

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, April 2, 2018/Chaitra 11, 1940 (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

Single technology platform for procurement of arms and equipment

3841. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to build a single technology platform for procurement of arms and equipment, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(b) the timeline for setting up this IT division;

(c) whether this initiative will help in making the country self-reliant in its defence needs; and

(d) the steps Government will take to ensure transparency and confidentiality in terms of data revealed on the IT system?

Grievances of Grand Power s.r.o., Banska Bystrica

3842. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's office had received any grievance letters from the Grand Power s.r.o., Banska Bystrica, in 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said company had communicated the PMO as regards to Indian Defence Attached being tasked to do company verification on 2nd August, 2017;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Defence Attache had submitted his report on the verification of the said company; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Memoranda received from NECC

3843. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of memoranda the Ministry has received through Speed Post from National Ex-servicemen Co-ordination Committee (Regd.) (NECC), duly forwarded by various Union Ministers and Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) during last four months, including the latest forwarded on 30 November, 2017; and

(b) the issues raised therein and action taken by Government thereto?

Restoration of ex-servicemen category to MNS officers

3844. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Officers of the Military Nursing Service (MNS), who were eligible, were accorded the ex-serviceman category on retirement from service with all the facilities attached with it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the grant of ex-serviceman category to the MNS officers on retirement has been withdrawn;

(c) if so, since when and the reasons therefor including details of the said order; and

(d) whether the Ministry is considering the restoration of ex-serviceman category to the officers of the MNS with immediate effect?

Development of indigenous fighter aircraft

3845. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects to

indigenously develop fighter aircraft are behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to complete these projects expeditiously and to provide adequate number of aircraft for operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force (IAF);

(c) whether most of the aircrafts in the possession of IAF, require immediate upgradation or replacement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Cadre review and recruitment in B&S cadre of MES

3846. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General (Personnel) has been defying the order of President, regarding implementation of first cadre review of Barrack and Store (B&S) Cadre of Military Engineer Services (MES) for past three months;

(b) if so, the details of administrative action taken thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that direct recruitment of officers of B&S cadre has not been done during last eight years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of action plan to fill the existing vacancies?

Filling up of posts in B&S cadres of MES

3847. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1573 posts

of Barrack and Store (B&S) Cadre of Military Engineer Services (MES) were revived through Ministry of Finance during September, 2016;

(b) if so, the details of vacancies filled-up till date;

(c) if not, reasons for delay of 18 months in filling up of vacancies;

(d) the date by which all revived posts will be filled-up alongwith details of recruitment/DPCs conducted during last three years at each level; and

(e) the details of DPC conducted during last three years in respect of all cadres of MES at each level with present position of each case?

Logo of MES

3848. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a specific logo for Military Engineer Services (MESs) exists;

(b) if so, the authority for using the logo;

(c) whether any specific direction has been issued by Engineer-in-Chief's branch for not using the name 'Headquarter Military Engineer Services' in official correspondence;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that copies of posting orders and other circulars issued by Personnel Directorate of Engineer-in-Chief's branch have not been uploaded on MES website during last two years; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Recovery of army maps from photocopy shop

‡3849. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an incident of recovery of maps of the Indian Army from a photocopy shop in Cantonment area in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh has been reported recently;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been carried out by Government in this regard; and

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

Import of weapons and military equipments

3850. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become the world's largest importer of weapons and military equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of weapons and military equipments imported during the last three years along with the value/cost thereof?

Encroachment on defence land

3851. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defence land under encroachment in the country, location and State-wise including Delhi;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for not removing encroachments from Defence land;

(c) whether the encroachments are made with the connivance of concerned State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to do away with irregularities and illegalities?

Procurement of equipments to counter terrorism/infiltration

‡3852. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on procuring more defence equipments in view of terrorism and infiltration activities by Pakistan along the borders;

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

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

Defence agreement with Israel

3853. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed an agreement with Government of Israel for procurement of Defence equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these equipments are likely to be procured;

(d) whether Government proposes to manufacture these Defence equipments in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Difficulty in comprehension of defence recruitment examination paper

3854. SHRI RIPUN BORA:
SHRI RITABRATA
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of candidates from different parts of India have been disqualified even after passing the physical fitness test in the defence recruitment examination because of difficulty in comprehension of Hindi or English question papers;

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

(c) whether Government plans to take up any remedial steps in this regard; and

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

Return of MoU to OFB

3855. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had returned the MoU proposal to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in July, 2017 citing incorrect procedure followed by the OFB;

(b) if so, the motive behind conducting company verification on 2 August, 2017 through the Indian Defence Attache at Grand Power Banska Bystrica facility;

(c) whether this fact was suppressed and not revealed in replies to Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government has probed this issue and if so, the details thereof?

Chinese made steel bullets

†3856. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China made steel bullets perforate the bullet proof jackets provided to our army personnel;

(b) if so, the number of our army personnel martyred so far by these steel bullets;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bullet proof jackets namely "Bhabha Kavach" developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre can save the Indian army personnel from China made steel bullets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Death of soldiers on Indo-Pak border

3857. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian soldiers killed on the India-Pakistan border in frequent terrorist attacks during last two years; and

(b) the action taken by Government against such terrorist attacks till date and by when would the terrorists be flushed out, the details thereof?

