

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, March 19, 2018/Phalgun 28, 1939 (Saka)*

**(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 — 160

Vacancies of officers/soldiers in the armed forces

†2561. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts of officers in the Navy, Air Force and the Army are lying vacant presently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether, despite several efforts made by the Forces for improvement of their image, the shortage of officers and soldiers is continuously increasing in the forces and there was a shortage of 1.19 per cent of officers in the last nine months and of 15.38 per cent of officers as on July, 2017; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to fill the vacant posts expeditiously in all three wings of the forces?

Transfer of technology in Rafale jet deal

2562. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter-

Governmental Agreement with France for the purchase of 36 Rafale jets does not include a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement;

(b) if so, reasons for the absence of an agreement on ToT;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the previous deal under the earlier Government in 2012 included a ToT agreement; and

(d) if so, details of the rationale behind scrapping the previous understanding on ToT?

Ceasefire violations on LoC

2563. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ceasefire violations on Pakistan border and Line of Control (LoC) have become a common phenomenon;

(b) whether Government is proposing some steps to control Ceasefire violations;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Status of cadre review of Barrack and Stores cadre of MES

2564. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first cadre review of Barrack and Stores cadre of Military Engineer Services (MES) has been approved by Government in December, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the approved cadre review has not yet been implemented by the department;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with reasons for delay in implementation and probable date by which it will be implemented; and

(d) the details of cadre review of all other cadres of MES with change in cadre strength in each stage?

Loss of lives/property due to firing on border

2565. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that firing by Pakistani Army on Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir has resulted in loss of lives and property in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of action taken by the Army and Government?

Setting up of a Defence University

2566. MAHANT SHAMBHU PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to set up a Defence University in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Connecting road from Darbuk to DBO

2567. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to absence of a road route to reach Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), the troops deployed there have to traverse a long distance with huge loads; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to build an all weather road connecting Darbuk to DBO and by when would it be ready?

Winding up of Army Postal Services

†2568. SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to wind up the Army Postal Service (APS);

(b) if so, the time line to dispense with Army Postal Service;

(c) the manner in which the job of sending very important documents to their

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

destinations would be executed after closure of APS;

(d) where would the soldiers, who are currently serving with APS, be deployed after the closure of the department; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government is continuing with new recruitment in APS?

Creation of posts in MES

2569. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineer-in-Chief is the head of the organisation of Military Engineering Services (MES);

(b) whether three posts of ADG (Coast Guard/Northern Command/Eastern Command) have been created in MES without recommendation/consent of Engineer-in-Chief;

(c) if so, the reasons and authority under which such action was taken;

(d) whether it is also a fact that two posts of Chief Engineer (Civilian) in MES have been activated in 2016 without appraising CCE (Chief Construction Engineer) and have been earmarked for Military Hospital to be constructed in Eastern/Northern command; and

(e) if so, reasons and authority under which such action was taken?

DPR of INS Viraat

2570. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for INS Viraat;

(b) whether it is a fact that as soon as

the DPR is ready, the ship will be brought to Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh for refurbishment; and

(c) time taken for its refurbishment and by when is it likely to join the Kusura Submarine Museum and TU-142 Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

Procurement of Rafale aircraft

2571. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the visit of the Prime Minister to France, the purchase of the Rafale fighter aircraft was finalized;

(b) whether it is also a fact that number of Aircrafts was reduced from 126 to 36 during the deal;

(c) the reasons for purchasing 126 aircrafts originally and reducing it to 36 finally; and

(d) whether the requirement of such fighter aircraft has suddenly reduced or Government is planning to go for some other fighter aircraft and if so, the details thereof?

Medium of examination in Defence recruitment

2572. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to have the question papers in Bengali and other official languages in the Defence recruitment examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Establishment of Sainik Schools for girls

2573. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to establish Sainik Schools for girl students in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such schools are being established in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) whether any places have been identified for the purpose, if so, the details thereof?

Price of Rafale jets

2574. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average unit price of Rafale jets under the Inter-Government Agreement, 2016, with France stands at around ₹ 1600 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the average unit price of Rafale jets under the deal struck by the previous Government in 2012, stood at around ₹ 540 crore; and

(c) if so, reasons as to why the average unit price of jets almost trebled over the course of four years despite the manufacturer, Dassault Aviation, and the buyer, being constant in the two deals?

Purchase of guns for infantry

2575. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formalised

buying guns for the infantry, which has been pending since the Kargil war;

(b) whether during the past three years, less than 10 per cent of the proposed arms deals have met their timelines;

(c) whether indigenisation of military hardware is catching up with the projected deadlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of manpower in the army

2576. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is facing shortage of manpower in various ranks;

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

(c) whether Government has conducted recruitment rallies across the country to recruit personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the future recruitment plan being chalked out by the Government for the Army?

Road construction along borders

2577. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of roads along India's International Borders (IB) constructed during the last three years;

(b) the total length of road repaired along India's IBs during last three years; and

(c) the amount of funds spent on border road construction and repair?

Life cycle cost of Rafale jets

2578. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the initial price negotiation for the import of Rafale fighter planes from France by the previous Government was based on Life Cycle Costs of the aircraft;

(b) whether the present Government has calculated the Life Cycle Cost of this aircraft purchased from France;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any provision for technology transfer under this agreement; and

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

IAF orders for Tejas aircraft

2579. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force (IAF) has placed an order for 83 Tejas fighter jet with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL);

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will take the total number of indigenous fighters to 123 aircrafts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is keen on procuring the indigenously developed Tejas fighters for IAF?

