

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN 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 — 160

#### Efforts to enhance farmers' income

†2401. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of monthly/annual average income of farmers during the current year and last three years;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for this, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any target has been fixed by Government to enhance the income of farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any efforts have been made by Government to increase the income of farmers during the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of increase in the income of farmers by the efforts made by Government along with the details thereof?

#### Services of Cost Accountants for fixing MSP

†2402. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the crops produced by the farmers which have been sold below minimum support price (MSP) during last three years;

(b) the increase in MSP of the produce of farmers during last one decade and the increase in the salary of Government employees during the same period;

(c) whether Ministry would consider taking the services of Cost Accountants in deriving the agro-prices to facilitate profitable price of the produces of farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Compensation to farmers of J & K under PMFBY**

2403. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers registered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K) State;

(b) the number of farmers from J & K who have availed this Yojana, along with the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the total number of insured farmers who were provided compensation due to the failure of wheat & paddy crops in J & K State?

**Issuance of Soil Health Cards to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir**

2404. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers so far in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) the number of farmers who got these cards in the State along with the details thereof, district-wise?

**Making e-NAM platform more user-friendly**

2405. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several new features have been added to National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to make it more user-friendly, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of e-NAM centres presently established and the number of States covered under this facility?

**Road map for doubling of farmers' income**

2406. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcomes of the two-day National Conference held on February 19-20, 2018 at Pusa to chalk out a road map to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 along with details thereof;

(b) the proposed time-frame for implementation of the outcomes;

(c) the details of various stakeholders who participated in the National Conference; and

(d) the number of farmers consulted to develop the road map alongwith details thereof?

**Subsidy for agricultural machinery**

2407. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to further increase the subsidy level for the agricultural machinery;

(b) whether Government is making efforts to develop simple low-priced agri-equipments to help small and medium farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Damage to crops due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms**

2408. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rains and hailstorms have damaged Rabi crops such as wheat, chana and bajra besides high value horticulture crops in several parts of the country including Marathwada and Vidarbha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated quantum of crops affected and damaged and the amount of loss to farmers;

(d) whether Central Government will extend compensation to farmers who are affected by unseasonal showers and hailstorms;

(e) if so, norms and criteria fixed by Government for this purpose; and

(f) the other steps taken by Government to quicken the compensation to farmers for preventing them from suicides?

**Outbreak of bird flu**

2409. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to recent outbreak of a highly contagious bird flu virus near Bengaluru;

(b) if so, the number of birds killed and loss of poultry population;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to stop spread of bird flu in other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any plan to give compensation to affected poultry farmers;

(e) if so, details of quantum of financial assistance to be provided to affected States; and

(f) other steps taken by Government to improve the production of poultry items and its marketing domestically and internationally?

**Production of organic fertilizers**

2410. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any rule to produce the organic fertilizers compulsory in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Prices of seeds**

2411. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of minimum and maximum price for seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for all type of seeds?

**Farmers' demand for reforms in agriculture sector**

2412. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers had demanded a series of reforms in the agriculture sector such as guaranteeing a minimum income for farmers by way of constituting a National Farmer Income Commission, a novel scheme to ensure that the minimum support price is fixed 50 per cent above

the cost of production as advised by the M.S. Swaminathan Commission apart from initiating a market intervention scheme for the agricultural produce which do not fall in the minimum support price scheme; and

(b) if so, the action Government has taken in this regard?

#### **MSP for Kharif crops**

2413. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of total number of farmers who currently receive minimum support prices (MSP) for their crops;

(b) the crops covered under minimum support price; and

(c) the allocation made in the Union Budget 2018-19 to implement the plan to extend MSP to Kharif crops?

#### **Procurement of pulses**

2414. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of Government procurement programme for pulses including coverage, amount procured and average prices obtained by farmers for the last two years;

(b) whether Government has any plans to expand its procurement programme for pulses in order to give relief to farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with amount to be procured and number of farmers to be covered?

#### **Feminisation of agriculture sector**

2415. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to address the differential access of women to resources like land, credit, water, seeds and markets, etc. in view of economic survey 2017-18 which pointed out increasing "feminisation" of agriculture sector;

(b) whether Government has considered adopting gender-specific interventions to raise agricultural productivity of small farm holdings and women as active agents in rural transformation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bringing animal husbandry and fisheries under KCC Scheme**

2416. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has included the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors under the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Payment of claims under PMFBY**

2417. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the response of Ministry to Supreme Court's query as to why Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is not preventing farmers' suicides;

(b) whether there is imbalance in claims paid and the premium collected by insurance companies under PMFBY;

(c) whether for Kharif 2016, an amount of ₹ 9081 crore was paid as premium to various insurance companies, but claims payable by companies is only ₹ 2725 crore and till end of March companies are

yet to pay nearly ₹ 650 crore to farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and in what manner Ministry would ensure that companies pay claims in time?

#### **Development of GM mustard**

2418. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) so far on the development of hybrid/GM mustard;

(b) whether it is a fact that the hybrid DMH4 showed great potential;

(c) if so, whether the commercialization of it has been given to a private company by NDDB;

(d) the process of selection of the company and how much royalty/fees has been received so far; and

(e) whether Government is aware of any conflict of interest issues in the decision to give the commercialization exclusively to a private company?

#### **Settlement of farmers' claim under Fasal Bima Yojana**

†2419. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to modify the Fasal Bima Yojana to make it more remunerative for farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the precautions taken by Government to make the said scheme effective for protecting the farmers from the burden of premium and the losses caused by crop-damage;

(c) whether there is inordinate delay in settlement of farmers' claims; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal of the claims?

