glaciers on account of climate change, increasing demand of water, changes in land due to deforestation and changes in tectonic plates;

(c) whether five crore people in twelve States, dependent on these streams would be facing drinking water crisis in the next ten years; and

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

**Construction of roads and bridges in Assam by NHIDCL**

\*320. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) has been entrusted with the work of construction of roads and bridges in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the financial allocation for each work;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the works are running far behind schedule resulting in time and cost overrun; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government to accelerate the work progress?

**Environment clearance for irrigation projects in Maharashtra**

\*321. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals pertaining to irrigation in Maharashtra are pending with Government since 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons for not according clearance so far despite the fact that better irrigation facilities would have drastically improved the economic condition of farmers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-line to examine proposals received from the State Government; and

(d) by when forest clearances would be accorded to enable the State Government to take up their implementation?

#### **Withholding of payments of HHEC**

\*322. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC) has completed the audit reports upto financial year 2016-17;

(b) if so, the reasons for withholding payments of small entrepreneurs/traders, though the audited reports have been submitted to Registrar of Companies (ROC);

(c) the names of entrepreneurs/traders/ firms whose payments have been blocked or not released upto 31st December, 2017, inspite of completion of audit, with amounts payable as on said date; and

(d) the steps being taken to release the payments to small firms/traders immediately?

#### **Pollution in Ganga river due to thermal power plants**

\*323. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the effluents

discharged from thermal power plants in Ganga Basin, is one of the reasons for pollution in Ganga river, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is taking any action to regulate these thermal power plants?

#### **Decline in apparel exports**

\*324. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the apparel exports have declined 5 per cent from the previous fiscal year, from ₹ 93,745 crore to ₹ 88,709 crore; and

(b) whether the decline in exports has been due to the financial crunch, as a result of non-payment of Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) by Central Government, from last July 2017 to the tune of ₹ 2,000 crore, thereby affecting 55 per cent of the apparel exporters?

#### **Bureau for Outreach and Communication**

\*325. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up a Bureau for Outreach and Communication;

(b) if so, the purpose of the Bureau and the functions it will be required to perform;

(c) whether an inter-ministerial consultation was carried out before setting up the Bureau, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the structure of this Bureau and number of employees to be hired; and

(e) the details of the breakup of funds to be allocated for the functioning of the Bureau?

#### **Discovery of minerals**

\*326. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India confirmed the presence of minerals along the coastline of Krishna and Guntur districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of minerals that are present and whether they are minor or major minerals;

(c) whether it is also a fact that National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is contemplating on exploiting these minerals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **MGNREGA mandays in Karnataka**

\*327. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has set target of 215 crore mandays under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) this year;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting a limit of a lower number of mandays as compared to 235 crore mandays in 2016-17, despite of drought conditions in States like Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, etc.;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any decision to provide additional mandays in drought affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, with a particular referene to Karnataka?

#### **Potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra**

\*328. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rural Maharashtra is facing acute shortage of potable water for decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government till date to minimise the shortage and to provide the facility of potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra?

#### **Mechanism to predict weather change and disasters**

\*329. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has a special weather forecasting and knowledge dissemination mechanism for farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted a study to analyse traditional methods of disaster forecasting, preparedness, climate variability, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of instances in the last three years where the Ministry managed

to prevent crop losses occurring due to natural disasters or weather changes by predicting and informing the farmers about the same, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Environmental impact due to  
destruction of forests**

†\*330. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several researches have indicated that due to rampant cutting and

destruction of forests, carbon dioxide is being released into the environment in abundance and consequently ozone layer is being depleted;

(b) the action plan of the Ministry, in view of the threat to various cities of India caused by global warming, which has resulted in melting of glaciers and constant rising of water level of sea; and

(c) the details of reduction in glacier size in the Himalayan region during the last three years and whether many animals and living beings are becoming extinct due to this?

NEW DELHI;  
The 20th March, 2018  
*Phalguna 29, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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

<b>Defence</b>	: —
<b>Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>	: 328,
<b>Earth Sciences</b>	: 329,
<b>Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>	: 321, 330,
<b>Information and Broadcasting</b>	: 325,
<b>Mines</b>	: 326,
<b>Panchayati Raj</b>	: —
<b>Road Transport and Highways</b>	: 320,
<b>Rural Development</b>	: 317, 327,
<b>Science and Technology</b>	: —
<b>Shipping</b>	: —
<b>Textiles</b>	: 322, 324,
<b>Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation</b>	: 316, 318, 319, 323.