Benefits of Pay Commission to ex-servicemen

†2580. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of reserve ex-servicemen being given pension after ten years of service;

(b) whether they also got the benefit of pension hike and allowances like other pensioners;

(c) if so, whether they have also been given the benefit of recommendations of 4th, 5th and 6th Pay Commissions constituted by Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether these reserve soldiers come under the category of ex-servicemen; and

(e) if so, the details of reasons for keeping them deprived of benefits of Pay Commissions as extended to the ex-servicemen?

Implementation of indigenous technology

2581. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to implement various indigenous technologies that have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to engage start-ups in various initiatives and innovations related to defence sector?"

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Cadre review in Barracks and Store
Cadre of MES**

2582. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the first review of Barracks and Store Cadre that functions under the Military Engineering Services (MES);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the new structure, there will be 2792 posts in the officer and subordinate grades;

(d) whether some of the posts have been redesigned; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Strategic Partnership Policy in defence
procurement**

2583. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has unveiled Strategic Partnership Policy as part of its Defence Procurement Procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the policy would reduce dependence on imported defence equipment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Partnership would encourage the 'Make in India' initiative of Government?

**Army personnel prosecuted in a Court
Martial**

2584. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Army personnel prosecuted in a court martial or other internal disciplinary Committees during last three years along with details of offences for which they were prosecuted; and

(b) the details of number of cases where armed force personnel were sentenced in court martial and other internal disciplinary Committees and the same was challenged in the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) along with status of these cases in Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), during the last three years?

Budgetary allocation to OFBs

2585. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation to Ordnance Factory Boards (OFBs) during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 along with the details of fund released and utilized year-wise;

(b) the details of budgetary allocation for 2018-19 to OFBs;

(c) whether allocation to OFBs have been reduced; and

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

Purchase of Rafale aircraft

2586. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that purchase deal for Rafale Fighter jet has been finalized;
- (b) if so, the details of contract and quantity to be purchased;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this purchase is at much higher rate than earlier agreed during the Government; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for such increase in price?

Collusive threat on Northern and Western borders

2587. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the plans of Government to deal with the collusive threat from Western and the Northern borders of the Country;
- (b) the special equipments, conducive for the difficult terrain of the Northern borders, the Government has provided to the fighting forces on ground to meet the challenges; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government for the fast movements of the troops in those areas?

Process for conferment of gallantry award

2588. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has felt the need to make the selection process for

conferment of gallantry awards more rigorous and meticulous;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to streamline the procedure to confer gallantry awards and make it more transparent and streamlined?

Allotment of petrol pumps and coal loading companies

2589. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Resettlement is empanelling Security Agencies and Coal Loading and Transportation Companies of retired Armed Forces officers only and is allotting Company Owned Company Operated Petrol Pump/CNG filling stations to officers only;
- (b) if so, whether it is a violation of fundamental rights of JCOs/NCOs/ORs and the principle of Natural justice and equality; and
- (c) whether Government has passed any order on various representations of 'Voice of Ex-Servicemen Society' to remove the discrimination and make the aforesaid scheme open for all ranks?

MIG-29K crash at Goa

2590. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a MIG-29K crashed at Goa airport recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government ordered a court of inquiry into

this accident to determine the cause of the accident; and

(d) the total number of air crashes reported during the year 2017?

Reduction in NCC Units

2591. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in the number of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Units in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of NCC Units which are Government run, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the existing Government policy in this regard and the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to promote NCC in educational institutions of the country?

Comprehensive Reforms in Army

2592. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to adopt comprehensive Army Reforms in consultation with army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) time by which these reforms would be implemented?

Establishment of military schools

†2593. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

proposes to open military schools in some States;

(b) if so, the names of the States, including Maharashtra, where the Ministry proposes to open military schools;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the number of military schools sanctioned and operational in Maharashtra;

(d) whether it is also a fact that funds have been released by the Government to open military schools; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non-utilization of funds till now?

Progress of Scorpene submarine project

2594. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of second Scorpene submarine Khanderi project;

(b) by when is it likely to be launched for operation;

(c) the progress of fourth and fifth Scorpene submarines and when they are likely to be dedicated to the nation; and

(d) how the fourth and fifth Scorpene would be different from 1st and 2nd Scorpene in all its technical features?

Chinese Ocean Observation Station in Maldives

2595. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China is building an Ocean Observation Station in Maldives;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has analysed the impact of joint ocean observation by Maldives and China; and
- (d) the details of initiatives/steps taken to deal with the security threat?

Fund allocation for construction of toilets

2596. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has planned to construct two crore toilets in the coming year, but has not made any fund allocation for this project;
- (b) what is the cost of construction of one toilet under this scheme;
- (c) the cost of construction of the said toilets in the coming year; and
- (d) the plans for generating funds for executing this project?

Access to households toilets in A.P.

2597. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 31,38,157 households in Andhra Pradesh do not have access to toilets;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 44 per cent of households do not have access to toilets;
- (c) whether the State is making demands for providing funds under Swachh Bharat Mission for construction of toilets;
- (d) if not, the reasons as to why half of

the population do not have toilet facilities in A.P.; and

- (e) the details of Annual Implementation Plan submitted by A.P. Government during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise and steps taken by the Central Government on the same?

Sewage system for SBM toilets

2598. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) are connected to a proper and functioning sewage system, especially in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) action taken by Government in this regard?

Implementation of NRDWP projects

2599. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various activities undertaken under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP);
- (b) whether there has been delay in the implementation of drinking water projects in various States under the Programmes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (d) the latest steps taken/being taken by Government to expedite the implementation of NRDWP in the country?