#### **Contract farming for raising efficiency in agriculture sector**

2420. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to experiment with contract farming to help for developing the marketing links that are necessary for raising the efficiency of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal would be considered in the near future to deal with various problems relating to farming?

#### **Decline in public investment in agriculture sector**

2421. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in public investment in agriculture sector during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to bail out the agriculture sector from the crisis?

#### **Interest subsidy to farmers**

2422. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details regarding the mechanism to provide interest subsidy to farmers for short-term credit;

(b) whether Government has made any financial allocation for this purpose in the budget 2018-19;

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

(d) the details regarding interest subsidy provided to farmers in Rajasthan during the last three years?

**Implementation of National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm in Rajasthan**

2423. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm;

(b) whether any action plans under the above Mission have been formulated, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Rajasthan;

(c) the details regarding sanction of outlay for implementation of the Mission in Rajasthan; and

(d) the details regarding achievements of the Mission in Rajasthan during the last three years?

**Creation of separate Ministry for Fishery sector**

2424. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have

been demands for setting up of a separate Ministry for Fishery sector in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons for not setting up the same; and

(d) by when Government will set up a separate Ministry for Fishery sector?

**Subsidies to farmers and Agriculture Cooperatives Producers Societies**

2425. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of farmers' suicide due to agriculture debt trap during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total amount of subsidy disbursed to the farmers during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy released to Agriculture Cooperatives Producers Societies for the last three years, State-wise?

**Traditional farming in Jharkhand**

†2426. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has called for doubling the income of farmers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers of Jharkhand, particularly Scheduled Tribes, depend on traditional agricultural system for which no facilities are available; and

(c) if so, whether Government would start special programmes for States, particularly tribal dominated areas having agricultural productivity less than national

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

average, so that their income could be doubled within expected period?

**Modification in MSP formula**

2427. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for doubling farmers' income;

(b) whether there is any proposal for modification of MSP formula *i.e.* C2 based Minimum Support Price (MSP); and

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

**Monitoring of welfare measures for farmers**

2428. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for huge increase in the number of farmers' suicide cases in almost all the States of the country despite so many welfare measures been launched by Government;

(b) whether Government has any monitoring or reviewing methods/system to check whether these welfare measures are reaching to the poor farmers or not;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Solutions to farmers' problems of crop loss and crop damage**

2429. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out a road-map to achieve its target to double farmers' income by 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has finalized the ways for practical solutions to the challenges faced by farmers, particularly during crop loss and crop damage?

**Coverage of more crops under MSP**

2430. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of crops covered under Minimum Support Price (MSP) at present;

(b) whether some State Governments have approached the Central Government to include more crops under the MSP; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Funds for Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation**

2431. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider greater quantum of funds under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology) for Odisha to meet the farm mechanisation demand; and

(b) whether Government would also take steps to include Straw Baler under subsidy fold to prevent farmers from straw buring and for better post-harvest management?

**Contingent funds under PMFBY**

2432. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the acute farm distress in the rural parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the large number of farmers are unable to take benefit of insurance scheme due to low target, bureaucratic red-tapism and unwillingness of banks to facilitate;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to revise the funding pattern in PMFBY to 60:40 between the Centre and the State of Odisha like other Centrally sponsored Schemes; and

(d) whether Government has taken necessary steps for provision of contingent funds under PMFBY for smooth implementation of the programme?

**Women farmers in the country**

2433. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether women farmers in the country are increasing due to feminisation trends in agriculture;

(b) the number of women farmers that exist in the country as of today; and

(c) whether there is gender disaggregated data for various services pertaining to agriculture?

**Suggestions given in "Krishi 2022" Conference**

†2434. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the main problems

towards which attention has been drawn by the farmers and agricultural experts in "Krishi 2022" Conference organised in February, 2018;

(b) the details of the suggestions given in the conference about improvement in agricultural policy and simplification of rules; and

(c) the suggestions received for doubling the income of farmers, the manner in which they will be implemented, along with the details thereof?

**Steps to check wastage of agricultural food produces/foodgrains**

†2435. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ratio and quantity of production and wastage of agricultural food produces in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the past studies wastage of foodgrains is increasing continuously, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to check the wastage of food items during the last four years and the details thereof along with the achievements made therein?

**Non-payment of claims under PMFBY**

2436. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the premium paid by farmers to various companies under PMFBY, since implementation of the scheme, State-wise and Kharif and Rabi season-wise;

(b) the details of companies to which premium has been paid by farmers since

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



implementation of PMFBY, State-wise, company-wise and Kharif and Rabi season-wise;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that some companies are not paying claims in time citing frivolous reasons;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry will ask IRDA to cancel the licence of such companies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Sharing of agriculture burden of States**

2437. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to share agriculture burden of States under kisan welfare plans;

(b) if so, the details of the plan of Government in this regard to protect and support the farmers;

(c) whether Government has asked the States for sending financial compensation demand; and

(d) if so, the details of demand, State-wise and by when Government would reimburse the States under the plan?

#### **Direct procurement from farmers**

2438. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete measure, for direct procurement from farmers, is being initiated;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **FDI in Agriculture sector**

2439. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the details of FDI in the Agriculture sector during the last three years and the current year and the farmers benefited/likely to be benefited therefrom?

#### **Reduction in budgetary outlay for KVKs**

2440. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind reducing budgetary outlay to Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agricultural Extension) responsible for disseminating agricultural technologies by 68 per cent in last two years, compared to 2016-17;

(b) the details of funds allocated by the Centre for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), during the last four years, State-wise;

(c) the details of other measures undertaken by Government to disseminate agricultural technologies among farmers; and

(d) the expenditure on such other dissemination activities during the last four years, State-wise, specially for West Bengal?