Revision of pension of war widows

3858. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed

to revise the pension payable to war widows;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be made effective; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Chinese warships in Indian Ocean

3859. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been unusual activity of Chinese warships in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by India, both on strategic and diplomatic front?

Schools in cantonments

3860. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools started in cantonment areas during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of students served by these schools during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the funds spent on maintaining these schools during the said period, year-wise?

Procurement of P-75I submarines

3861. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of procurement of P-75 I submarines has been initiated by Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the procurement will be completed;

(c) the details of Indian and foreign companies shortlisted to qualify as Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for the same; and

(d) whether any indigenous company has been considered by Government as strategic partner for procurement, and if so, the details of such companies which were not shortlisted along with reasons therefor?

Capacity assessment of shipyards

3862. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any Committee to conduct a capacity assessment of private and public shipyard companies in India;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the Committee and whether Government has accepted any such finding; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Ship building projects by public/private shipyards

3863. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the initial Request for Proposal (RFP) under the Landing Platform Dock (LPD) project provided that the required four amphibious ships were to be built both by public as well as private shipyard companies;

(b) if so, the details of the shipyard companies shortlisted for the project; and

(c) whether any public shipyard company was shortlisted for the project, if not, the reasons therefor?

Household having sanitation and drinking water facilities

3864. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households without toilet facilities within their premises category-wise *e.g.* rural and urban, SC, ST and others for each State/UT;

(b) the number of households without drinking water facilities within their premises, rural and urban area-wise SC, ST and other category-wise for each State/UT; and

(c) the steps taken by Government during the last three years to tackle the situation and the outcome thereof?

New technology for construction of toilets

3865. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of technology for toilets being used by Government under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in rural areas along with criteria for their application;

(b) whether due to new technology being used in toilets constructed in rural areas under SBM, ground water has become contaminated;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

Committee on drinking water and sanitation

3866. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Expert Committee on Rural Drinking and Sanitation under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. R. A. Mashelkar was appointed in 2014, to examine the different technologies for treatment of various contaminants in drinking water in the country;

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

(c) whether Government has shared those recommendations with the State Governments, with a view to elucidate the opinion of the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Release of funds for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

3867. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) amount of funds released by Government to the State of Rajasthan under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in the financial year 2017-18;

(b) amount of funds allocated to the State of Rajasthan under SBM (Gramin) in current financial year 2018-19 for the above purpose;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Safe drinking water in Assam

3868. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any clear cut policy to ensure that all States Government provide safe drinking water to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the tremendous scarcity of safe drinking water in Assam leading to rise of cancer cases and other related diseases due to Arsenic contamination; and

(d) if so, whether Government would like to issue directives, to take up time bound steps to provide safe drinking water?

Access to potable safe drinking water

3869. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural as well as urban households in the State of Maharashtra at present; having access to potable safe drinking water through individual household tap connections, rural and urban area-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes to have the roadmap for full coverage of all the households in the State by providing tap water within the household premises within a time-frame?

Minerals contaminating drinking water

3870. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the

vulnerability of health hazards caused by Arsenic, Fluoride and other minerals contaminating water which is used for drinking by huge number of population in various parts of the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the areas and pockets identified so far, State and UT-wise; and

(c) the details of the affected population and the extent of vulnerability, State and UT-wise and measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect humans and animals from such hazards?

Financial assistance under SBM in Maharashtra

†3871. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of project proposals received from Maharashtra Government and the projects sanctioned by the Central Government under the Swachh Bharat Mission during 2016-17;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for the such projects during the said period;

(c) whether funds have been sanctioned for execution of works relating to solid and liquid waste management in the villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of funds released to Maharashtra Government under this component during the said period?

Provision of clean drinking water

†3872. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures for making drinking water free from pollutants and the policy and action plan to provide clean drinking water for the use of common man in the country; and

(b) the details of areas having contaminated water in the country and the measures taken to treat and provide clean drinking water, State-wise?

Cleaning up of 100 iconic places

†3873. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up of 100 places across India, which are 'iconic' due to their heritage, religious and cultural significance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this work is scheduled to be completed in different phases and the work under first phase is still in progress and will be completed soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Toilet facilities in the country

3874. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of households which have toilet facilities in the country, State-wise/UT-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of households and their percentage in the country including Maharashtra who use open defecation, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide them toilet facilities and safe disposal of solid and liquid waste?

Safe drinking water in rural areas

3875. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken to improve access to safe drinking water in rural areas; and

(b) the measures/projects taken to improve the quality of underground water in rural areas?