Open Defecation Free States/districts

2600. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is expecting another eight to ten States to become Open Defecation Free (ODF) by March, 2018, taking the total to about 18 to 20 States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government expects 400 districts to be ODF by March, 2018;

(c) whether construction of toilets has pushed economic activities and job generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Scarcity of water in major cities

†2601. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major cities of the country will have to face the problem of scarcity of water like the city of Cape Town in South Africa;

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

(c) the details thereof?

Implementation of NRDWP

2602. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has achieved the desired results in the county; and

(b) the mechanism put in place by Government to monitor the implementation of the said programme and the other steps taken by Government to provide safe drinking water to all habitations of the country?

Water supply/sanitation projects in SC/ST areas

2603. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rural water supply and sanitation schemes/projects being implemented in the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) dominated areas of the country, State/UT-wise including Karnataka and Odisha; and

(b) the details of the funds released and utilised under these schemes in SC/ST dominated areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Safe drinking water in Telangana

2604. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to complete the process of providing safe drinking water to the rural population in the State of Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has found any grey areas in implementing this task; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Survey on Fluoride affected areas

‡2605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presence of Fluoride in the water of various areas of the country has been detected and is several times higher than the prescribed norms and many people have been suffering from Fluorosis when bones are weakend;

(b) if so, whether Government has collected any data or has conducted any survey on this serious issue in the country or sought any information, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to control the Fluoride contaminated water across the country?

Financial assistance to Rajasthan under NRDWP

2606. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any State-wise targets for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP);

(b) if so, the details regarding targets set for Rajasthan during the last two years;

(c) the details regarding financial assistance provided to Rajasthan under the Mission to provide drinking water to people of Rajasthan;

(d) whether allocation for NRDWP has been increased in the recent budget as compared to budget allocation for the year 2017-18; and

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

Modernisation of weather forecasting technology

2607. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether outdated technology, old equipments and shortage of skilled staff are causing hurdles for the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in weather prediction;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to purchase latest equipment, increase staff, upgrade/modernise the technology in weather centres and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of funds required and allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken to enhance the capability and improve the functioning of IMD?

Prediction of cyclones

2608. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a delay in predicting cyclone Ockhi which caused damage to Tamil Nadu fishermen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any tie-up with foreign countries in obtaining data on such prediction of weather and cyclones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prediction of cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis

2609. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any specific project to predict, well in advance, the cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis occurring in the Indian ocean and Bay of Bengal;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to facilitate the search operations to find missing persons during the cyclones; and

(d) the total amount allocated for the same during the last three years?

Geological studies of the formation between Pamban and Sri Lanka

2610. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that US based TV Channels are claiming that the formation commonly known as Adam's Bridge or Ram Setu which separates Gulf of Mannar and Palk Street, is man-made and not natural;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to conduct geological studies of the formation to ascertain the facts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Study of seismic activities in Himalayan region

2611. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted

any study as regards the seismic activity in the Himalayan region in recent times;

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

(c) whether Government has assessed the States vulnerable to seismic activity in the Central Seismic Gap;

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

(e) details of the long-term measures being taken to minimize damage due to any probable high intensity seismic activity?

Effects of using toxic thermal paper

2612. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of adverse effects of using toxic thermal paper;

(b) whether Government is aware of any study that has been conducted on the use of toxic thermal paper in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to ban use of toxic elements which have been found in thermal papers;

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

(e) the other steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Management of rain and flood water

†2613. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy loss of life and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

property in many States, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is caused by excessive rainfall and flood every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, though appropriate management of excessive rain water and flood water, not only the States can be saved from damages taking place, but also, the problem of drought prevalent in various States across the country would also be permanently solved; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/required to be taken by Government in this direction?

Conservation of elephant corridors

2614. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent report titled 'Right of Passage' by Wildlife Trust of India which highlighted that around seven elephant corridors have been impaired during last one year;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to legally protect the elephant corridors thereby conserving them from shrinking; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Agreement with World Bank for protection of Western Ghats

2615. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into any agreement with World Bank in its endeavour to protect Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Submergence of Indian cities due to rise in sea level

2616. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists have concluded that sea level rise by 0.8 mm every year due to global warming, may lead to submergence of major coastal cities by the end of 2100 A.D.;

(b) if so, which cities in India are likely to be affected; and

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct research on its own to confirm the findings of scientists to take precautionary measures?

Measures for improving welfare of wildlife

2617. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to adopt a mechanism under which organizations and companies implementing projects in and around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries have to submit an annual compliance report for the welfare of wildlife;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to the welfare of wildlife in those forests where road projects are being implemented or where roads are already existing; and

(c) steps taken to ensure that wild animals are not killed due to rash and negligent driving on these roads?

Delay in grant of clearances to OMCL

2618. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been long delays in granting forest and environment clearances pertaining to various mining leases of Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMCL); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Disappearance of forests

†2619. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 81,000 hectares of forest land has disappeared;

(b) whether as per official reports, there was 23.60 lakh hectares of forest land, and now according to Forest Survey of India (2014-15), only 22.79 lakh hectare have been left;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 23,000 hectare of forest land is illegally occupied and 431.31 acre of forest land has been registered in the names of private individuals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the conservation of forest land and dense afforestation on degenerated forest land?

Harmful effects of brooms

†2620. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware

of the harmful effects of brooms used for cleaning up of streets, roads, public places etc. on public health and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to abandon the use of brooms for cleaning up purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to promote cleaning through machines and vacuum cleaners?

