

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, February 2, 2018/Magha 13, 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

#### **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund**

1. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
is considering to provide ₹ 8,000 crore fund  
to help milk co-operative societies to  
expand their capacity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that  
Government aims to create new milk  
processing capacity of 27 million litres  
per day in the Cooperative sector this year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this  
year 39 projects by various cooperative  
dairies will be cleared under the Dairy  
Processing and Infrastructure  
Development Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Transactions under e-NAM platform**

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

(a) the number of transactions made by  
the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on the  
e-NAM platform, State-wise;

(b) the total number of all transactions  
made on the e-NAM platform, State-wise;

(c) the value of transactions made  
by the FCI on the e-NAM platform,  
State-wise; and

(d) the value of all transactions made on  
the e-NAM platform, State-wise?

#### **Subsidies to farmers under NDRF/ SDRF**

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

(a) the salient features of guidelines to  
be followed by the States while approving  
input subsidies to farmers under NDRF/  
SDRF in case of crop loss due to drought,  
flood, hailstorm, pest-attack and cold wave/  
frost etc.;

(b) the various rates of input subsidies  
given to the States for different crops like  
paddy, wheat and other cereals;

(c) the names of States reported to have been affected by notified list of disasters; and

(d) the details of Central team deputed and sent for assessment of losses of crops, State-wise?

**Production of fruits and vegetables in Himachal Pradesh**

4. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any target for the production of fruits and vegetables in different States of the country, including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to achieve the said targets;

(c) the details of the production of fruits and vegetables in different States of the country, including Himachal Pradesh, during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the details of assistance provided/ to be provided by Government to Himachal Pradesh for promoting production of fruits and vegetables during the last three years and current year, year-wise?

**Welfare schemes for female farmers**

5. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study on the problems being faced by female farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, if not, whether Government will conduct such a study; and

(c) the details of schemes initiated, if any, by Government for the welfare of female farmers?

**Income of farmers**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that income of farmers has been hit badly in the last two years, despite bumper crops; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to boost farm economy and save farmers from the crisis?

**Suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

7. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the NCRB the suicides of farmers and farm labourers in Andhra Pradesh have gone up from 632 in 2014 to 916 in 2015;

(b) the details of suicides of farmers and farm labourers in 2016 and 2017 in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the reasons for consistent increase in farm deaths in spite of favourable rains in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) in what manner the Ministry is going to help the State to address this serious issue?

**Increasing farm production and doubling the income of farmers**

8. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps Government has

taken to increase farm production and for doubling the income of farmers;

(b) whether any tie-up has been made with Israel to borrow latest techniques to increase farm production, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Indo-Israel task force has been created for the implementation of the programme; and

(d) if so, by when the positive results are likely to be visible on the ground level?

#### **Profitable price for potato growing farmers**

9. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that potato growing farmers are compelled to sell their produce at 10 to 20 paise per kilogram during the current season due to its bumper crop; and

(b) if so, the details of measures Central Government would take to ensure profitable price to potato growing farmers of the country?

#### **Benefits of neem-coated urea**

10. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the introduction of neem-coated urea by Government has benefited the farmers;

(b) whether neem-coated urea has also helped to improve farm production, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangements made by Government for providing neem-coated urea to the farmers easily?

#### **Drought in the country**

11. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of districts across the country have been declared drought affected, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the corrective action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Compensation to farmers for crop loss due to natural calamities**

†12. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to delay in estimation, earlier, farmers were not able to get compensation on time for damage to their crops from natural disasters and the amount of compensation also used to be very low in proportion to damage done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers are able to get compensation on time for damage to their crops due to natural disasters following the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in January, 2016 and whether the amount of compensation is also adequate in proportion to damage done; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Data on average income of farmers**

13. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NSSO has discontinued estimating average income of farmers now;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) in the absence of data regarding average income of farmers, how Government is going to arrive at the target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 in the absence of any reference point?

**Funds for West Bengal under National Agro Forestry and Bamboo Mission**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last three years, no money has been released to the State of West Bengal under the National Agro Forestry and Bamboo Mission, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds allocated and released to States under this Mission over the past three years; and

(c) the details of all schemes implemented under this Mission for the State of West Bengal over the past three years and also the regions along with the yield of bamboo crop in the country, State-wise, over the past three years?

**Decline in public investment in Agriculture sector**

15. 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?

**Setting up of cattle feed knowledge portal**

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

(a) whether Government proposed and launched NDDDB cattle feed knowledge portal as an interactive knowledge platform on various aspects of compound cattle feed production, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government needs to ensure good quality cattle feed and mineral mixture to improve per animal productivity and meet the international standards as India is the largest milk producer in the world and there is an ample scope to improve further in this regard?

**Improvement in PMFBY**

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

(a) whether Government is planning to improve flagship farm insurance scheme that has faced criticism for tardy implementation and being skewed in favour of insurers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is scouting for technology and looking at experience of other countries to improve the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Diversification from tobacco farming**

18. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:  
SHRI DHARMAPURI  
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether allocations of ₹ 25 crore and ₹ 30 crore have been made as Central share during 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively to diversify tobacco farming in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) whether Government has received any feedback on utilization of funds by States to convert tobacco farmers into alternate farming, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any positive results have been recorded, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to increase funds allocation for future, if so, details thereof?

**Land usage in India**

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

(a) whether cultivable land is steadily decreasing in the country due to diversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this diversion has affected the agricultural production in the country;

(c) the details of land under cultivation and land irrigated with different sources in the country over the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of funds allocated and released under major schemes of the Ministry over the last three years, State-wise?