Funds under Swachh Bharat Mission

3876. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) programmes being carried out in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) the details of the funds released for construction of toilets in the State under SBM;

(c) whether Government of Jharkhand has requested Government for release of grants for early construction of toilets in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fund spent on Fluoride and Arsenic affected villages

‡3877. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the decision dated 1st April, 2015 of the Ministry, the funds provided by Government can be spent only on the villages where water is affected with Fluoride and Arsenic/heavy metals;

(b) whether Government is aware that there are 740 settlements in Chhattisgarh and most of them are located in tribal areas which are facing health related problems due to high Iron concentration;

(c) if so, whether separate allocation of funds would be made for the said settlements which have high Iron concentration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Progress in weather forecasting

3878. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made substantial progress in its weather forecasting system;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the benefits of this progress still elude farmers and other citizens in the country and is restricted only to the district level; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is taking to cover all the districts in the country, particularly, coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, where crops have been damaged beyond imagination?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Earthquake monitoring laboratories in schools

3879. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has implemented a pilot project on School Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories in 100 identified schools located in seismic zones of Himalayas and north eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure occurred thereon during last three years;

(c) the details of results of the series of training programmes organised with the help of experts for students and science teachers across the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Desalination plants in coastal areas

3880. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up or intends to set up desalination plants in coastal States to enhance availability of potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Seabed mineral resources evaluation

3881. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three state-of-the-art research vessels carried out high resolution seabed mapping and evaluation of natural resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the major objectives were to identify potential zones of favourable mineralization and evaluate marine mineral resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cultivation of non-approved Bt. cotton

3882. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a non-approved third kind of Bt. cotton is being cultivated in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is preparing to conduct an in-depth investigation on the availability of such non-permitted Bt. cotton seeds in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Guidelines for NCAP

3883. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any guidelines for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), if so, details of the strategies formulated and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the timeline for implementation and formulation of this programme;

(c) details of Ministries and stakeholders Government plans to coordinate with, for the scheme; and

(d) whether Government has allocated any funds for the scheme in the Budget, if not, reason therefor?

Deaths of Asiatic Lions

3884. SHRI RITABRATABANERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Asiatic Lions, an endangered species found only in Gujarat, have died in the last two years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of the casualties and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted to protect the endangered species of Asiatic Lions?

Pollution control in nullahs/small rivers

†3885. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRA-BUDDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small rivers are polluting the major rivers and whether many small rivers have been termed as nullahs in official documents resulting in non-planning of their cleanliness;

(b) by when the Government will accord the status of river to such small rivers;

(c) whether Government has any data on the small rivers which are treated as nullahs; and

(d) the manner in which Government will eliminate pollution from small rivers?

Impact of PCA (Rules) 2017 on farmers

3886. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry was consulted before finalisation of newly introduced Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Rules, 2017;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry informed the concerned authority about its consequences and adverse impact on small and marginal farmers in drought areas and meat production, if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to provide market linkages for farmers to sell their old and unproductive cattle for slaughter, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government has any plan to compensate economic losses of such farmers due to enactment of these rules, if so, the details thereof?

Submergence of coastal habitations due to climate change

†3887. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastline in many Southern States is receding towards habitations, due to climate change following which, sea water is entering into the settlements and cottages of fishermen along the coast;

(b) the distance these fishermen villages have moved further away from the coast and the number of villages under threat of submergence due to rising sea level; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of cities which may be affected by rising sea levels and the policy for protecting such cities?

Projects under CBIPMP

3888. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank aided project, 'Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project (CBIPMP)' has been introduced in India, if so, State/UT, project-wise details with monetary investment and status;

(b) the State/UT-wise details of issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and

(c) the status of the nine steps taken by Government to control water pollution across India, State/UT-wise details thereof with financial status?

Trees grown outside forest areas

†3889. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that along with expansion in forest areas, trees are also being grown outside the forest areas in the country;

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

(c) the district-wise details in Madhya Pradesh?

Guidelines for treatment of bio-medical waste

3890. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules/guidelines put in place for treating bio-medical waste in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that deadly, hazardous and toxic bio-medical waste generated by healthcare units is being mixed with municipal garbage in every part of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government feels that there should be a stringent regulatory system/mechanism to bring every healthcare unit under it, and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken to put in place such a system/mechanism; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Budgetary allocations of CPCBs and SPCBs

3891. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to increase the budgetary allocations for the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to compensate for its loss in revenue due to the abolition of water cess;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to maintain the revenues of the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in forest cover

3892. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest cover in the country has increased during the recent years, including Odisha;

(b) whether migration by the rural folk to cities leads to an increase of forest cover;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) the increase of total forest cover in Odisha and other States of India during the last two years?

Status of Intensification of Forest Management Scheme

3893. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Intensification of Forest Management is being revived with a focus on "Forest Fires Prevention and Management" and whether the operational guideline of the revised scheme is yet to be circulated to the State of Odisha?

Funds under GIM

3894. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 per cent Central Share out of the revised outlay of ₹ 1622.23 lakh under National Mission for Green India (GIM) Scheme, is pending with Government for release to Odisha during 2017-18; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Perspective Plan for the next five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) as regards Odisha is pending with Government for approval?

Eco-sensitive zones in the country

3895. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a new policy for fast track reduction of eco-sensitive zones around national parks and sanctuaries;

(b) the number of applications cleared to reduce eco-sensitive zones around national parks in the country in 2016-17 and the current year;

(c) whether it is a fact that public has demanded protection of eco-sensitive zones and water bodies in areas adjacent to national parks; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to reverse the dilution of policies affecting eco-sensitive zones around the country?