Ban on plastic bags

2621. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to ban use of plastic bags especially those which are produced by the use of recycled plastic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Deforestation due to projects

2622. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of deforestation due to various projects during the last three years;

(b) the extent of afforestation during this period;

(c) whether Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund is being used for tree plantation on road side and if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) details of CAMPA funds allocated for afforestation of degraded forests and forest areas?

Action plan to enhance Carbon sequestration

2623. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government for achieving its 2030 objective of increasing the Carbon sequestration to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon equivalent; and

(b) whether Government is planning to come up with a New Forest Policy to address new issues with changing times?

Conciliation Committee for resolution of highway disputes

2624. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would put in place a Conciliation Committee in a month in its bid to resolve highway disputes.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such effective mechanisms, many disputes involving highway project remained unresolved for a long time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Adoption of zigzag technology by brick kilns

2625. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) incentives provided by Government for brick kiln owners to adopt draft zigzag technology alongwith the details thereof;

(b) the number of brick kilns which have adopted zigzag technology alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) whether brick kilns owners are given the choice of installing natural or induced draft zigzag technology and if not, the reasons therefor?

Projects awaiting clearances from Himachal Pradesh

2626. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of projects from Himachal Pradesh are pending with Ministry for environmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the reasons for the pendency, proejct-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to expedite the clearance of pending projects received from various States, including Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the detailed list of projects granted environmental clearance during last three years and current year, State-wise, including Himachal Pradesh?

Hazardous pollutants from industries

2627. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND

CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified any very hazardous pollutants in industrial pollution;

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

(c) whether any steps are being taken to prevent pollution by such very hazardous pollutants; and

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

Regional channel in Indian languages

‡2628. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether regional channels of Doordarshan telecast the programmes in several Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Doordarshan broadcasts any regional channels in Maithili language; and

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal of commencing regional channel of Doordarshan in Maithili language?

Contracts for live coverage of NFDC ceremonies

2629. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mumbai based firm has been awarded contract for live coverage of opening and closing ceremonies of International Film Festival of India, 2017 by National Film Development Corporation(NFDC) under Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the authority which awarded the contract;

(c) the details of criteria for award of contract;

(d) whether Government has repeatedly written to Prasar Bharati/ Doordarshan for payment of the expenses of ₹ 2.92 crore which has been rejected by Prasar Bharti/ Doordarshan and

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

Freedom of Press in India

2630. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether as per the recent report of Transparency International, India is among the worst offenders of Freedom of Press in Asia Pacific in 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to restore Freedom of Press in India?

Extension of Doordarshan news broadcasts

2631. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has explored the possibility of expansion of Doordarshan's round-the-clock news broadcasts to various countries of the world where Indians are living; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Status of Indian film industry

2632. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian film industry is the largest in the world in terms of number of films produced, though the revenues are nowhere comparable to the countries such as U.S. and Canada;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lower revenue is mainly due to low ticket realizations, occupancy levels, lack of quality content and rampant piracy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that inadequate infrastructure acts as the biggest hindrance to the Indian film industry and has been affecting its growth since past several years, which is leading to cost escalation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Termination of contractual employees of Parsar Bharati

2633. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to terminate the services of all contractual employees of Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the reasons behind it and details thereof alongwith the clause, under which their services are being terminated;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Journalists are the most affected by the attempt of Government;

(d) whether Government also proposes to replace a number of contractual

employees with very few persons and give them a salary package which is ten times the present package; and

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

Encouragement of Dish Antenna to replace TV cables

2634. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the web of TV cables on electricity poles in residential areas not only look ugly but is a threat to human life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to gradually discourage cable TV operators and encourage Dish TV Antenna; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Auction of channels

2635. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the auction of 683 channels covering 236 cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the race for this would mostly be concentrated in smaller towns of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the metros are already saturated with frequencies available to private bidders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Restriction on objectionable contents and unauthorised channels

2636. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the Union Government has directed States/UTs to restrict the airing of objectionable contents and unauthorised channels to ensure the effective implementation of the Cable TV Act, across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre is encouraging States/UTs to use software to monitor content instead of running physical verifications;

(d) whether it is a fact that out of 16,132 registered publications in Delhi, only 3704 publications have submitted their annual returns during the last five years; and

(e) if so, list of defunct publications and the number of licenses cancelled by the Ministry?

Media wing for Government's outreach programme

2637. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plans to hire 716 social media executives to monitor local news media and analyse how Government's message is being received by the public, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has set up a media wing as a part of the outreach programme;

(c) if so, the details of the functions to be performed by this media wing and purpose of setting up the wing; and

(d) the details of the break up of the expenditure incurred on this outreach programme?

Hurdles in growth of film industry

2638. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Indian film industry is facing hurdles in its growth;

(b) whether it is a fact that the film industry faces multiple challenges on regulatory fronts, as about seventy approvals and licenses from as many as thirty authorities are required for shooting films in India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has lost at least eighteen big budget movies to other locations during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Censorship of contents of News Channels

2639. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to regulate the contents of the News aired by the 24/7 News Channels and for censorship of paid news resulting in rumour mongering;

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

(c) whether Government have taken keen note on the increasing trends of paid news and the menace of news sensitization and breaking news culture;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) the stringent action or plan of action to be adopted by Government to tackle the said issues?

Advertising code for Cable TV Networks

2640. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the advertisements telecast on private TV channels are required to adhere to the advertising code prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder;
 (b) if so, whether any cases for violation of advertising code have been brought to the notice of the Ministry during the year 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18; and
 (c) if so, the details of action taken thereon, case-wise?

Social media communication hub

2641. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had decided to set up a social media communication hub under which media persons would be employed at contract basis in district; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof, and the details of the functions of the media persons, budget outlay and expenditure for this scheme and by when would this scheme be implemented?