**GPS-based soil sample collection**

20. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to go ahead with GPS-based soil sample collection for the second cycle so that the test data can not be fudged and a comparison can be made on the progress between the first and the second cycles;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mobile app launched by Government will benefit field level works as it will automatically capture GIS coordinates while registering sample details at the time of soil sample collection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Reasonable price to farmers for their produces**

21. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will provide guidance/training to the marginal and medium level farmers for formation of companies collectively in order to provide reasonable prices to farmers for their produces;

(b) if so, by when the plan would be formulated in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Setting up of an academy for cooperative study**

†22. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering upon establishing an academy for cooperative study in the name of Laxman Madhav Rao Inamdar;

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

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

**Premium paid under new agriculture insurance policy**

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

(a) the details of premium paid by farmers, Central Government and State Governments to the insurance companies after the introduction of new agriculture insurance policy and the number of farmers paid with compensation and amounts paid to each farmer, State-wise;

(b) the details of additional premium being required to be paid by the farmers under the new agriculture insurance policy; and

(c) the names of States with high risk and increase in premium amount at these places, along with the details thereof?

**Pitiable condition of farmers in Odisha**

†24. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in

Odisha are not getting value for their crops as per their cost of production;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to provide any package to improve the pitiable condition of farmers of Odisha, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Internet connectivity in e-NAM**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is not working well due to low internet connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to overcome this problem and to raise the number of online tradings?

**Burning of crop residues**

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb and prevent burning of crop residues in the areas of Punjab and Haryana to prevent air contamination/pollution in the area of Delhi and NCR;

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

(c) whether Government is considering to provide technological innovations for crop residue disposal to the farmers, if so, details thereof;

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government has any plans to seek funds from Green Climate Fund through NABARD for the financial resources to address the issue of crop burning; and

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

**State-specific policy initiative for Farm sector**

‡27. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated concrete steps to double the income of farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to increase the income of farmers;

(c) whether Government is also contemplating on the State-specific policy initiatives for farming so that the initiative can be implemented keeping in view the State-centric problems; and

(d) if so, the initiative being taken keeping in view the State of Bihar?

**FDI in Agriculture sector**

28. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FDI in Agriculture in Financial year 2013-14 was 910 lakh dollars, in 2014-15 was 599 lakh dollars and in 2015-16 was 846 lakh dollars, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether in the first six months of 2016-17, FDI was just 148 lakh dollars, if so, the reasons for this regular down graph in FDI in Agriculture and the details of

measures taken by Government to arrest the downward trend?

**Direct linking of agricultural institutions with farmers**

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

(a) the total number of new Agriculture as well as Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries Universities or deemed to be Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of them opened after 2014 along with the details thereof;

(c) the total strength of students enrolled and qualified faculty recruited in these new institutions so far;

(d) whether the Ministry has issued any guidelines to these institutions to have direct linkage with farmers and fishermen so as to have their research utilized by them effectively; and

(e) if so, the details of these guidelines and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Mechanization of agricultural activities in NER**

30. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government efforts in adopting new and better technologies in agricultural activities;

(b) whether incentives and financial assistance are provided to the farmers of the North-Eastern Region in the pursuit for mechanization of agriculture, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of schemes of the Central

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government for assistance of agricultural machines and tools for the farmers?

#### **Implementation of RKVY**

31. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), launched during Eleventh Five Year Plan, has not been doing well since the funding pattern was changed from 2015-16; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme, the funds allocated, released and utilized during the Twelfth Plan period, year-wise, and Government's reaction to the poor implementation of the programme?

#### **Training the farmers to follow the instructions of CIBRC**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the large number of farmers do not adhere to Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) list of approved uses; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to educate farmers to follow the instructions of CIBRC regarding use of pesticides?

#### **Growth rate in Agriculture sector**

33. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government has launched

several schemes to increase growth rate of Agriculture sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details and the nature of contribution of States in increasing the growth rate in Agriculture sector; and

(c) the details of facilities being provided to the States for increasing the growth rate of Agriculture sector?

#### **Reduction in agricultural land holding**

†34. SHRIMATI CHHAYA

VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH

YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of agricultural land holdings has been constantly reducing with divisions of land holdings generation to generation in the country which is affecting the agricultural yield;

(b) the number of farmers who got associated with small land holdings in the last five years and if this trend continues, the number of farmers who would be linked with small land holdings in Agriculture sector in coming five years; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve the problems faced by farmers having small land holdings in view of the above?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Remunerative price for potato growers**

‡35. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government at present to provide remunerative price to the potato growers;
- (b) the procurement policy of Government for potato and the steps being taken to make it more farmer-friendly; and
- (c) the details of the obstacles due to which farmers are unable to get remunerative price for their crops?

**Downfall in Agriculture sector**

36. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vehicles entering a rural market yard in Maharashtra dropped, onion prices halved in the biggest onion market in the country, the fishing economy of Goa faced roadblocks, and flower cultivating farmers in Madhya Pradesh lost business in the last financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Sugar subsidy**

37. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently withdrawn subsidy being

given on sugar, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from any State to continue the subsidy being given to sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the matter; and

(d) the stand of Government in this regard?

**Status of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Kendras**

38. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadi Kendras (PMBJKs) in the country, State-wise and District-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the product basket contains more than 600 medicines and 150 surgicals and consumables; and

(c) if so, the number of medicines and surgicals the central warehouse is able to supply whenever there is a demand for the same from any PMBJK along with the details and the reasons therefor?