#### **Denial of benefit due to clause complications in PMFBY**

2441. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who opted for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18;

(b) the premium collected from the farmers and the details of risk covered therefrom;

(c) the number of farmers actually benefited from this Bima Yojana; and

(d) whether many farmers could not avail the benefits of the Bima Yojana, despite their crop failure, due to several clause complications?

#### **MSP for Rabi crops**

2442. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for marketing of Rabi crops in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any survey and prepared report on the actual paid out costs of Rabi cropping therefor;

(c) the MSP rates proposed and paid to the farmers during last Kharif season of 2017-18 and Government's expenditure therein; and

(d) the proposal and budget estimates of Government on market reforms, contract farming and land issues?

#### **Policy for contract farming**

2443. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any regulatory and policy framework for contract farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to integrate farmers with agro-industries

so as to ensure better price realization for their produces?

#### **Role of Soil Health Card in agricultural production**

2444. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil health plays a vital role in ensuring agricultural production in a sustainable manner;

(b) whether Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana advocating the farmers to adopt soil test-based fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the number of Soil Health Cards issued to the farmers of these States during the last four years?

#### **Implementation of flagship programme under the Ministry**

2445. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), including flagship programmes, being implemented at present by the Ministry; and

(b) the details of targets and allocations made, funds allocated, disbursed and utilized under these schemes during the last three years, including current year, Scheme-wise and State and UT-wise?

#### **Implementation of farmers' welfare schemes**

2446. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the farmers' welfare schemes implemented in the country along with the details thereof; and

(b) the details of benefit of farmers' schemes in Karnataka, district-wise?

#### Expansion of NHM

†2447. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts covered under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country, State- wise;

(b) whether Government is considering to expand the NHM in rest of the districts also, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has received representations from many States for covering more districts under this Mission; and

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

#### Decline in agricultural growth

2448. 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 estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the growth rates in Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sector has declined from 8.6 per cent in 2010-11 to 2.1 per cent in 2017-18;

(b) whether the average growth rate of agricultural GDP (Gross Domestic Product) during the last four years (2014-15 to 2017-18) was only 2.2 per cent per annum; and

(c) if so, the reasons for decline during

the last four years and the steps Government has taken to prevent the same?

#### Average income of farmers

2449. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the average income of farmers' family is only ₹ 1700/- to ₹ 1800/- per month and around ₹ 60/- only per day in the country and they are not able to even feed their families properly with this income;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and response of Government thereto;

(c) whether farmers from various States have protested in Delhi and other parts of the country during February, 2018 against the policies of Central Government; and

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

#### Growth rate of Agriculture sector

2450. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) the target set and actual growth rate achieved in Agriculture sector during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government would face biggest challenge with regard to food inflation in the coming days as there may be reduction in overall agriculture growth rate; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the measures taken for improvement of agricultural growth and management of foodgrains production?

**Adoption of Organic Farming Policy**

2451. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI  
PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government would initiate steps for adopting an Organic Farming Policy;

(b) whether any State Government has an Organic Farming Policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Demand, production and consumption of fertilizers**

2452. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is continuing subsidy on fertilizers items;

(b) if so, the demand, production and consumption of fertilizers since 2014 including current year in the country, year-wise; and

(c) the market and financial status of public sector fertilizer units?

**Withdrawal of coronary stent from market by manufacturing companies**

2453. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

many coronary stent manufacturing companies propose to withdraw products from the Indian market following the Drugs (Prices Control) Order of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority;

(b) if so, the lists of the stent manufacturers who are likely to withdraw following the new ceiling prices; and

(c) whether Government have made an analysis about the impact of the stent manufacturers' withdrawal on the availability of affordable and quality coronary stents in the country?

**Sale of essential medicines**

2454. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether stringent Government mandated price control, in haste, affected availability of essential medicines as retail data showed that sales of such items registered over two-fold growth in the pharma market;

(b) whether the sale of essential drugs grew by 7 per cent in 2016;

(c) whether Indian pharmaceutical market, which includes medicines outside price control, recorded a growth of 38 per cent in December, 2016;

(d) whether prices of medicines listed under NLEM are accepted by Government through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Action against pharma companies for overcharging**

2455. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

has brought medicines under price control in order to make medicines available to common man at low prices;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that, in spite of announcement by Government, the prices of medicines have not been reduced by pharmaceutical companies;

(c) if so, the details of such companies;

(d) the action taken by Government against such companies; and

(e) the details and outcome thereof?

#### **Model Fertilizers Retail Shops**

2456. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open Model Fertilizers Retail Shops to provide quality fertilizers and for hiring of farming equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of operational and planned Retail Shops, State-wise?

#### **Cap on prices of essential medicines**

2457. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped prices of essential medicines;

(b) if so, the list of drugs whose ceiling prices have been capped and revised; and

(c) whether stakeholders were consulted in this regard, if so, their respective responses thereon?

#### **Law to regulate prices of medical equipments**

2458. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is considering to come out with a law to regulate the medical equipment charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same would be in line with the policy being adopted in the case of fixation of drug formulations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Growth of pharma sector in Visakhapatnam**

2459. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharma sector in Visakhapatnam is growing rapidly with pharma exports of ₹ 15,000 crore every year;

(b) the steps taken to attract more and more pharma companies in Jawaharlal Pharma City to help generate more and more employment;

(c) whether Government is planning to acquire additional 2,000 acres of land for another Pharma City and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the Ministry is going to help Andhra Pradesh to make Visakhapatnam a pharmaceutical hub of the country?