Identification of Open Cast Mines in the country

2642. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated the process of identifying Open Cast Mines across the country to close them in a time bound manner;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

R&D in mining sector

†2643. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Research and Development (R&D) activities are being undertaken by Government and private players in the mining sector;
 (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;
 (c) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred on R&D activities by Government during the said period;
 (d) whether Government have formulated any plan to explore the sources of minerals and quality of their exploration in the country;
 (e) if so, the details thereof; and
 (f) the details of latest technology available in the country as compared to other countries?

Review of National Mineral Policy

2644. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

review the National Mineral Policy, 2008;

(b) if so, by when Government is planning to come up with a new policy; and

(c) whether Government is planning to put caps on the extraction of certain mineral under the new policy?

Aluminium production and exports in the country

2645. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies which are currently in the mining industry producing Aluminium in the country;

(b) the details of total units of production of Aluminium in the country during the last three years and current year;

(c) the details of units of production sold out of the units produced in the country and the exported amount; and

(d) the details of top five countries which import Aluminium from our country?

Infrastructure facilities in Gram Panchayats

2646. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing plans/schemes to ensure that adequate infrastructure facilities are available in the Gram Panchayats across the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had also proposed for computerization of all panchayats and provision of services online;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the financial allocation made by Government for this purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the computerization efforts consist of latest technology/software/internet connectivity, etc. and are being frequently upgraded with the changing technologies/software; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Upkeep of NHs

2647. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for compensating NHAI for damages occurring to National Highways due to vehicular accidents, just like accident affected persons get insurance claims for damage to human life and vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider introduction of compulsory provisions for the purpose in vehicle insurance sector so as to create a corpus fund to ensure upkeep of National Highways damaged due to accidents; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor, especially in view of accidents leading to dilapidated condition of roads, further endangering precious human life?

Construction of Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

2648. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is not giving top priority for construction of the Expressway between Delhi and Jaipur;

(b) by when would the actual work on ground be taken up by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Road accidents in the country

2649. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH
YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government as regards preventing the large number of road accidents in the country, along with reasons therefor; and

(b) the long term strategy of Government for preventing the high number of road accidents in the country?

Languages used on NH's toll-tax barriers

†2650. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the regional/State languages used at National Highways, toll-tax barriers and signals in addition to the official language Hindi; and

(b) the details of the status of the implementation of annual programme on official language issued by the Department

of official language in the meetings of 2018 of official language implementation committees of the Ministry and departments?

Bharatmala National Highways Project

2651. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched Bharatmala Project recently with a view to link/construct highways across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ongoing National Highway projects in the States are also included in the project, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the National Highway project that are proposed by the State Governments, particularly in the State of Telangana, the details thereof?

Funds for development of NHs in Odisha

2652. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any arrangement for providing adequate funds in the Union Budget 2017-18 to the Ministry for repair, Maintenance and development of National Highways in Odisha; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take immediate steps in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of Logistics Parks

2653. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a proposal for Logistics Parks in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the locations of the proposed parks have been identified;

(c) if so, whether Guwahati has been included in the first phase of execution of the project; and

(d) the details of financial allocation made for the purpose and the present status of the project particularly in Assam?

Stuck up road projects

2654. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to terminate the stuck up road projects, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) if so, the details regarding the work done on these projects;

(c) the details about the stuck road projects and reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the details of amount stuck in these blocked road projects and the plans of Government in order to redeem the costs?

Delay in National Highway projects

2655. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road construction has

fallen during the financial year 2016-17, the details of the projects with respect to target and achievements, State/UT/month-wise;

(b) whether demonetisation has been the cause for delay in these projects and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the projects which have been stalled, assigned to other companies, temporarily suspended; and

(d) the details regarding average construction of road in kilometres on per day basis?

Safety concerns for pedestrians

2656. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the States to take stern action against unauthorized fitment of crash guards or bull bars in vehicles saying such fittings pose a safety concern for pedestrians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these bars are fitted in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

CRF funds to Jharkhand

2657. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jharkhand Government has sent proposals for release of Central Road Funds (CRF) for the year 2017-18, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any proposals pertaining to Singhbhum district have been included in the list, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposals are in order for release of funds under CRF, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of funds allocated for 2017-18, the details thereof?

Construction of highway from Lucknow to Varanasi

2658. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that widening of the Highway from Lucknow to Varanasi is being delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the timeline set for completing this project?

Status of Road projects

2659. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 24800 kms. road projects under various schemes like Bharatmala Pariyojana and National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are targeted for completion in the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost involved in these projects and the source of funding over the period; and

(d) whether externally aided projects would be solicited, and if so, the details thereof?

National Highways as emergency airstrips

2660. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether first four national highways stretches would be used for emergency landing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has called tenders for converting five km. stretch of each of the three highways stretches as airstrips and the agency targets to complete the construction in the next one year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the identified locations would be strengthened and widened so that aircrafts can land easily and safely, in case of an emergency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Status of four lane highways

2661. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways (in Kilometres) in various States, especially in the State of Maharashtra and the number of lanes therein;

(b) whether Government proposes to make all National Highways with four lanes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this process is likely to be completed?

Quality of road construction in country

2662. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the complaints received by Government regarding the quality of construction work of roads/ National Highways in the country during the last three years including Punjab along with the action taken thereon State/ UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to inspect the quality of construction roads/National Highways roads in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the findings of the inspection carried out during the period; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure quality of construction?