**Setting up of Greenfield Fertilizer Companies in place of sick fertilizer PSUs**

39. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to establish Greenfield Fertilizer Companies in the country instead of reviving sick fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

---

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government will come forward to put on hold establishment of Green Field Fertilizer Companies for the time being and pursue sincerely revival of the sick fertilizer PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Cases of corruption and conflict of interest under probe**

40. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing cases of corruption/conflict of interest under probe in the Ministry for cooperatives fertilizer units, as of now;

(b) the details of status of each case, case-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry has coordinated with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to curb conflict of interest activities in cooperative fertilizer units, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there are any officials who are alleged or under inquiry for involvement in conflict of interest activities in cooperative fertilizer units and still continuing in service, if so, the details thereof?

**Release of subsidy to GSFC**

41. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the release of subsidy withheld for the year 2010-11 to the Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation (GSFC);

(b) the recommendations of the Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee (FICC) in this regard;

(c) whether Government intends to release the subsidy withheld for the period 2013-2017; and

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

**Retail margin on generic drugs**

42. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries that are prescribing generic medicines in place of branded ones;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per a study conducted by Indian Journal of Pharmacology, the retail margin on generic drugs is as high as 1000 per cent of manufacturing cost;

(c) if so, the response of Government on the above study; and

(d) the response of Government to some doctors' view that all generic drugs are not as effective as the branded ones?

**Supply of generic medicines at affordable rates**

43. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate supply of generic medicines in the country, particularly in Government hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) whether Government is aware that big pharmaceutical cartels are trying to thrust their highly priced medicines on it and patients;

(c) whether Government proposes to utilise facilities in the public sector pharmaceutical units to produce such medicines at cheaper costs; and

(d) whether it would also arrange for production of vaccines to prevent speeding up of new generation communicable diseases in various parts of the country?

#### **Shortage of urea in Bihar**

†44. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a situation of shortage of urea has arisen in Bihar;

(b) the reasons for not making beforehand preparations when Government had the idea that urea is required immediately after irrigation of Rabi crops;

(c) the immediate efforts made by Government to meet the requirements of urea; and

(d) the strategy being adopted by Government to prevent such situation again?

#### **Supply of fertilizers to farmers at affordable rates**

45. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

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

(a) whether chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to farmers at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by Government;

(b) whether fertilizers are not being provided by the agents at the price fixed for farmers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether lower global prices of nutrients as well as inputs/intermediates such as ammonia, phosphoric acid and

sulphur has not translated into cheaper fertilizers for Indian farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, including for DAP, MOP and urea and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Amendments to DPCO, 2013**

46. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to bring amendments to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 to cover non-essential drugs under the price control;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the Department of Pharmaceuticals is divided over amending the DPCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Medical facilities for labourers employed in Coal Mining sector**

47. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers employed in Coal Mining sector are prone to serious health issues despite initiatives taken by Government;

(b) whether this is due to exploitation of labourers by strong coal mafia;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to nullify the role of coal mafia and to help labourers come out of their clutches; and

(d) the medical facilities to which the coal labourers of organised and unorganised sectors are entitled to?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Supply of coal to non-regulated sector**

48. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure supply of coal to the non-regulated sector viz., steel, cement and sponge iron; and

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding was signed in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Supply of coal to thermal power stations**

49. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal supplies to thermal power stations are inadequate;

(b) if so, the demand and supply of coal to plants during the last one year, month-wise;

(b) the report of coal stock by Coal India Limited and the expected demand of thermal power plants in the next six months; and

(d) the proposal to bridge the gap, if any, between demand and supply of coal?

**Supply of coal to Power sector**

50. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of coal by Coal India Limited to the Power sector in the first six months of this fiscal increased 6.7 per cent to 204.5 million tonnes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the power producers have rued over low coal stocks at their plants, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Conversion of Kakatiya Coal Mine into Open Cast Mine**

51. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Telangana has proposed to change the name of the Kakatiya Long Wall underground coal mine into Kakatiya Open Cast Mine, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of the request as on date;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the matter; and

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

**Health facilities available to coal mine workers**

52. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare facilities provided to coal mine workers and their family members by Government;

(b) whether it is mandatory for the coal mine workers to undergo medical checkup annually;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the special health facilities available for the coal mine workers?

**Investment for telecom connectivity in North-East**

53. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an investment of around ₹ 15,000 crore is in the offing for telecom connectivity in the North-East, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a modified strategy to implement the Phase-II through State-led and private sector models is being implemented in the region and if so, the details of impact of its implementation;

(c) the details of the comprehensive strategy of BharatNet in the region and achievements of the strategy; and

(d) whether the project is slow in achieving results and if so, the remedies being adopted to have the desired outcome?

#### **Re-verification of existing mobile subscribers**

54. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether re-verification of existing mobile subscribers is being done under provisions contained in the licence issued to telecom service providers under Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885;

(b) if so, how does a more than 130 years old law provide for linking Aadhaar with mobile SIMs;

(c) in what manner the rules, regulations issued under old Act are still valid; and

(d) whether any need is being felt to change the law as per modern requirements?

#### **Improving the broadband speed in the country**

55. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the poor status of broadband speed in the country and the details thereof;

(b) why TRAI has not increased the minimum broadband speed in the country from 512 kbps despite an order by the Chhattisgarh High Court in 2015; and

(c) whether Government is aware that India ranks as one of the slowest countries for Internet speed among the middle to high income countries?

#### **Performance of BSNL**

56. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is facing the dearth of latest state-of-the-art infrastructure; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering any concrete steps to address such issues which are hampering performance of BSNL?

#### **Complaints against ISPs for not following Net Neutrality guidelines**

57. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by TRAI from subscribers against Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for not following the Net Neutrality guidelines created by TRAI;

(b) whether Government has found that ISPs are at fault in the said complaints and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether TRAI has any mechanism to regulate ISPs in the country to ensure Net Neutrality and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which Government intends to make Net Neutrality guidelines made by TRAI legally enforceable?