Breeding centre for Great Indian Bustard

3896. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to approve and provide funds for establishment of breeding centre for Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Jaisalmer area as decided by Wildlife Institute of India (WII);

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

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

Cases of cruelty to animals

3897. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which conviction was obtained under the Act during the last three years;

(c) whether Government intends to take steps to enhance the penalties under the Act for committing cruelty to animals which have remained unchanged for decades;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Harmful effects of Chinese firecrackers

3898. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese firecrackers, which are imported in the country, are sub-standard and are harmful to the environment and health; and

(b) if so, the measures Government has taken to curb the use of Chinese firecrackers?

Plantations of native species of trees

3899. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state plans of Government to plant trees like Pipal, Gulmohar, Bargad etc. near district headquarters, block headquarters and

public settlements in view of increasing temperature and scanty rainfall?

Damages due to forest fires in Theni, Tamil Nadu

3900. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and minor forest fires, that broke out in the country during the last three years and in the current year, up to 15.03.2018;

(b) the number of persons killed or injured and damages which occurred due to the fires, especially in the recent hill forest fire in Theni district of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the steps taken to minimize and prevent forest fires, especially in summer, along with guidelines issued to the States to deal with such forest fires?

Contractual posts in AIR

3901. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contractual News-Reader-cum-Translators working in All India Radio (AIR), New Delhi in various language units;

(b) whether their services will be terminated, if the language units shifts to the respective States or State capitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Ban on television programmes

3902. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has banned the

telecasting of any television programme during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to establish a reasonable balance between decency and freedom and to discourage provocative and inflammatory news in the telecast of programmes in the country?

Guidelines for advertisements on entertainment channels

†3903. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an abundance of advertisements having more duration than the main programme during the fixed time allotted for the programmes being telecast on entertainment channels;

(b) whether Government has any guideline ratio between the duration of advertisements and original programmes;

(c) whether in many advertisements of cold drinks and vehicles, dangerous stunts are shown, imitating which results in accidental deaths;

(d) if so, whether Government has fixed any guideline in this regard; and

(e) the policy being formulated to compensate the loss incurred by the consumers due to misleading advertisements?

Telecast of programmes for competitive exams

3904. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Regional and National Channels of Doordarshan telecast programmes on preparations for Competitive Exams like UPSC, SSC, IES, State Public Service Commission Exams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government will initiate such programmes considering the fact that it has huge viewership and potential to reach the masses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Non-implementation of the Section 13 of the Prasar Bharati Act

3905. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not yet implemented the Section 13 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 which talk about instituting a Committee of 22 Members from both the Houses of the Parliament, according to the system of proportional representation to oversee the discharge of functions of Prasar Bharati, if so, the reasons therefor, if not, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same; and

(b) in absence of the implementation of section 13, whether the Prasar Bharati be called an independent body, if so, the steps taken to rectify the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

IEBR and grants to Prasar Bharati

3906. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resource (IEBR) generated by Prasar Bharati during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the budgetary allocations given to Prasar Bharati during the last three years?

Overseas digital operations of Prasar Bharati

3907. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is looking to spread its wings overseas, digitally;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the stated missions of Digital Prasar Bharati, will be to challenge the anti-India narrative in foreign media through hard and compelling commentary;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed English language digital platform will focus on global economy, geopolitics, international terror, global crisis and soft power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Sanctioned strength of DD Kendra in Odisha

3908. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of technical and non-technical employees at Sambalpur, Doordarshan (DD) Kendra in Odisha and number of posts lying vacant;

(b) the actual requirement of the work force and whether Government is considering to sanction the required man power at the earliest, considering the work load of the Kendra; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to install high power Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Transmitter in the Sambalpur Kendra to increase the coverage area, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

Third party coverage of 49th IFFI

3909. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes, a third party coverage of the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI);

(b) if so, whether Government has floated a national tender in this regard;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from Doordarshan regarding their unwillingness to do coverage in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of proposal of Government and the reasons behind to rift Prasar Bharati in this regard?

TV station in Karnataka

3910. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the first television station in Karnataka and improvement made to keep it up-to-date;

(b) whether there are any plans to close this station; and

(c) the actual sanctioned strength and actual number of employees working there?

Welfare schemes for journalists

3911. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase financial assistance for welfare scheme to scribes and their families in times of extreme hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for covering this scheme to the journalists and their families; and

(d) whether the part-time journalists, freelance journalists, photographers, cameramen are eligible under this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Information and Communication Policy

3912. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has reviewed the Information and Communication Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether developments have been made in making information and communication infrastructure and new technologies, accessible to the rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective action taken by Government in this regard?

Effectiveness of MMDR Act

3913. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of instances during the last three years in which the States have not taken mandatory approval from the Ministry for allotting mines and the action taken thereon against them; and

(b) the details of efforts made by Government to make the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, more effective?