Construction of a tunnel from Srinagar to Leh

2663. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to construct a tunnel from Srinagar to Leh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of roads for villages connectivity

2664. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a plan for connecting all the villages of the country through roads and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any new technology is being developed in laying roads and if so, how this proposal would be implemented; and

(c) the plans for providing remedy/ compensation for people whose land/home is occupied by Government for road construction?

Irregularities under MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh

2665. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is aware of irregularities in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether wage arrears have not been paid to the tune of ₹ 4 crore in Vinukonda region of Guntur district and work days have been reduced against central guidelines; and

(c) if so, the remedial action taken in this regard?

PMGSY projects in Himachal Pradesh

2666. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered and those which are yet to be covered to provide rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), State/UT-wise;

(b) the total length of roads constructed under various phases of the scheme, during the last three years in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned, released and the expenditure incurred under various phases of PMGSY during the said period in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(d) whether the work on certain projects under the scheme is running behind schedule in Himachal Pradesh; and

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

Projects under RURBAN scheme

2667. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of information of projects initiated and funds allocated under RURBAN scheme State-wise, phase-wise, year-wise, and theme-wise;

(b) the details of progress on completion of projects initiated so far; and

(c) whether in some cases, existing projects were linked to the scheme, if so, the details of all such projects, State-wise and phase-wise?

Performance of MGNREGA in Maharashtra

2668. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the performance of Maharashtra in implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the State;

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

(c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to rectify the shortcomings found during the assessment?

Targets for PMGSY

2669. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to construct rural roads as a part of its flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the length of the roads being constructed under PMGSY under this scheme; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has fixed the targets for PMGSY for every State, if so, the details thereof?

Poverty alleviation programmes in Maharashtra

2670. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by Government in rural areas of Maharashtra and rest of the Country;

(b) how far these programmes have succeeded in reducing poverty in rural areas particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether any evaluation has been undertaken by Government to ensure

effective implementation of these programmes; and

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

SAGY in Jharkhand

‡2671. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the co-ordination document of 328 activities have been compiled under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) wherein many schemes are to be implemented by Central agencies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many schemes could not be implemented by agencies of Central Government in Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, whether Government would like to give directions to Central agencies for the implementation of various activities and schemes in accordance with co-ordination document in SAGY of Jharkhand and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Minimum days of work under MGNREGA

‡2672. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual expenditure incurred by Government for providing 100 days employment under MGNREGA is much less than the budgetary provision;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and manner in which Government maintains a balance between them; and

(c) the details of number of persons expected to be employed and the number of those actually employed under MGNREGA during the last three years?

Funds allocated under PMAY in Uttarakhand

‡2673. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the State of Uttarakhand during financial year 2014-15 to 2017-18 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY);

(b) the districts included under this scheme; and

(c) the number of houses constructed and likely to be constructed in Champavat, Udham Singh Nagar, Almora, Bageshwar, Nainital, Uttarkashi and Chamoli districts under this scheme?

Reimbursement of administrative expenses for MGNREGA labourers

2674. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide/reimburse the administrative and other expenses incurred by Short Term Cooperative Institutions (STCCIs) in making payments to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) labourers or an amount equal to 2 per cent of the total amount paid to MGNREGA labourers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of PMRDF scheme

2675. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fellows recruited for the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship (PMRDF) scheme since 2011, year-wise;

(b) the quantum of funds spent on the scheme since 2011 year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay in recruiting the 3rd batch for the PMRDF;

(d) whether Government plans to discontinue the same; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

RSETIs in Tamil Nadu

2676. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) that has been established in the District of Villupuram in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the details of the banks deputed as participating banks in RSETIs in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu?

Training through RSETIs

2677. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing training to unemployed youths particularly in rural areas through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the shareholders who are involved in imparting training to rural youths; and

(d) the details of the RSETIs in the State of Tamil Nadu?

Allocation under DRDA scheme for Chhattisgarh

†2678. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the balance amount for District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) scheme would be allotted by the Centre, for which a provision was made for the State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the matter cited above pertains to the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and release of funds are urgently required; and

(c) whether the share of Central Government under DRDA for seven districts still remains outstanding, if so, the details thereof?

Progress of SPMRM in West Bengal

2679. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) under implementation in West Bengal;

(b) the funds sanctioned and utilised for the Mission in West Bengal so far; and

(c) the nature of works and projects to be undertaken in West Bengal under the Mission?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

R&D in artificial intelligence

2680. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government in the field of artificial intelligence, research and development and its likely advantages and disadvantages;

(b) the current levels of financial and institutional support provided by Government for research in artificial intelligence;

(c) whether Government has any plans to encourage research in artificial intelligence in the country; and

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

Budget allocation for S&T

2681. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocation for the Ministry for the last three years;

(b) amount of funds spent during these years;

(c) number of scientific staffs appointed during last three years;

(d) number of posts lying vacant for last three years;

(e) reasons for the long delays in filling up of vacancies; and

(f) whether any project which was approved and funded, has been stopped mid-way during last three years and if so, details thereof?

Revenue generated by CSIR through research projects

2682. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) generates revenue by undertaking various research projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects undertaken and revenue generated during the last four years, lab- wise;

(c) whether royalties received from projects have not been distributed among investigators for several years resulting in resentment;

(d) the details of royalties received, distributed and pending, lab-wise, including Indian Institute of Petroleum;

(e) whether there is an urgent need for formulation of guidelines for distributing royalties within a time frame and for avoiding delays; and

(f) if so steps taken by Government in this regard?