**Dwindling of telecom subscribers**

58. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of telecom subscribers dwindled by 1.58 crore to 118.5 crore in November, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decline was mainly on account of closure of mobile services by some of the operators; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Improving the customer satisfaction by telecom operators**

59. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey, the telecom operators have failed to meet customer satisfaction benchmark;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has asked the telecom service providers to improve the level of customer satisfaction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Public Wi-Fi hotspots**

60. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give a major push to Wi-Fi deployment across the length and breadth of the country;

(b) whether Government has decided to set up 7.5 lakh public Wi-Fi hotspots by the end of 2018;

(c) whether Government will come out with a tender on kickstarting the mega Wi-Fi rollout;

(d) whether Government wants to have three Wi-Fi hotspots per Gram Panchayat and is aiming to provide 1GB of data per Panchayat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Growth of telecom subscriber base**

61. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom subscriber base in the country grew by about half a per cent to cross the 121 crore mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mobile segment accounted for the lion's share of growth with a net addition of over 60 lakh customers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Committee to review service matters of Gramin Dak Sevaks**

62. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee to look into the salary structure, other service matters and problems of Gramin Dak Sevaks, if so, the details and the composition thereof;

(b) whether the said Committee has since submitted its report, if so, the recommendations thereof; and

(c) by when these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

**Launch of 4G services by BSNL**

63. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is planning to launch 4G services in all the 22 circles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has submitted a detailed project report to Government for acquiring another 5 MHz in the 2100 MHz band in 22 circles; and

(d) whether the cost for this is around ₹ 9600 to ₹ 10,000 crore for which 50 per cent will be through more equity for Government in BSNL while the rest will be paid in annual installments?

**Relaxing of spectrum holding caps and extended payments tenure for auctioned airwaves**

64. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved Telecom Commission's decision to relax spectrum holding caps and extended payments tenure for auctioned airwaves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI's suggestion to increase the overall airwaves holding limit is also approved, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact of these decisions on the service providers, the details thereof?

**Timeline for completion of Bharat-Net Phase II**

65. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the timeline set for the completion

of Phase II of BharatNet to provide broadband connectivity and services to all Gram Panchayats in the country;

(b) the details of hi-speed broadband connectivity provided in the first phase of BharatNet;

(c) whether financial incentives and disincentives are proposed in the contract clauses in Phase II;

(d) the estimated employment opportunities so far generated in Phase I and expected to be generated in Phase II; and

(e) the impact it will have on the digital delivery of services for the rural poor along with the details thereof?

**Vacancies in post offices of Andhra Pradesh**

66. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are nearly 2000 vacancies of postmasters, supervisors, postal assistants, postman, etc., in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) how postal services are getting impacted by such huge vacancies; and

(d) since when the above vacancies are lying vacant and the steps taken by the Ministry to fill up all the vacancies?

**Funds collected under USOF**

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

(a) the quantum of funds collected under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through the Universal Access Levy since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the details of the quantum of funds collected from telecom service providers since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds utilised and the purposes for which the utilization has taken place since 2014, specifying any projects undertaken?

#### Spam calls

68. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that Indians are spending more than 63 million hours a year in attending Spam calls;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is the top spam-plagued country in the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that if the time lost in spam calls is put into productive use, India can gain US \$ 414 million annually; and

(d) if so, the steps the Ministry has taken/going to take to contain spam calls in the country?

#### Rolling out of BharatNet Phase II

69. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has rolled out BharatNet Phase II;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the targets fixed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the BharatNet Phase I is yet to be completed;

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

(e) if not, the number of unconnected villages connected upon implementation of Phase I, State/Union Territory-wise including Karnataka?

#### False promises of high internet speed by telecom operators

†70. SHRIMATI CHHAYA

VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH

YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom companies provide internet data at very low speed in the country contrary to their claim of high speed and due to this, the consumers are being cheated due to poor internet speed;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to check the claims made by telecom companies in terms of internet speed so that it could be ascertained whether the consumers are getting internet speed as per the claims made by telecom companies; and

(c) the steps being taken by the TRAI at present to improve the internet speed and the effects thereof?

#### Setting up of high-tech silos

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

(a) whether the Central Government is aware that the Government of West Bengal is setting up hi-tech silos that can preserve rice for two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government desires to take up this technology and preserve rice for two years in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Clearance of huge stock of pulses**

72. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked NAFED and Food Corporation of India to off load the huge stock of pulses at present wholesale rate in the open market in its bid to prevent these going waste and becoming unfit for human consumption;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sale price of Arhar, which has maximum share in the 1.9 million tonnes buffer stock, is likely to be around ₹ 40 per kilogram while Government had procured it at ₹ 50-55 per kilogram; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Coverage of population under TPDS**

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

(a) the percentage of population covered under TPDS, as per the National Food Security Act, during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the allocation of foodgrains under PDS/TPDS, including *ad-hoc* allocation, during the last five years;

(c) whether it is a fact that in certain States only less than 50 per cent of the population is covered under TPDS whereas the NFSA stipulates that 75 per cent of village population and 50 per cent of urban population should be under the coverage of TPDS; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Plan to prevent damage to foodgrains in FCI godowns**

74. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed loss/damages to foodgrains by pests/rodents in godowns under the control of Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to prevent damages to foodgrains by pests/rodents in Godowns under the control of FCI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Storage and transportation of foodgrains**

†75. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables in the country during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;

(b) the total quantity of agri produces that perished during the said years due to lack of storage and transportation before its use or reaching the market;

(c) the arrangements made by Government for storage and transportation of foodgrains; and

(d) whether the arrangements made by Government are sufficient?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Protecting consumers post GST implementation**

76. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has intervened to protect consumers from traders *vis-a-vis* GST;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to handle GST regime; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Forfeiting of MRP written items before applying GST**

†77. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering upon forfeiting MRP written items before applying GST;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far in this direction; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Distribution of essential commodities through Government outlets**

78. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the States which have taken steps to distribute essential commodities at subsidized rates through Government outlets; and

- (b) the details of the subsidized price index of pulses and edible oils, State-wise?