**Passing on the benefit of price cap on stents to patients**

2460. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether capping the price of cardiac stents last year by NPPA by almost 85 per cent has resulted in reduction of prices of overall angioplasty procedure by 8 to 18 per cent only;

(b) whether Government will conduct a study to find out the reasons behind the failure of fall in the prices of the angioplasty procedure despite reduction in the prices of the cardiac stents by 85 per cent; and

(c) whether Government will evolve a monitoring system to ensure that the benefit of capping of cardiac stent prices reaches the poor in real sense?

**Controlling the prices of life-saving drugs**

2461. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) the details of generic medicines available for treating cancer and other life-threatening diseases in the country;

(b) whether Government is under pressure for keeping the prices of cancer medicines at par with those medicines made by American manufacturers;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to control the prices of such life-saving drugs?

**Extraction of CBM by CIL**

2462. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has undertaken the work of extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from its mines;

(b) if so, the details and the targets thereof;

(c) whether CIL has the required technology for extraction of CBM; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken to enhance the CBM production from the coal mines of CIL?

**Operationalizing captive coal blocks**

2463. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several auctioned captive coal blocks are still not operational, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of captive coal blocks which are operational out of the total auctioned coal blocks; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to make all these coal blocks operational?

**Net Profit of CIL**

2464. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) has reported a 4.21 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ending December, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production during the quarter stood at 152.04 million tonnes as against 147.73 million tonnes in the preceding year period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that, during

the said period, supply of coal to power plants across the country has also increased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Privatisation of coal mining affecting safety and security of workers**

2465. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decision to privatise the Coal Mining sector, apart from undermining the energy security of the country, would compromise the safety and security of the workers engaged in the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Coal collieries**

2466. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal collieries in the country at present along with their annual production;

(b) the number of them which are in Public and Private sectors;

(c) the private collieries sanctioned during the last 10 years and 5 years, respectively; and

(d) the number of collieries closed down during these periods?

**Steps to check illegal activities in coal mines**

2467. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of massive illegal mining and theft of coal;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been

taken by Government during the last four years in this regard; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

**Opening up the Coal sector to private miners**

2468. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:  
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to open up the Coal sector for commercial mining by private domestic and international miners;

(b) if so, whether the decision will impact the exclusive rights of coal mining or monopoly of the State owned Coal India Limited; and

(c) the benefits that will accrue to Coal sector from this decision?

**Protests against privatization of coal mining**

2469. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently decided to privatize and auction the commercial coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status thereof;

(c) whether various trade unions and employees of Coal India Ltd., the largest coal miner of the world, have protested against privatization of coal mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

**Opening up of Coal sector to private entities**

2470. SHRI D. RAJA:  
SHRI RITABRATA  
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to open up the Coal sector to commercial mining by private entities;

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

(c) whether this decision amounts to denationalisation of coal mines; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to address the associated issues like pricing, control on extracting limit, etc., to check any wrongdoings on the part of the private players?

**Provision of maintenance of broadband under BharatNet**

2471. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the country at present which are using high-speed broadband connection under BharatNet, State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the maintenance provisions under the BharatNet programme for the broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats?

**Commissioning of cellular towers to enhance connectivity**

2472. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cellular towers

commissioned by Government during last year to enhance connectivity;

(b) the number of cellular towers commissioned by Government during last year in Government establishments, along with the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other initiatives taken by Government to ensure connectivity?

**Ranking of telecom companies**

†2473. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is preparing for ranking of telecom companies in order to rid people of the problems like call drop, failure of network, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step so far in this regard; and

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

**Portability requests on account of call drops**

2474. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to problem of frequent call drops during mobile communication, the number of portability requests have increased sharply;

(b) if so, the number of portability requests, month-wise and service provider-wise for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve call drops to provide smooth mobile communication?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Implementation of key administrative reforms**

2475. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has implemented any key administrative reform pertaining particularly to the functioning of departments under it during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(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; and

(c) how many such suggestions, if any, were accepted and implemented?

**Recommendations of the Committee set up for issues concerning Gramin Dak Sevaks**

2476. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations given by the Committee, constituted to look into the salary structure, other service matters and problems of Gramin Dak Sevaks, have been accepted by the Ministry;

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

(c) whether the accepted recommendations have been implemented, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of Dak Sevaks in the State of Odisha who would be benefited after the recommendations are implemented?

**Report of the Committee on Net Neutrality**

2477. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:  
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert Committee constituted on Net Neutrality has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to adopt the recommendations made by the Committee for implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**BharatNet project in Odisha**

2478. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of BharatNet project and whether the same have been achieved, if not, the actions being taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Odisha under NOFN/BharatNet project which have been provided with the high-speed broadband connectivity infrastructure; and

(c) the plans of the Ministry to connect all Gram Panchayats with high-speed broadband in Odisha?

**Mobile calling and Wi-Fi usage in flights**

2479. SHRI T.G VENKATESH:  
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to accord permission to the flight travellers to make phone calls and for Wi-Fi usage while flying in air, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the TRAI has given its approval for making phone calls while flying in the air, if so, the details thereof?

**BIS guidelines for medical devices**

2480. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BIS guidelines (Indian Standards) for ESWL (electromagnetic) lithotripter and several other medical devices are not available;

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

(c) by when these guidelines would be framed along with the details of such guidelines; and

(d) if no guidelines would be framed, the reasons therefor?

**Setting up of Zonal Consumer Helplines**

2481. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is planning to integrate all the State Consumer Helplines with the national portal at CSS, IIPA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to close the Grahak Suvidha Kendras and set up Zonal Consumer Helplines in their place; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of new Zonal Consumer Helpline policy?

**Sugar crisis in domestic market**

2482. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is anticipating a sugar crisis in the domestic market as a result of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to remove the initial problems of traders and anticipated crisis of sugar?