Budgetary hike for CSIR

2683. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is no longer facing fund crunch, unlike last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is because of the fact that it did not pay out as much money towards settling pension arrears as anticipated;

(c) whether last year CSIR had to make

a committed effort to raise money from external sources; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the CSIR has got a budgetary hike for the financial year 2018-19?

Scheme for encouraging young scientists in rural areas

†2684. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes are conducted by Government to provide the special facilities and resources related to research and development at local level for the talented young scientists in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred thereon during last three years and the details of achievements thereon;

(c) whether any new scheme has been launched recently to identify the talented young scientists in rural areas and to provide them scholarship; and

(d) if so, State-wise number of young scientists identified so far under this scheme?

Development of Ramayapatnam Port

2685. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has sought alternate proposals for development of sea port in place of Duggarajapatnam, as the taskforce has rejected development of sea port thereat on the grounds of non-feasibility;

(b) whether Government of Andhra

Pradesh has alternatively proposed Ramayapatnam for development of sea port in place of Duggarajapatnam; and

(c) present status of the proposal and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Impact of Sagarmala Project on CRZ

2686. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plans for the proposed Sagarmala Project are encroaching upon Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZs);

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

(c) whether Government has received objections from the fishermen community across India with respect to certain sites chosen for the Sagarmala Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the representative bodies consulted; and

(e) if not, whether Government has reached out to the fishermen community for addressing grievances related to the Project?

Plans to reduce logistics cost

2687. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the report on issues and challenges in India, undertaken by advisory firm Dun and Bradstreet (DNB), on behalf of Niti Aayog;

(b) if so, how the Ministry plans to tackle issues such as, port congestion, custom clearance, shipping line issues, charges, documentation and paperwork and regulatory clearances; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Ministry plans to reduce logistics costs for EXIM and domestic cargo under Sagarmala project?

Textile clusters in Karnataka

2688. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up or proposes to set up textile clusters in the State of Karnataka and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of locations selected for these textile clusters in the State and the progress made in establishing these clusters?

Rates on export of garments

2689. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has slashed five per cent, in the duty drawback rates on export of garments; and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the new all industry rate for garments is two per cent against the existing 7.7 per cent;

(c) whether Government has considered to rollback the duty drawback rates and extend the current transition rates till March, 31, 2018; and

(d) if so steps taken by Government to instill confidence, ensure a smooth transition into the GST and also for sustaining employment in the sector?

Allocation of funds for AHVY

2690. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cluster development programmes related to natural fibre under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) which have been completed so far, since the inception of the scheme;

(b) if so, the copies of detailed final reports and photographs of activities conducted, facilities created and product developed of each of the projects; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for each of the projects?

Developing size chart for readymade Indian clothes

2691. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is attempting to have its own size chart for ready to wear clothes, based on body specification of Indians;

(b) whether 14 countries across the world have their size charts developed and in use already;

(c) whether the National institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has initiated the process of developing size chart for India and if so, how soon the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether the NIFT has the expertise to synthesise scientific base with the anthropometric data on Indians to evolve its own size chart?

Export of Indian garments

2692. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the total export of garments from India in terms of value, during the last three years; and
(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to boost garment exports from India?

Grant to West Bengal for Vetiver grass handicrafts

2693. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that the West Bengal Government has set up four centres to promote handicraft items made of Vetiver grass;
(b) if so, whether the Central Government will sanction special grant to the West Bengal Government to promote handicraft items made of Vetiver grass which have a high demand;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Production of silk in NER

2694. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of silk produced in the country during each of the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether Government has noticed any steady growth in the production of silk during the said period;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether Government proposes to

provide any special packages/subsidy to silk producers and manufacturers of silk clothes and to promote silk industry, particularly in the North-Eastern Region (NER);

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
(f) whether Government has decided to give special push to sericulture in NER; and
(g) if so, quantum of amount allocated for this purpose?

Upliftment of handloom sector

2695. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would consider to relax the guidelines to exempt use of Handloom mark and position, for purchasing yarn from National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) for the next three years, so as to enable more organizations to get the benefit under the scheme;
(b) whether Government would consider to sanction more district level events in textile sector in Maharashtra during the current financial year; and
(c) whether Government is considering for introduction of the scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate of 10 per cent on sale on handloom products by handloom agencies to attract consumers for buying handloom fabrics?

Financial assistance to textile sector in Tirupur

2696. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has extended

any financial assistance to textile sector in Tirupur to construct eighteen Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP);

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all the eighteen CETPs have been constructed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export in textile sector

2697. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that export from textile sector has dwindled during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the action Government contemplates to augment export in the textile sector; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy and incentives to cotton growers in order to enhance production?

High level of Ammonia in Yamuna water

2698. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the dangerous rise in Ammonia levels in raw water supply from Yamuna, has resulted in reduction of potable water production in the national capital;
- (b) if so, the impact of high Ammonia levels on supply of safe drinking water;
- (c) the impact on health due to dangerous level of Ammonia in drinking

water along with the treating agent Chlorine; and

- (d) whether Government has prepared an action plan to address the challenge of high Ammonia level and to ensure supply of safe drinking water to the city?

Declaration of ILR projects as national projects

2699. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all Inter Linking of River (ILR) projects may be declared as national projects to expedite their implementation through quick flow of funds and better monitoring on the ground;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked the concerned States to come forward with definite funding proposals which can even be taken up with foreign funding agencies;
- (c) whether Government is also considering to set up a separate Central fund for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of funds for Namami Gange project

†2700. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been able to spend the funds allocated for Namami Gange project;
- (b) if so, whether Government is

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

considering to issue guidelines with regard to the spending of the funds allocated for the project; and

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

Namami Gange as long term project

†2701. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Namami Gange has not become a long term project as planned by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to take any steps to make it a long term project; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds for irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu

2702. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated and allocated funds for any major and minor irrigation projects under the Long Term Irrigation Fund for the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of projects approved by the Central Government in this regard?