**Implementation of NFSA in Rajasthan**

79. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of criteria for coverage of beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) for different States;
- (b) whether coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA in Rajasthan is less than other States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and Chhattisgarh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is taking any steps to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA in Rajasthan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Distribution of nutritional and hygienic food to people**

80. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the action taken by Government to provide safe and healthy food both in rural and peri-urban areas in the country;
- (b) the details of proposals of Government to meet food challenges and distribution of nutritional hygienic food in the country therefor; and
- (c) the proposal of Government to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

support adequate and diversified diets to all the people in the country along with details thereof?

**Linking of Aadhaar with ration cards**

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

(a) the detail of the total number of Aadhaar-linked ration cards and the number of fake ration cards identified, as of 30 October, 2017, State-wise; and

(b) the number of deaths occurred because of denial of ration to individuals along with the reasons for denial?

**Shortage of trained manpower in organisations under the Ministry**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the various organisations/autonomous bodies under the Ministry are facing shortage of staff/trained manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for keeping such shortage; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Ministry to fill up the vacant positions therein?

**Hindrances in procurement of Tur pulse in Maharashtra**

83. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Tur pulse in

the State of Maharashtra during the recent crop season;

(b) the quantity of Tur procured by Government agencies in the State at MSP;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tur producers faced hindrances in selling their produce and cases of connivance of Government agencies and private traders have also come to light;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action Government has taken in the matter?

**Impact of automation and Artificial Intelligence on IT jobs**

84. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to assess and mitigate the qualitative and quantitative extent of impact on IT jobs due to new technologies like automation and Artificial Intelligence, and

(b) the steps taken by Government to enhance the skill of IT workforce to improve their employability?

**Access to information stored in IT servers**

85. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any information stored by us in servers can be accessed by others;

(b) to what extent Government has ensured privacy of citizens information stored in IT apparatus;

(c) to what extent Government information is protected; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that interested countries and entrepreneurs are capitalizing on citizens information?

#### **Re-skilling of IT staff**

86. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 per cent of country's IT staff need re-skilling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is also one of the reasons that we are not able to take maximum advantage of IT revolution in IT-related service employments; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by Government?

#### **Illegal Aadhaar enrolment centres**

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

(a) the number of unauthorised Aadhaar enrolment Centres detected till December, 2017;

(b) whether Government has a mechanism to verify and audit Aadhaar enrolment centres for misuse;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fall in hiring by IT companies**

88. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a 24 per cent fall in hiring by the IT companies, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof and the reasons behind this sharp decline; and

(b) whether Government has any plans in supporting the IT sector to arrest unemployment, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **National Mission on Food Processing**

89. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP);

(b) the status of implementation of NMFP in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(c) the entrepreneurs who were provided with financial/other assistance for technology upgradation, establishment and modernisation of Food Processing Industries during last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the quantum of employment NMFP has so far generated, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(e) whether not even a single project has been sanctioned in Telangana in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Employment generation by FPIs**

90. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) when the last Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) was conducted by the Ministry;

(b) the total number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) registered in the country;

(c) the quantum of employment generated by the registered FPIs from January, 2015 to December, 2017; and

(d) in what manner Government proposes to expand the scope of employment generation by the end of financial year 2019?

**Achievement of investment target set in World Food India 2017**

91. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has attracted investment commitments of about US \$10 billion in the food processing sector ahead of the mega World Food India 2017 event, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had set a target of US \$10 billion investment and the said target has been achieved; and

(c) by when the said commitment would materialize and become fruitful?

**Aims and objectives of KSY**

92. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Kisan Sampada Yojana (KSY);

(b) how KSY helps farmers to be more vigorous in processing their vegetables and fruits so produced;

(c) whether any special emphasis is made on States like Andhra Pradesh which are doing good work in food processing; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Uniform Civil Code**

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

(a) whether the Constitution of India provides for introduction of Uniform Civil Code in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary statutory measures are yet to be taken for introducing the said constitutional provision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken any steps in this direction in phased manner during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Use of Tamil as official language in Madras High Court**

94. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu way back in 2006 urging the Central Government to get Presidential Assent to make Tamil as official language in Madras High Court;

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

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if no steps are taken, the reasons therefor?

**Filling up of vacancies in Bombay High Court**

95. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of vacancies in the Bombay High Court; and

(b) by when Government proposes to fill up all the vacancies in the said High Court?

**Litigations involving Departments of Government**

96. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has turned out to be the biggest litigant in the country's courts accounting for a larger share in pendency of cases;

(b) whether the Department of Justice has initiated moves within Departments of Government to desist from adding to the burden at the slightest of provocation; and

(c) whether the Department of Justice had sought the extent of pending litigations involving different Ministries and if so, the details thereof?

**All India Service for lower judiciary**

97. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine High Courts have opposed a proposal to have an All India Service for the lower judiciary;

(b) whether it is also a fact that eight

High Courts have sought changes in the proposed framework and only two have supported the idea;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the High Courts want the administrative control over the subordinate judiciary to remain with the respective High Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Separate Bench for bankruptcy and insolvency**

98. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up separate Bench for insolvency and bankruptcy;

(b) if so, whether National Company Law Tribunal has received any proposal from RBI therefor; and

(c) if so, the details of plan of Government to speed up proceedings thereof?