Illegal stone mining in Assam

3914. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of rampant illegal stone mining in Assam and Karbi Anglong Hills in particular;

(b) if so, whether Government would like to direct the concerned authority to send a report on the action taken to stop illegal stone mining;

(c) whether there is any uniform policy of Government to curb such illegal stone mining in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Status of CSR activities

†3915. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Ministry under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) during last three years;

(b) the details of the amount spent

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

thereof, State-wise, district-wise and work-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that under this fund on a large scale private firms/NGOs are getting work done in fake manner, which is adversely affecting the developmental work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Central helpdesk under e-panchayat

3916. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched 'Central helpdesk' under e-panchayat, operational in three languages Hindi, English and regional languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose for launching 'Central helpdesk';

(d) the response received from the Gram Panchayats and public in this regard;

(e) whether the 'Central helpdesk' will also be made operational in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be made operational?

Strengthening of PRIs

3917. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated by Government to these institutions during the last three years;

(c) whether these institutions have complained that they are not being in a position to undertake local developmental works due to shortage of funds and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in consultation with the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) the details of the States that have prepared and are implementing Gram Panchayat Development Plan?

Nyaya Panchayats Bill

3918. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the blue print of the Nyaya Panchayats Bill;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

Power of PRIs

†3919. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the delegation of rights and responsibilities to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in various States in accordance with provisions made in 73rd Constitutional Amendment and the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the alternative provisions available in case of non-delegation of right to PRIs by State Governments or the delay, lethargy and negligence being exercised in this regard, and to what extent the Central Government could intervene in such cases

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and the details of action taken in this regard?

RGPSA in Karnataka

3920. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants released under various schemes of the Ministry to the State of Karnataka in the last three years, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether grants are released on time during the above period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the status of implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in Karnataka since its implementation, district-wise?

Beautification of national highways

3921. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government for the beautification of national highways spread across different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has come up with more such projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of funds allocated for this purpose, State-wise?

Vacancies in the Ministry

3922. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Ministry as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to fill these vacancies?

Incident Management System of NHAI

3923. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is set, to roll out an 'Incident Management System' to make India's National Highways safer;

(b) whether it is a fact that ambulances will be stationed at every 50 kilometers, to be able to respond to any mishap within 15 minutes of it being reported on a national accident helpline;

(c) whether it is also a fact that trucks running on CNG will be able to use the highways without worrying about their fuel tank's range; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of Regional Rapid Transit Systems projects

3924. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: 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) has granted in principle approval for the construction of Regional Rapid Transit Systems projects worth ₹ 53,500 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NHAI is considering for constructing similar projects in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Road accidents in the country

3925. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are fewer road crashes in States where liquor is banned, but share of drunk driving accidents, as compared to all accidents, shows a more complex pattern countrywide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the drunk driving accidents have a higher fatality rate than other accidents;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to implement more stringent steps to implement the rules to prohibit driving after consuming alcohol; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of new technology driven transport system

3926. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the future expansion of highways will be based on making stretches, access controlled, so that slow moving traffic is not allowed to enter such stretches;

(b) whether it is a fact that there will be service roads for the slow moving traffic;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has pushed for the introduction of new technology driven

transport system, which is under consideration of the Niti Aayog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fitness centres for vehicles

‡3927. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to establish automatic centres to conduct fitness test of vehicles, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified the areas where such centres have to be established, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of provisions in this regard and the details of services to be provided by said centres; and

(d) whether there is any limit on the number of such fitness centres of vehicles to be established and whether any time limit has been set to establish these centres, if so, the details thereof?

Hiring of private transport aggregators

3928. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take any fresh initiative to regulate and improve the economic viability of hiring private transport aggregators to make it more accessible to a larger number of people in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Charging of high fare by private transport aggregators

3929. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to do away with surge pricing by private transport aggregators, which have resulted in charging of very high fares by them from the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Change of land use for national highways villages

3930. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers owning two to five acres along national highways can develop their land parcels, into a highway nest villages with prescribed services ranging from quality food to clean toilets and comfortable resting facilities for travelers;

(b) whether NHAI will allow access to these facilities from highways and help land owners get the land use changed from agriculture to commercial category;

(c) whether interested farmers will have to give the option based on the size of land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Highway villages/nests on NHs

3931. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide amenities such as parking, refreshments, restroom, lodging and ATM's at every 50 kms. alongwith national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether around 1,000 highway villages and smaller highway nests have been envisaged across the country, with Government approved standards of services to be set up by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) as well as private players;

(d) whether the process to invite bids to develop 183 such spaces along highways had already commenced and concluded; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Repair of NH-28A

3932. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether roads on Piprakothi-Raxaul Road (NH-28A) is in a dilapidated condition and have many potholes causing accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof including reasons for delay in repair work and stipulated time in which it will be completed;

(c) whether Government has recently held a meeting to review the progress of the India-Nepal road connectivity projects, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for

development of roads of operational and strategic significance in areas close to the Indo-Nepal border?

Ban on sale of alcohol/liquor near highways

3933. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any direction from the Supreme Court to take steps to ban sale of liquor/alcohol on or near the highways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has initiated steps to ban the sale of liquor/alcohol on highways, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effect of the ban on the tourism industry and steps being taken to overcome the situation?