**Import and export duty on sugar**

2483. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to scrap the export duty on sugar;

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

(c) whether Government also plans to increase the import duty on sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this measure will be helpful in

protecting the interests of the domestic sugar producers/farmers and the consumers?

**Distribution of milk under PDS**

2484. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to include milk in the PDS as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, if so, by when;

(b) in what manner Government plans to increase milk production which would contribute towards its promise of doubling farmers' income; and

(c) the Government's plans to implement the proposal in view of the fact that supplying a perishable commodity like milk through ration shops or Anganwadis or schools would require the setting up of chilling plants or cold chains in each village, or the linking up of various food and nutrition schemes with milk cooperatives?

**MoU with CIL for wagons**

2485. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to pay lease rental for Coal India Limited (CIL) owned wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have entered into a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with CIL in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Allocation of funds to Kerala for strengthening of PDS**

2486. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme has been implemented all over the country;

(b) if so, the total amount transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of PDS under DBT so far since its starting, State-wise;

(c) whether any financial aid is provided to States/UTs for strengthening the PDS such as for digitisation of ration cards and setting up of computerized Fair Price Shops, etc.; and

(d) if so, the amount allotted to Kerala so far, for the above said activities?

**Supply of subsidized sugar, rice and pulses to Tamil Nadu**

2487. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is in receipt of any request from Government of Tamil Nadu to extend the coverage of subsidized sugar, rice and pulses to all priority households and to enhance the subsidy given for these essential food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this issue;

(c) whether the subsidy rate for sugar

has not been increased since a long time in accordance with the rise in market price and the additional costs being borne by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the Government's stand on this issue?

#### **Rise in price of sugar**

2488. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, till November, 2017, sugar production in the country was 13.73 lakh tonnes, if so, the details of sugar production in the country, since 2014 till date, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of export and import of sugar since 2014 till date; and

(c) the reasons for constant high price of sugar in spite of good production?

#### **Payment of dues to Chhattisgarh for Kharif crops**

†2489. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of residual amount on account of deductions involved for the years 2002-03 to 2009-10 in terms of the fixed rate of final cost involved for Kharif crops due from Central Government to the State of Chhattisgarh; and

(b) whether the above amount would be paid to the State of Chhattisgarh?

#### **Action taken against misleading advertisements**

2490. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a portal called GAMA (Grievance Against Misleading Advertisements) where a consumer can lodge a complaint against misleading advertisements;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received by Government through GAMA, as-on-date, about misleading advertisements on electronic media claiming that the use of specific cream will turn black and dusky face skin to fair skin; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon, complaint-wise?

#### **Import of pulses**

2491. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether being the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses, Canada and India have recently discussed the issue of Canada taking good care of India's pulse imports during the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India;

(b) whether India has planned to halve the pulse imports bill by unloading the abundant stock of pulses stored in warehouses, despite the fact that pulse production is not faring well this season; and

(c) whether, by doing so, Government would ensure that the needs of public welfare programmes, aimed at providing

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

basic minimum nutrition to the vulnerable classes, are not adversely affected?

Government to resolve the problem once and for all?

**Complaints/FIRs filed by UIDAI**

#2492. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints/FIRs filed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under Section 47 of the Aadhaar Act for disclosing identity information, unauthorised disclosure-wise;

(b) the number of the complaints/FIRs filed by the UIDAI against private persons, including enrolment centres or requesting entities; and

(c) the number of complaints/FIRs filed by the UIDAI against Government officers for offences under Section 37 of the Act?

**Misuse of Aadhaar data**

2493. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:  
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:  
SHRI DHARMAPURI  
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aadhaar data is being misused and following the complaints, Aadhaar servers have stopped their services across the country recently;

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

(c) whether Government has investigated the matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by

**Cyber security professionals**

2494. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of five lakh cyber security professionals by 2018 has been met, as per the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Cyber Crisis Management Plan for curbing cyber fraud**

2495. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases of internet frauds have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government has drawn a Cyber Crisis Management Plan to check cyber frauds in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the achievements of the plan, so far?

**ESDM Incubation Centre in Odisha**

2496. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal on setting up of Electronic System Design

(# CANCELLED)

and Manufacturing (ESDM) Incubation Centre in Odisha is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action planned in this regard?

#### **Cyber Crisis Management Plan**

2497. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that the existing Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) is sufficient to protect the cyber space and cyber infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any future plan to augment the CCMP considering the fact that Government is promoting e-Governance and digital economy in a big way;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Ban on pornography sites**

2498. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of people have become addict of watching pornography over the internet;

(b) whether it is a fact that millions of people in our country access porn on their smart phones by inserting necessary chips containing racy videos which are easily available at low price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to impose ban on pornography sites, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Hacking of Aadhaar information**

2499. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that all confidential data such as mobile number, e-mail ID, the documents or bank accounts linked to the Aadhaar number can be easily accessed by hackers by using certain commands on the computers;

(b) whether it is a fact that hackers have been selling this data in the underground market at the rate of 50 paise per information and it goes upto ₹ 2.50; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Breach of Aadhaar data**

2500. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in controlling the breach of Aadhaar data, including bio-metric details, in the light of recent violations of data breach incidents in the country; and

(b) the measures taken/to be taken by Government to improve the information security standards to handle the instances of data breach in future?

#### **Loss of jobs due to automation**

2501. SHRI AHMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken measures to study the effect of automation on job-loss in IT sector, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has prepared an action plan to balance the onset of Artificial Intelligence replacing human jobs, if so, the details thereof?

**Use of virtual ID to maintain privacy of Aadhaar data**

2502. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Unique Identification Authority of India is going to introduce use of virtual ID as a fresh move to maintain privacy of data of Aadhaar holders;

(b) if so, the details of new ID system to be implemented;

(c) the list of departments and usages where virtual ID shall be acceptable; and

(d) the list of departments, where only Aadhaar Card shall be required?