Destruction due to rapid currents of river Bhutahi Balan

†2703. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rapid current in river Bhutahi Balan has played havoc in Suryahi village and about forty other villages of Ramnagar Panchayat, Phulparas block, district Madhubani, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any alternative arrangement to save all these villages from the rapid current of river Bhutahi Balan; and

(d) if so, the details of the concrete steps taken so far to save such a large populated village?

Soil deposition in Ganga river

†2704. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with soil deposition in the Ganga river near Patna, obstructs the flow of water and causes problems for boating;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is taking any concrete steps to lift soil from the river; and

(d) whether Government plans to make Ganga river suitable for running cargo

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ships, to transport goods from one State to another and also to other countries and if so, the details thereof?

Reservoir level in Bhakra and Pong dams

2705. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhakra and Pong dams are not filled up to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL);

(b) if so, whether by use of latest technology, better planning and forecasting, dams could be filled up to FRL;

(c) whether Government intends to give directions to Bhakhra Beas Management Board to carry out the study regarding the decision for maximum levels of Bhakra and Pong dam reservoirs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of inter-linking of river schemes

†2706. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) names of the presumptive State-wise and inter-State schemes for linking rivers in the country, and their order of preference for implementation; and

(b) names and proposed dual river schemes including Ken-Betwa where work

of inter-linking them is planned to be initiated in a phased manner?

Utilisation of water resources

2707. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the inter-Ministry Task Group on efficient utilisation of water resources and whether they have been accepted and implemented by Government;

(b) whether the participatory irrigation management has achieved the objectives for which it was set up and whether the same has been reviewed in the recent past;

(c) whether free power to agriculture is resulting in over exploitation of groundwater; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps initiated to curb over exploitation of precious groundwater resources?

Inter-linking of rivers

2708. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to begin works on three identified inter-linking river projects by resolving all differences among States this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many other inter-linking of river projects will be taken up in a phased manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Water release by SSNNL

2709. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. (SSNNL) has decided to stop the release of Narmada waters to the districts of Surendranagar, Botad, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for stopping the release of water by the SSNNL;

(c) the impact on the winter crop due to non-availability of water for irrigation and the estimated land in hectares under cultivation where the crops will be lost or affected; and

(d) the steps which Government proposes to compensate the farmers for loss of crops and agricultural incomes?

Funds for river rejuvenation

2710. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds aimed at river rejuvenation, earmarked for need based projects from various States; and

(b) if so, the details of such funds, if any, sanctioned to various States?

Diversion of Indravati river water

2711. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

Odisha is constructing several projects on Indravati river to divert water and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has received any complaint in this regard from Telangana or any other State and if so, the details thereof?

Lack of irrigation facilities

2712. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey of those areas which lack irrigation facilities across the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra; and

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

Desiltation of rivers

2713. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to enact a law on desiltation of rivers to prevent floods;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed legislation would be drafted in consultation with the State Governments;

(c) whether priority would be given for inter-linking of rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Head works in Polavaram project

2714. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contracting agencies executing Polavaram Head Works, Right and Left Main Canal works have claimed price variations on labour, machinery and other material components of the project based on the orders issued by Andhra Pradesh Government and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is allowing these claims; and

(c) amount claimed by the contracting agencies during the last three years due to price variation under various heads of Polavaram works and amount paid by Government till date?

Task force for cleaning of Ganga

2715. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to set up an inter-ministerial task force to speed up the Ganga cleaning exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government will come out with a detailed schedule on targets under Namami Gange programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Water storage capacity of reservoirs

†2716. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of structures for storage of water resources duly sanctioned and implemented year-wise during the last three years and water storage capacities as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the data on power generation, agriculture irrigation, drinking water supply and industrial water supply from the water storage dams in the above context, State-wise?

National status to Kaleswaram Irrigation Project

2717. 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 Telangana State has requested Government to accord National Project Status to Kaleswaram Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the total cost of project and benefits envisaged through the project; and

(c) what benefits, the State is likely to get, if the National Project Status is accorded to Kaleswaram Project?

Release of Central assistance under AIBP

2718. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any request dated 5th March, 2014 and 7th June, 2014 from Rajasthan Government for release of the requisite funds for Narmada Canal Project and Gang Canal Projects, amounting to ₹ 638.15 crore (upto 2015-16) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as Central assistance;

- (b) if so, action taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Status of 'Mailey se Nirmal Yamuna' project

2719. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of work on 'Mailey se Nirmal Yamuna' revitalization project;
- (b) the number of sewage treatment plants to be constructed *vis-a-vis* STPs constructed and operationalized so far; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to adopt a result oriented approach in

implementation of the project and to complete the project expeditiously?

Construction work of reservoir in Chhattisgarh

‡2720. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Chhattisgarh has been affected by the approach adopted by the Ministry towards the construction work of a reservoir covering areas of Ganiyari, Piparchhori, Koya Mongra Barrage, Ram Dongri, Khatu Tola Barrage, Nagri Vitrak Nahar, Siliyari diversion, Phoothapura Nahar, Siltara Talab, Kerawati, Utaraha and Yashpatri; and

(b) whether small reservoirs in the Baronda Bazaar district of Chhattisgarh are affected by the issues relating to environment and forest land, thereby leading to non-construction of these reservoirs, resulting in a perpetual threat of famine in that district?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th March, 2018
Phalguna 22, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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