**Press Conference by four senior SC Judges**

99. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the unprecedented act of four senior Judges of the Supreme Court holding a Press Conference accusing the Chief Justice of India (CJI) of selective assigning cases to Judges of his choice, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction to the issues raised in a letter addressed to the CJI prior to this incident which was released to the Press?

**Women's Reservation Bill**

100. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in favour of giving 33 per cent reservation for women in State Assemblies and Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament during the last three years;

(c) whether Government would introduce the Constitution Amendment Bill during the current Session to provide 33 per cent reservation for women; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Electoral reforms to decriminalize politics**

101. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national and regional consultations on electoral reforms have yielded any tangible suggestions concerning criminalization of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current electoral rules to keep criminalization of politics in check?

**Status of National Judicial Appointments Commission**

102. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of National Judicial Appointments Commission Act;

(b) whether the Act is being considered for implementation; and

(c) whether the Centre is still considering the proposal for setting up an independent Judicial Appointments Commission?

**Legislation on direction of the Supreme Court**

†103. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases in which the Supreme Court has directed the Government to make legislation during the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017; and

(b) the total number of cases in which Government has made legislation as directed by the Supreme Court during the said period?

**Credit points to advocates giving legal aid to the poor**

104. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is contemplating of giving a sort of credit points for every legal aid and advocate, who aspires to become a judge, gives to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is applicable to all courts or to only High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(d) whether any consultations have been held on this with Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Justice of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Providing legal aid and advice to undertrial inmates**

105. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Government to find out the number of undertrial inmates lodged in different jails across the country for petty crimes in the absence of legal aid and advice;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to address the problems faced by such inmates; and

(c) whether Government is considering any policy response to resolve these problems, including overcrowding of jails, if so, the details thereof?

**Comments of four senior Judges on the working of CJI**

†106. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four senior Judges of the Supreme Court have recently made any comments against the working of Chief Justice of India (CJI);

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government to maintain good faith among Judges of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Demand of One Rank One Pension scheme by retired Judges**

†107. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired Judges

are demanding One Rank One Pension, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference in the pension of the Judges who are appointed from the Bar and the Judges who are promoted from lower courts, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to implement the norms fixed by the Supreme Court in the 2014 case of Ramkrishnam Raju; and

(d) whether Government has worked up any formula to resolve the anomalies in pension?

**Policy for cutting down inter-Departmental litigations**

108. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any National Litigation Policy for cutting down inter-Departmental litigations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of inter-Departmental litigations filed between 2004-14 and 2014-17; and

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the number of inter-Departmental litigations?

**Suggestions on welfare of administrative staff of judiciary**

109. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lower cadre employees working in subordinate

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



courts across the country are in repressive conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any suggestion/recommendation/report on the administrative staff of judiciary to cater to their welfare and needs;

(c) the proposal of Government for systematic redressal of their grievances and to boost the morale of this workforce; and

(d) the proposal of Government for recruitment and appointment according to the workload and the details of vacancies, court-wise?

#### **Differences among the judicial dispensation**

110. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact of the rift in the upper echelons of the country's judiciary on the credibility and probity in the judicial system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Ideas for turnaround of Railways**

111. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have started working on to increase speed to convert more trains into super fast category, fit bio-toilets in all trains by January, 2018 total electrification of railway network in about a year, drastically bring down turnaround time of trains and improve the look and feel of coaches;

(b) whether each Railway Board Member is preparing 10 big ideas in respective fields for a turnaround of the state of affairs; and

(c) whether the biggest challenge Railways are facing is to find the required manpower?

#### **Making Railways disabled-friendly**

112. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG had recently pointed out that railway stations were not disabled-friendly and no significant improvement was seen over the years in this regard;

(b) the amount spent on making railway stations and trains disabled-friendly over the past five years, region-wise; and

(c) whether there has been an increased effort by Government to make Railways disabled-friendly, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reasons for Utkal Express accident**

113. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northern Circle has concluded that the Utkal Express accident occurred due to gross negligence and human error; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government is taking to prevent such incidents in the near future?

#### **Elphinstone bridge stampede**

114. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Elphinstone bridge, where stampede occurred, had been in existence since 1867;

(b) if so, why have Railways not conducted worthiness of the bridge from time to time; and

(c) the steps Railways are taking for better crowd management and widening of over bridges as per the standards laid down?

**Blasts at Doikallu railway station**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Maoists triggered blasts at the Doikallu railway station in Rayagada district of Odisha recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total loss suffered by Railways due to the said blasts?

**Development of railway stations in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh**

116. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has taken a decision to develop the railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has made any funds allocated under this project to each State, particularly to develop the railway stations in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Increasing the speed of trains between New Delhi and Chennai**

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

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to increase the speed of

trains between New Delhi and Chennai from existing 90 to 140 Kilometres per hour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of safety measures proposed to be taken for this project?

**Gauge conversion of Pathankot-Jogindernagar section**

118. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unnecessary delay in the gauge conversion work of Pathankot-Jogindernagar section;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to expedite the work and complete the project in time?

**Vacancies in safety-related posts**

119. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that out of nearly one lakh posts relating to security and safety in the SCR, there are 15,500 vacancies which constitutes nearly 16 per cent;

(b) whether Railways are following the policy of abolishing posts if they are more than 1-2 years old;

(c) if not, the reasons for such huge vacancies in security-related departments; and

(d) whether Railways are conducting special drives once or twice in a year to fill posts relating to safety and security, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Closure of Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company**

120. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided for the closure of Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways;

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

(c) the plans of Government for the employees of the company?