**Action against websites publishing Blue Whale Challenge game**

2503. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government against the websites publishing Blue Whale Challenge game which led to suicides by teenagers in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any mechanism to keep a check on such websites in future; and

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines to schools to prevent children from using such websites?

**Increase in cyber security risks**

2504. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steady increase of internet created cyber security risks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government/private reports received in this regard along with the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that in India, more and more organisations believe that not all their data stored in the cloud is protected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by Government to adopt next-gen security to minimise cyber threats, to transform and upgrade security strategy and systems to ensure the safekeeping of all data?

**Cases of fraud in digital transactions**

2505. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of fraud alongwith amount of money lost as a result of fraud cases in digital transactions since November, 2016, month-wise;

(b) whether Government has put in place a system to monitor risks in digital transactions with respect to net banking, UPI, AEPS, BHIM, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has proposed a mechanism for customers to file complaints in cases of fraud and guidelines for customers to claim compensation, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Mechanism to guide and fund State Governments for security of digital data**

2506. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cyber crime cases in the country have increased manifold during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any mechanism to guide and fund State Government to ensure security of digital data, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of measures taken to guard against external cyber attacks and the money spent over the last three years in this regard?

**Security and safety in digital transactions**

2507. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding breach of security and safety while doing digital transactions have been brought to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to enhance the safety and security while doing digital transactions; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to create awareness among the bank customers in this regard?

**Licence to CSCs for functioning as payment gateways**

2508. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been allotted licence for functioning as payment gateways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of CSCs opened in villages and rural districts alongwith the number of employment opportunities created so far; and

(d) the details of achievement of CSCs in creating a cashless society?

**Biometric failure in collection of Aadhaar data**

2509. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:  
SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the biometric method of collection of information has failed many times in States such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there have been implications of exclusion due to biometric failures such as fingerprint detection errors, etc.; and

(c) whether Government shall permit alternative modes to establish one's identity if Aadhaar identification fails in the future, if so, the details thereof?



**Benefits to farmers from FPIs**

2510. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a direct connect between farmers and Food Processing Industries (FPIs) proposed to be set up as a result of several initiatives taken by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which farmers would benefited from FPIs and whether the industries would come up close to the farm gates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Food processing units**

2511. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industrial units which are there in public and private sectors in the country now;

(b) the number of employees in them;

(c) their annual production during last three years;

(d) in which areas, say foodgrains, vegetables and fruits, there are possibilities for more production units;

(e) the possibilities for these industries at present; and

(f) the risks they face now?

**Steps to improve Food Processing Industry**

2512. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether effective measures have

been taken during the last three years by Government to substantially improve Food Processing Industry in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to make the Food Processing sector of the country globally competitive?

**Setting up of Mini Food Parks across the country**

2513. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up Mini Food Parks across the country to raise the processing level, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any such Food Parks are being established in the State to Telangana, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the sops and concessions being provided to the farmers under this Scheme?

**Legal Aid services**

2514. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of District Legal Services Authorities and Taluka Legal Services Committees established as on 1 January, 2018, State-wise;

(b) the number of Panel Lawyers and Paralegal Volunteers appointed by Legal Aid Authorities as on 1 January, 2018, State-wise;

(c) the number of convicts for whom and the number of jails where Paralegal

Volunteers have been appointed by Legal Aid Authorities as on 1 January, 2018, State-wise; and

(d) the number of Legal Aid Clinics established by Legal Aid Authorities as on 1 January, 2018, State-wise?

**Role of e-Courts in disposal of pending cases**

2515. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated by Government for introduction of e-Courts throughout the country;

(b) whether e-Courts shall also take care of the disposal of pending cases in various courts and make available valuable information to the petitioners and respondents speedily; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of more FTCs**

2516. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a massive backlog of pending cases in Fast Track Courts (FTCs);

(b) whether Government is taking any measures to increase the number of FTCs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Disposal of backlog of pending cases by FTCs**

2517. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs), established for speedy trial of cases related to crimes against women, have a backlog of more than 2000 pending cases till now;

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

(c) the measures Government would take to counter the inefficiencies of FTCs to conduct speedy trials?

**Expenditure on elections**

†2518. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether expenditure on elections is increasing indiscreetly because elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are not held simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expenditure on elections will decrease if elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are held simultaneously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**

†2519. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission and a Parliamentary Committee had suggested to hold elections to Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Election Commission

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and states have recently given any suggestion in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **National Litigation Policy**

2520. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to implement the National Litigation Policy of 2010, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the meaning of the term 'Government' while classifying that 46 per cent of the court cases have Government as a litigant; and

(d) whether Government litigation includes cases where Government is a petitioner or respondent or both?

#### **Meetings of DPC in ITAT**

†2521. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which the meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for the post of Assistant Registrar in the office of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) were held in the last one decade;

(b) the duration after which the meeting of DPC should be held as per rule and whether it is being complied with;

(c) the reasons for which the meetings of DPC are not being held in the office of ITAT; and

(d) whether it amounts to violation of the rules of the Department of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions?

#### **Criteria for appointment of Panel Lawyers**

2522. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and procedure for appointment of Panel Lawyers by Legal Services Authorities at District and Sub-Divisional levels;

(b) whether there is a standard remuneration given to legal aid lawyers, per case, in Magistrate Courts, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is a standard remuneration given to legal aid lawyers, per case, for Sessions Courts and Special Courts, if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Installation of bio-toilets in trains**

2523. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that target for installing bio-toilets in trains has not been achieved in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the allocated money for this purpose has not been spent in all the above years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of target and achievement of installing bio-toilets in SCR, year-wise, and reasons for not achieving the targets?