Augmentation of works of NHs

3934. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:
SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

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

(a) whether Government has reviewed the status of the ongoing works of National Highways (NHs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified the need to speed up the works of the NHs in the country;

(d) the names of the States in which national highways work is lagging behind, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the NHs are getting delayed due to land procurement and environmental clearances, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to augment the works for its early completion?

Regional imbalance in construction of roads

3935. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge regional imbalance as far as the construction of the roads by Government is concerned in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the roads constructed in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons behind these regional imbalances?

NHDP under Bharatmala Pariyojana

3936. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) has been subsumed under Bharatmala Pariyojana;

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

(c) whether subsuming NHDP under Bharatmala Pariyojana is just a simple changer of name;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details of the benefits involved thereof?

Women staff at toll plaza

3937. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent and contract workers working in different toll plazas of the country;

(b) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to deploy all women toll collecting staff in day shifts, on at least one toll plaza close to the city area in every State and UT on International Women's Day;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with number of women deployed on each toll plaza; and

(d) whether NHAI is considering to improve the condition of toll plazas and create a competitive environment?

Increase in the length of national highways

3938. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual increase in the length of national highways in the country;

(b) the percentage of national highways out of all the roads in the country;

(c) the percentage of accidents along national highways compared to total road accidents; and

(d) whether Government intends to reduce accidents on roads, especially NHs?

Action against contractor

3939. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be

pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 169 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Government is planning to take any action against the contractor of National Highway-43;

(b) whether Government is planning to terminate his contract and re-tender it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Red line mark before toll plazas

3940. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: 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) is considering a proposal wherein a red line would be drawn 150 to 100 meters away from a toll plaza, to assess the service level of toll operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that once all the toll lanes are enabled to process vehicles with smart tags, the NHAI would allow tagged vehicles free passage, if found waiting beyond the red line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Commuter free passage through toll plaza

3941. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: 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) refuted reports that there was a provision that allowed commuter, free passage through toll plazas, if they had waited longer than three minutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to NHAI, no such provision existed at any point of time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Compensation for land acquisition for highway projects

3942. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased compensation for land acquisition for highway projects during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government has received any proposals from individuals owning land for acquisition of their land for highway projects; and

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

Driver-training scheme

3943. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced a driver-training scheme, in partnership with automakers and NGOs, to train people as drivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether training centres would be set up in each district of the State and UT;

(d) if so, the total financial assistance estimated for the scheme; and

(e) the extent of employment expected to be generated through this scheme and by when?

Completion of KMP expressway

3944. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the completion of Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) expressway is lagging far behind schedule;

(b) if so, the schedule set for its completion;

(c) the details of difficulties in the way of its early completion;

(d) the total length of this expressway and the length that has been completed till date; and

(e) the steps taken for the early completion of KMP expressway?

Creation of jobs by the Ministry

3945. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has an estimate of the number of jobs created by it during the last three years;

(b) if so, the data on the estimated number of jobs that are created on each project, project-wise; and

(c) whether the Ministry gets an estimate from the private party of number of jobs that will be created while signing a project MoU, a PPP contract or any other contract, if so, the details of the actual jobs created through such projects as against the estimated jobs in the MoUs, PPP contracts or any other contract?

Ring road projects under Bharatmala initiative

3946. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any detailed project report has been formulated by Government to improve ring road projects through the Bharatmala initiative;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount released by Government for the construction of roads and highways in the States during the last three years under Bharatmala initiative, State-wise?

Launch of SVEP

3947. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Karnataka; and

(b) the details of the sectors which have been identified for the said programme in the State along with the number of entrepreneurs likely to be supported every year?

MGNREGA payment by the Management Information System

3948. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report of the Ministry of Finance has stated that the present system only calculates delay in wage payments till the Fund Transfer Orders are signed by the second signatory, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether a research by Azim Premji University has claimed that out of the 92 lakh transactions studied by the researchers, time bound wage payment happened in only 20 per cent of the cases if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the delays calculated in the last three years, State-wise?

Wages for women under MGNREGA

3949. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National average for providing women person-days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is more than 55 per cent;

(b) whether women provided employment in Andhra Pradesh in just 30 per cent in 2014-15, 32 per cent in 2015-16 and 34 per cent in 2016-17;

(c) if so, what is the percentage in financial year 2017-18; and

(d) the reasons that provision of employment under MGNREGA to women in Andhra Pradesh is pathetic and steps taken by the Ministry to improve it, at least, up to the national average?

Wasteland development in Maharashtra

3950. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total arable land in the State of Maharashtra and portion of this land which has degraded into wasteland, desert, saline land and marshy land, on which farming is not possible;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to check the degradation of land in the State;

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

(d) the role of chemicals and fertilizers in degradation of land; and

(e) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take to control degradation of agricultural land in the State?

Delay in wage payment

3951. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civil society activists have alleged that a big reason for the improved performance was wrong process of calculating delays in contravention of the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has claimed a big drop in delay in wage payment to rural job scheme workers in the first four months of 2017-18; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

CSR funds for rural development

†3952. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many new initiatives have been taken for the inclusive development in rural areas of the country under Corporate Social Responsibility during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred and work executed on rural development under Corporate Social Responsibility during last three years; and

(d) whether any study on appraisal of work under Corporate Social Responsibility has been undertaken?