**App-based cabs at railway stations**

†121. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that app-based cabs have been given permission on railway stations in National Capital Delhi, the details thereof including the terms of contract;

(b) the estimated annual income to Railways by giving permission to app-based cabs, the details thereof;

(c) the arrangements made to check overcharging from passengers and fares remaining low by app-based cabs at railway stations, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to link app-based cabs facility with online ticket booking, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Indigenous manufacturing of metro coaches**

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

(a) whether there has been an increase

in the production of railway coaches in the country, the year-wise details for past three years; and

(b) if so, whether there are any plans of Government to start manufacturing of the metro coaches indigenously, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Commissioning of Dedicated Freight Corridors**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dedicated Freight Corridor project will start getting commissioned in parts by the end of this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the segments that are in near completion, as on date;

(d) whether Railways have prioritized the segments of the Dedicated Freight Corridor project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Commission of Railway Safety**

124. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission of Railway Safety, established as the Railway Inspectorate along with the Railway Board, still functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, whether Government would take corrective measures to bring the Commission of Railway Safety under the control of Ministry of Railways for better co-ordination in governance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Installation of CCTV cameras in coaches and at stations**

†125. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to install CCTV cameras in every railway coach and at stations to ensure the safety of the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed in this regard based on the short-term/long-term targets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Theft cases in trains**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Protection Force (RPF) has decided to deploy its personnel in plain clothes in select trains to prevent crimes;

(b) whether theft in running trains has increased in the recent past;

(c) if so, the total number of theft cases reported in trains during the last three years;

(d) whether Railways are considering to enhance the strength of RPF personnel at both stations and in trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Major rail accidents**

127. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 27 major rail accidents in the past three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government increased railway fares by 70 per cent during the last three years but no concrete blueprint had been laid down to secure the lives of passengers;

(c) whether Railways had compromised with the safety protocols and there was criminal negligence which led to these major rail accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Common digital platform for integrating information**

128. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways will invest about ₹ 12,000 crore in developing a common digital platform for integrating information from all its departments, leading to savings of about ₹ 60,000 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that once this digital platform is put into place, the entire operations can be monitored on a single platform; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will take at least two to three years to complete the first phase of common digital platform?

**Change in existing guidelines on monetizing its assets**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to change some of the existing guidelines on monetizing land and station assets as well as contemplating on extending the lease period from 45 years to 99 years among others;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to come out with a guideline to penalize officials for every day of delay in giving approvals as far as the involvement of developers are concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **New land acquisition policy**

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

(a) whether the Centre is aware that Railways, new land acquisition policy which stipulates completion of land acquisition prior to starting railway line construction is delaying new projects;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps are under consideration to address such delays; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Renewal of tracks in Andhra Pradesh**

131. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are embarking on the process of track renewals on war-footing to reduce derailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the tracks that have been selected for renewal in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated and released so far for the purpose; and

(e) the targets fixed in this regard?

#### **Alleged fraudulent disbursement to victims of accidents**

132. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam relating to fraudulent disbursements to victims of accidents has surfaced with the Chairman of the Principal Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal sounding the Government of the involvement of a Member of the Tribunal's Patna Bench;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged scam involving siphoning off around ₹ 50 crore between 2015-2017 from the railway coffers; and

(c) whether five lawyers of Patna, who represented 91 per cent of all applicants during May, 2015 to August, 2017, have been named in the report?

#### **Merger of MRTS, Chennai with Chennai Metro Rail Limited**

133. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision regarding merging of MRTS, Chennai with Chennai Metro Rail Limited, including the surface rights of the land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Compulsory keeping of books on Indian culture at railway station bookstalls**

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

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is fact that Government proposes to make it compulsory to keep books based on Indian culture and morality at bookstalls of railway stations;

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

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

**Lease rights of railway stations to private parties**

135. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has given 43 railway stations to 45 year-long lease rights for private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this action is leading the people to believe that Railways are moving away from the transportation services; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken to preserve the past glory of Railways?

**Wagon workshop at Visakhapatnam**

136. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for wagon workshop at Visakhapatnam, announced in 2014-15 Budget, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for the project not taking off even after three years of its announcement; and

(c) the present status of the project?

**Use of broad gauge for speedier trains**

137. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bullet trains, being planned on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route, belong to a gauge other than metre and broad gauge;

(b) the logic in introducing another gauge when all over the country, metre gauge is being changed into broad gauge;

(c) whether it is more economic and scientific to develop broad gauge further for speedier trains; and

(d) whether Government would concentrate more on using broad gauge for expansion of metropolitan rail lines?

**Construction of Sambhal-Gajraula railway route**

†138. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the construction of Sambhal-Gajraula railway route;

(b) if so, the amount allocated therefor; and

(c) the details of progress made in work on the above project?

**Purchase of rails**

139. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rails purchased

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by Railways during 2014-15 to 2016-17 from Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Jindal Steel and Power and from foreign companies; and

(b) the number of exceptions granted to Railways to purchase rails from private companies after the declaration of Make in India along with the details thereof?

#### **Constitution of Committee to review Flexi-Fare Scheme**

140. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to introduce the Flexi-Fare Scheme in trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any Committee has been functioning to examine the feasibility of Flexi-Fare Scheme, if so, the details of the Committee and its Members; and

(c) whether the above Committee has submitted any report, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Amount of funds earmarked for Railways**

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

(a) the total amount of funds earmarked for Railways for the year 2017-18;

(b) how much, out of it, has been spent on safety, security and development of railways; and

(c) how much amount has been spent on account of salaries and pension?