#### **Officers working on sensitive posts in North Eastern Railway**

†2524. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lists of officers of North Eastern Railway working on sensitive posts beyond their tenures which have been sent to the Central Vigilance Commissioner by Chief Vigilance Officer of North Eastern Railway during the last three years;

(b) the various posts of Group 'D', 'C', 'B' and 'A' in vigilance department which come in the list of sensitive posts, as per directions of the Central Vigilance Commission; and

(c) the maximum tenure of Chief Vigilance Officer working in Railways, the Zone-wise and date-wise details of the officers working on these posts?

**Delay in arrival of trains at Gorakhpur railway station**

‡2525. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in arrival of passenger trains at Gorakhpur railway station by many hours from Narkatiya, Chhapra and Varanasi, in spite of their reaching Gorakhpur Cantt. railway station at right time;

(b) the distance between these stations and the reasons for taking so much time to cover the same; and

(c) whether the Ministry would consider to take steps to do away with this delay?

**High Speed Rail**

2526. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preliminary works pertaining to introduction of High Speed Rail between Chennai-Delhi, Chennai-Mumbai and Chennai-Howrah is still a non-starter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would come forward to give priority to this project and start the preliminary works in the coming days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Operating ratio of Railways**

2527. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are likely to end this financial year with an operating ratio of 95 per cent and set a target to improve it to 93 per cent in the next fiscal;

(b) whether Railways are considering to reduce its working expenses in 2018-19 to achieve a better financial health by the end of next fiscal;

(c) whether at 95 per cent, this year's operating ratio is a marginal improvement over last year's 96 per cent, as per revised estimates of budget 2017-18; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Measures for safety of railway tracks**

2528. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether engineers across the railway network have been ordered to identify all vulnerable locations on tracks immediately and draw up a plan to rectify them on an urgent basis;

(b) whether the process to fill up a significant part of vacancies in safety category posts across Zones has also started;

(c) whether the Zonal units have been asked to work out the plan on an urgent basis with zero tolerance towards laxity *vis-a-vis* safety works; and

(d) whether the Zonal units have also been asked to finish residual deep screening of tracks in a phased manner?

**Establishment of new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh**

2529. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons Ministry is not revealing recommendations made by the Committee constituted to look into the establishment of a new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh as mandated by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014;

(b) whether any State is opposing this move; and

(c) if so, the details of such State (s) and the reasons therefor?

**Expansion and strengthening of railway network in Rajasthan**

†2530. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strengthening of railway network in Rajasthan was neglected for long after the independence due to which, railway services in the State have not been developed sufficiently as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several projects have been started and heavy investment has taken place for the expansion and strengthening of railway services in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Trains fitted with bio-toilets**

2531. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of trains fitted with bio-toilets;

(b) the details of the number of trains without bio-toilets;

(c) whether Railways permit the manual unclogging of bio-toilets; and

(d) by when all toilets in Railways will be converted to bio-toilets along with details thereof?

**Training to apprentices**

2532. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as part of the Skill India Initiative, the Ministry has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been providing training to apprentices in various disciplines;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have been provided with training, trade-wise during the last two years;

(c) whether any stipend is paid to such apprentice trainees;

(d) if so, the amount paid per month, trade-wise; and

(e) the number of such trainees who have been provided jobs in the Railways itself during the last three years?

#### **Upgradation of railway stations**

†2533. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations upgraded in the last two years and the current financial year;

(b) whether Railways have received any proposal from various States, including Maharashtra, in this regard, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has formulated any Special Purpose Vehicle to monitor the work of upgradation of these railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details of progress of the above project and the likely time-limit for upgradation of these stations?

#### **Increasing the production of railway factories**

†2534. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are seriously considering to increase the production of railway factories;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this direction, so far; and

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

#### **Direct trains connecting Ranchi to Ahmedabad/Surat**

2535. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of direct trains connecting Ranchi in Jharkhand to Ahmedabad/Surat in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any proposal/representation since long to start direct trains between Ranchi and Ahmedabad/Surat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways carried out any survey to check potential to start a new train between these stations; and

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

#### **Vacancies in various categories**

2536. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts fallen vacant in various categories, as on January, 2018;

(b) whether Railways have started the process to recruit some 89,000 Group 'C' and 'D' employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**New Rajdhani train from  
Bhubaneswar to Delhi**

2537. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the demand of the State of Odisha to introduce a new Rajdhani train service from Bhubaneswar to Delhi *via* Sambalpur to cope up with the passenger growth;

(b) if so, the details of the project along with the timeline for its completion, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is planning to divert an existing Rajdhani and run the same *via* Sambalpur; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with its impact on the frequency of the existing route?

**Doubling of railway lines in  
Uttarakhand**

†2538. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the elected representatives of the State of Uttarakhand have requested for doubling of railway lines in the State, if so, the names thereof;

(b) the amount earmarked for the financial year 2018-19 for the doubling of which railway lines in Uttarakhand along with the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the railway lines expected to be taken up for doubling in future?

**Soiled toilets at railway stations of  
Delhi and NCR**

†2539. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that people seldom use the toilets situated at railway stations of Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) because of their remaining unclean;

(b) if so, whether toilets are cleaned daily or weekly, the details thereof;

(c) whether permanent appointments of staff have been made for cleaning up work;

(d) if not, whether Government shall appoint permanent staff for regular cleaning of toilets; and

(e) if not, whether sanitation work could be given on contract basis?

**Cleanliness cess**

2540. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways charge 0.5 per cent of the fare in the name of cleanliness;

(b) if so, the amount collected so far;

(c) in what manner this amount was spent; and

(d) its impact on cleanliness in the trains and at railway stations?