Monitoring of Central schemes

3953. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has any mechanism for monitoring various Central schemes to see whether these schemes are being properly implemented in rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the methodology of this monitoring and cases of lapses noticed during the last two years, State-wise?

Wage calculation methodology under MGNREGA

3954. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to persuade the Ministry of Finance to change the wage calculation methodology for schemes under MGNREGA by using Consumer Price Index-Rural instead of Rural Price Index-Agriculture Labour;

(b) whether it is a fact that earlier a high-level committee was also constituted to study this issue; and

(c) if so, the main recommendations of this Committee particularly with reference to change in wage calculation methodology for employment under MGNREGA scheme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Participation of women in
MGNREGA**

3955. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to increase the participation of women in MGNREGA schemes;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in the last one year to enhance employment for women under MGNREGA schemes; and

(c) whether the Ministry has compiled any data about the number of men and women employed under this programme?

Status of funds under PMGSY

3956. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the reports submitted by Andhra Pradesh Government regarding the works to be carried out through rural core network connection under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which states that the grants would fall to the tune of only ₹ 200-300 crores only, instead of thousands of crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for rectification of the errors and released the grants, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken note of the same and decision taken in the matter, if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of funds under DDUSY

3957. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed Deen Dayal Upadhyay Swaniyojan Yojana (DDUSY) under consideration of Government;

(b) the modalities of the said scheme;

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for the said scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the said scheme is likely to be approved and implemented?

**Launching of Pradhan Mantri Gram
Parivahan Yojana**

3958. SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched or is contemplating to launch the Pradhan Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana (PMGPY) scheme to facilitate the transport facilities in rural areas and also enhance job opportunities for rural youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) by when this scheme will be implemented and the details thereof?

**Targets set by official Language
Implementation Committee**

†3959. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state details of the official Language Implementation Committee constituted in the Ministry since 2014 and the status of targets set and achieved following the Annual Programme in each of the meetings held?

Measures to reduce brain drain

3960. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken serious note of the 'Brain-Drain' issue affecting the developments in Science and Technology;

(b) if so, Government's reaction and stand on this issue;

(c) steps taken by Government to encourage the young scientists and retain the scientific community in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that scientists who studied and qualified from our premier institutions like IITs etc., prefer to take up jobs in various foreign tourism countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard to reduce 'Brain Drain' in scientific community?

Start-ups under NIDHI Scheme

3961. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Start-ups supported

under the National Institute for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) scheme so far, including details of projects and funds allocated so far;

(b) whether projects for technology adaptation in traditional sector are supported under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of S&T in the country

3962. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to promote Science and Technology (S&T) in the country; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilized in various projects/programmes to promote S&T in the country?

Patents in science and technology

3963. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patents registered during last three years in science and technology domain;

(b) the number of such patents which were used or selected for 'Make in India' scheme;

(c) India's standing in comparison to the first six countries in the world in this field; and

(d) the percentage of GDP spent for science and technology in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Capacity improvement of major ports

3964. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of major ports in the country during the last three years, port-wise;

(b) the targets set by the Ministry to improve the capacity of twelve major ports; and

(c) whether the Ministry has finalised on corporatisation of major ports and if so, the details thereof and if not, whether alternative steps are being taken to modernise and develop ports?

Construction of new berths and terminals at Visakhapatnam Port

3965. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Visakhapatnam Port for construction of new berths and terminals to increase port capacity;

(b) to what extent the above steps help the port to reduce tariff, increase productivity, optimum utilisation of assets and create employment opportunities;

(c) whether management of the port has brought to the notice of the Ministry, some issues for resolution;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken on them so far; and

(e) to what extent the port has benefited after its notification in 2010, as the second Gateway Port for additional transit facility to Nepal, etc.?

Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding

3966. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding, with an estimated cost of ₹ 760 crores is being set up at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up?

Jal Marg Vikas Project on Ganga river

3967. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to initiate a Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on 1,380 km. Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) on Ganga river;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is planning to introduce passenger liners on the said route;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) by when the project will be operational; and

(e) the plan details of Government towards river transport on river Brahmaputra?

Development of major port

3968. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long-term perspective plan has been drawn up for the development of each major port in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps undertaken to improve the productivity of major ports; and

(d) the organisational changes, if any, being implemented to attract private investment in this sector?

New National Waterways

3969. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to commence work on development of eight new National Waterways;

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

(c) by when these eight new National Waterways will be operational; and

(d) the details of Government's proposal to develop Brahmaputra river?

Project Green Ports

3970. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the objective, details and status of the proposed 'Project Green Ports' nation-wide;

(b) whether ports of Gujarat are covered under it, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the achievements of the project so far;

(d) whether procurement of the requisite equipments for monitoring environmental pollution and dust suppression system has been completed and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial implications involved in the execution of the said project and expenditure incurred so far?