#### **Global tender for procurement of rails**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have floated global tender for procuring rail worth over ₹ 3,500 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways were not able to meet the demand for track renewal due to shortage of rail;

(d) whether Railways have been purchasing the rail solely from SAIL and now have decided to purchase it from abroad instead of from SAIL; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Use of satellite phones**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to procure the satellite phones to establish quick dialogue;

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

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

#### **Action plan for modernisation of Railways**

†144. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time-bound action plan for the next three years in the field of modernisation of railway passenger coaches, speed-safety and security of railway stations and passengers and catering facilities?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Operationalisation of new trains**

†145. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of trains announced during the year 2017-18 and the date for each of the trains on which the train commenced its operations, and by when the remaining trains will be operationalized?

(d) whether Odisha Government has shown its interest to redevelop some other station(s) in the State and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Railways would take up the work of redevelopment of some other station(s) in the State on fast track basis, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Redevelopment of railway stations in Jharkhand**

146. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven railway stations in Jharkhand are under the Stations Redevelopment Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the current status of all the eleven stations in Jharkhand;

(d) whether it is also a fact that at few stations of Jharkhand, the Stations Redevelopment Programme is missing its deadline; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

### **Redevelopment of Bhubaneswar railway station**

147. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha is redeveloping Bhubaneswar railway station at its own cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total redevelopment cost thereof if intimated by Odisha Government;

(c) the manner in which Railways are extending help to the State Government;

### **New railway projects in Odisha**

148. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have surveyed/proposed to take up survey work for some more new railway projects—new lines, doubling and gauge conversion, falling fully or partly in the State of Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the surveys, if already conducted;

(c) whether Railways have approved the projects surveyed and sanctioned funds for carrying out further works;

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

(e) the details of new lines, out of above, on which the work has already started?

### **Renewal of tracks**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that by the end of this fiscal, an unprecedented 3,500 kilometres of tracks could be renewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that around 4000-4500 kilometres of tracks would be supplied for 17 Zones this year;

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(d) whether it is also a fact that the railway officials have been asked to give utmost priority for track renewal work, overruling all other works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Rail Coach Factory at Kanchrapara,  
West Bengal**

150. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of Central funds from the Ministry of Railways is working as an hindrance for completion of the Rail Coach Factory at Kanchrapara, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

**Introduction of ticket reservation  
system in post offices of Tuticorin**

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

(a) whether Government has introduced ticket reservation system in any of the post offices located in the Tuticorin district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ROBs in Karnataka**

152. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the under construction/ pending Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in Karnataka;

(b) whether implementation of

these projects is being carried out as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay, project-wise;

(d) the number of sanctioned and operational ROBs/RUBs in Karnataka and the present status thereof; and

(e) by when the above said projects are likely to be completed?

**Issuance of passenger reservation  
tickets through post offices**

153. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had started issuing passenger reservation tickets through post offices across the country under PRS of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the post offices in which passenger reservation tickets are being issued as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with Government to bring more post offices under PRS of Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Consideration of Delhi-Howrah route  
for operation of Bullet trains**

154. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi-Howrah passenger route is the busiest sector for Railways;

(b) in the context of Bullet trains, the routes being envisaged;

(c) whether Delhi-Howrah sector is under consideration for operation of Bullet trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Inconvenience to passengers on cancellation of trains due to fog**

155. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a large number of trains were cancelled due to fog during this winter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lakhs of passengers were stranded at the railway stations without food and drinking water and were made to face the chilly weather in the open;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to have policy guidelines to provide relief to the rail passengers in such eventualities; and

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

**Imphal on railway map of the country**

156. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for including Imphal on railway map of the country has missed many deadlines and commitment of Central Government has remained unfulfilled;

(b) if so, the details of missing deadlines from first inception of the project;

(c) whether impediments such as land acquisition, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of services, construction of Road Over and Road Under Bridges, law and order, etc., have remained as major obstacles in the project;

(d) the efforts of Central Government to overcome them; and

(e) whether Government is now unable to give any time-frame for completion of the project, if not, the details thereof?

**Trebling of freight-moving ability of Railways**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are aiming towards trebling its freight-moving ability to carry three billion tonnes of materials by 2030 in sync with an expected swelling of the Indian economy to touch the US \$ 10 trillion mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are also aiming to claim 50 per cent of market share of country's freight movement;

(c) whether over the years, its share of total freight movement has been near 35 per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Vacant railway land**

158. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total vacant land belonging to Railways estimated in the country;

(b) whether Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been mandated to identify vacant railway land or plots for leasing out for commercial exploitation;

(c) if so, the details of vacant land/plots identified so far and the revenue expected to be generated;

(d) the hurdles being faced in commercial exploitation of vacant railway land in various railway zones; and

(e) the steps taken to resolve the issues with State Governments/other agencies, the details thereof?

**Stress and fatigue among railway employees**

159. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 2 lakh posts in the Railways have been lying vacant and as a result thereof, work stress and fatigue among railway employees are taking its toll on the passenger safety; and

(b) if so, the details of the vacancies in each grade, since when these posts could not be filled up along with the reasons

therefor and by when these are likely to be filled up?

**Renewal of railway tracks in Telangana**

160. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are taking up the process of track renewals in the States to reduce derailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the tracks that have been selected for renewal in the State of Telangana;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated and released so far; and

(e) the targets fixed in this regard?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 27th January, 2018*  
*Magha 7, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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

<b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</b>	: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46,
<b>Coal</b>	: 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52,
<b>Communications</b>	: 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 37, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83,
<b>Electronics and Information Technology</b>	: 84, 85, 86, 87, 88,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: 89, 90, 91, 92,
<b>Law and Justice</b>	: 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110,
<b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>	: —
<b>Railways</b>	: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160.