**Tickets booked through reservation  
centres**

2541. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reservation centres in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the country at present, State/Zone-wise;

(b) the number of tickets booked in reservation centres during the last three years;

(c) whether Government proposes to close reservation centres/counters on account of increasing number of online booking of railway tickets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Competitive fares of Rajdhani train and airlines**

2542. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Rajdhani trains face competition from airlines due to their fares being comparably at par;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are also working to make it better and to make Rajdhani Express trains more attractive for the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Commencement of Hajipur to Karpurigram railway line work**

†2543. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to commence the work of proposed new railway line upto Karpurigram *via* Hajipur-Mahua-Patepur in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new railway line, in Kilometres,

decided to be laid in Bihar in the Budget of 2018-19 along with the details thereof?

#### **Data loggers**

2544. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are around 6,000 data loggers across the railway network, capturing train movement status, such as, time and speed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Zonal railways were showing signs of under-reporting of inefficiencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Cancellation of projects in West Bengal**

2545. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have been cancelling the projects in West Bengal which were sanctioned during the period from May, 2009 to May, 2011 when present Chief Minister of West Bengal was Railway Minister; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects along with the reasons for their cancellation?

#### **Basic amenities in trains**

†2546. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no improvement in the basic amenities provided in the trains despite hiking the fare by more than double in the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the reasons therefor and who are responsible for the same; and

(c) if not, the details of amenities promised to be added in trains by Government and the reasons for not implementing the same?

**Overbridge connecting Tandur with Old Tandur**

2547. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that work on an Overbridge at a railway crossing that connects Tandur and Old Tandur in Vikarabad district has not been taken up even though foundation stone was laid one year ago; and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed in this regard?

**Gauge conversion of Kendri-Dhamtari-Rajim railway line**

†2548. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal worth of ₹ 55.85 crore for the gauge conversion of Kendri-Dhamtari-Rajim railway line through a letter dated 13 July, 2017 from South East Central Railway, Raipur;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) by when the above proposal would be sanctioned; and

(d) the target fixed for the completion of work related to the gauge conversion of the Kendri-Dhamtari-Rajim railway line?

**Revenue generation through various resources**

2549. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue earned through various resources, including advertisements at stations, inside and outside the trains and on tickets/reservation forms during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Railways propose to identify new sectors for generating revenue from advertisements;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the necessary steps taken/being taken by Railways in this regard?

**Providing healthy food at railway stations**

†2550. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific measures undertaken for providing pure and healthy food at railway stations and the system adopted for monitoring thereof; and

(b) the names of the stations on Mumbai-New Delhi route on which Railways are providing healthy food?

**Maintenance of railways in hilly areas**

2551. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for maintenance of railways in hilly areas and bringing them at par with

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

world standards to promote tourism and improving passenger services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**Electrification of entire railway network**

2552. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are reconsidering its plans for electrification of the entire network and replacement of its diesel fleet, as there is limited clarity on returns on an estimated capital investment of ₹ 1 lakh crore in the exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Makeover plan of Railways**

2553. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
BALMUCHU:  
SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to bring about changes in its brand image and logo with new and modified symbols to sync with contemporary symbols;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that TTEs are being provided with POS machines to collect on-the-spot charges, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of solar power projects on unused land**

2554. SHRI N. GOKULA-  
KRISHNAN:  
SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will call tenders to award contracts to set up 3,000 MW of solar power projects on its unused land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have fixed a target to generate green energy for the operation of railway networks in a time-bound manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**CTSE scheme**

2555. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN  
PERWEEN:  
DR. ANIL KUMAR  
SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of pensioners in four metro cities and how many out of them joined Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE), launched by Railways on 14 July, 2016 for one year;

(b) whether scheme has been extended beyond one year and is there any action plan to further extend it;

(c) whether, since launch of this scheme hardly 650 retired staff/officers enrolled, reflecting it being unpopular, the steps being taken therefor;

(d) whether the expenditure incurred caused heavy financial burden, which needs to be investigated; and

(e) whether the hospitals, which signed MoU, are not entertaining Railway pensioners holding CTSE card?

**Filling up of posts in Level-1**

2556. DR. ANIL KUMAR  
SAHANI:  
SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN  
PERWEEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total indented vacancies of Level-1 of all Zonal railways, Production Units and other workshops, etc. as on 1 August, 2016, as Railways, through CEN No. 2/2018, issued Notification for filling 62,907 posts in Level-1;

(b) whether it is a fact that notification for lesser vacancies has been issued, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for denying opportunities to Course Completed Act Apprentices of other Ministries against 20 per cent vacancies reserved for them; and

(d) whether Railways plan to surrender posts for which vacancies have not been notified?

**Stoppage of Patna Rajdhani at Buxar railway station**

2557. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would allow stoppage of 12310/12309 Patna Rajdhani at Buxar station for at least two minutes, in view of inconvenience to general public and several Members of Parliament of Uttar

Pradesh and Bihar who are compelled to board this train from Mughalsarai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Appointments in the office of Chief Project Director of North-Eastern Railway**

†2558. SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not making appointment/posting of officers in the electrical, civil and signal departments in the office of Chief Project Director (Rail Electrification) under the North Eastern Railway and by when regular postings on these posts would be made; and

(b) whether it does not affect the departmental work?

**Modernisation of railways**

2559. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action taken by Government to modernise railways during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds sanctioned for modernisation of railways have not been utilized as per target fixed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Disinvestment of Railway PSUs**

2560. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Railway PSUs are being disinvested; and

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

NEW DELHI;  
*The 10th March, 2018*  

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*Phalguna 19, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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**(Ministry-wise)**

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