Expansion of Government owned shipyards

3971. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going and proposed shipbuilding projects of Government owned shipyards and the present status thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering expansion of Government owned shipyards under 'Make-in-India' campaign and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to give more defence orders to build multipurpose vessels and warships in Government owned shipyards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Representation against HHEC

3972. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister Office (PMO) have received representations/complaints from small traders engaged in import of bullion for withholding of their payments by Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), without giving any reasons;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and action taken thereon;

(c) whether HHEC have blocked amount of small traders having unblemished track record and they are being linked to cases similar to some cases having tainted track record; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and action PMO is contemplating, to ensure that all payments of traders, which are not similar to payments of tainted traders, are cleared forthwith?

Shortage of skilled manpower in textile sector

‡3973 SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of skilled manpower in textile sector and an integrated skill development scheme under which minimum placement has been made compulsory, is being implemented by Government with a view to overcome this shortage effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State-wise/area-wise targets have also been set with reference to the above and whether arrangements for proper monitoring of target-oriented implementation have also been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Investigation in HHEC payments

3974. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details along with names of traders engaged in import of gold with Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), whose payment have been withheld, with audited balance amount as per annual report of financial year 2016-17, trader-wise;

(b) the names of traders who are being probed by investigating agencies and whose payments have been withheld on account of investigation;

(c) whether HHEC have given interest on the balance amount of traders lying with HHEC as per contract; and

(d) if so, the details of interest paid so far and the reasons for discontinuation of interest?

Textile cities in Odisha

3975. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to develop textile cities in the country, particularly in Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the locations identified for the above purpose and the time by which work on such cities is likely to be taken up by Government;

(d) whether Government has consulted the State Governments in this regard; and

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

Checking of claims of powerloom/synthetic yarn as handloom products

3976. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of powerloom as well as synthetic yarn/mixed fabric which claim to be handloom are not being checked;

(b) if so, whether there is any concrete proposal to check such false claims;

(c) whether any mechanism to measure the consumer's out reach and efficacy of Government measures to promote handloom is in place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Interim relief for textile workers

3977. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many spinning mills have

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been closed in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has conducted any enquiry to ascertain the reasons for the closure of the such mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government has also started Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme; and

(e) if so, the number of unemployed textile workers who have been provided interim relief?

Exports of readymade garments

3978. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to increase the exports of readymade garments made of man-made fibres during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the steps taken have resulted in substantial increase in garments exports; and

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

Quantity of groundwater

†3979. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of groundwater remaining in the country;

(b) the details of groundwater and its

quantity and whether Government is going to formulate any policy for its conservation State-wise; and

(c) whether Government would propose to enact a law preventing the use of ground-water or potable water for vehicle cleaning, irrigation and such other tasks?

Rehabilitation and resettlement for displaced families

†3980. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pancheshwar Dam Authority has formulated any plan for rehabilitation and resettlement of the families who having been displaced from there;

(b) if so, the details regarding the locations where the displaced families would be resettled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Revised estimates of Polavaram works

3981. 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 revised estimates prepared by Andhra Pradesh Government for Polavaram works based on 2013-14 Standard Schedule of Rates (SSR) Rates, are higher than the estimates prepared and approved and for which (order issued) by the State, based on 2015-16 SSR Rates and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the objections raised by the Ministry/Central Water Commission on the revised estimates submitted by the State; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the revised estimates submitted by State are only for the balance works, as on 1st April, 2014, or for total works?

Constitution of CMB

3982. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated steps to constitute Cauvery Management Board (CMB) as per the directions of the Apex Court, which was delivered on 16th February, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Interlinking of rivers

3983. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to inter link some of the rivers across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the inter-linking of rivers is a must, proposition considering the water shortage being faced by many States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for Irrigation Projects

3984. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allocated ₹ 2600 crore for Agricultural Irrigation Projects in its budget for 2018-19;

(b) if so, the names of the States which will be covered under this project and the criteria adopted for short listing States; and

(c) the duration within which this allocation of ₹ 2600 crore is to be spent on this project?

Expert committee on flood control

3985. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of a serious problem of flood, posed by Brahmaputra river at Majuli Island in Assam;

(b) if so, whether Government would like to set up an expert committee with the Central Government's representatives to find out a permanent solution to the problem;

(c) whether Government intends to supplement the efforts of Assam Government in tackling this serious problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Task Force for Flood Management and Erosion Control

3986. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Task Force for Flood Management and Erosion Control;

(b) whether there is any blueprint or plan to exploit flood waters to good use, like diverting them to deficit areas etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures put in place to strengthen the embankments to protect them from breaches?

Irrigation project on Maini river

3987. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chhattisgarh Government has proposed to construct two projects on Maini river, near Sundergarh border of Odisha for irrigation purpose;

(b) whether Government is aware that such project will have severe impact on the downstream of the river water and will affect Ib river thereby creating serious water problem for Brajraj Nagar, Jharsuguda and other township of Odisha; and

(c) whether Government would stop issuing NOC and Environment and Forest clearance for such projects without consulting Odisha Government?

Tapping of underground water illegally in cities

†3988. 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 tapping of underground water is being done illegally

in various cities in the country including Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating to take any concrete and effective steps to check the same; and

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

Creation of manmade ponds under PMKSY

3989. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Government is planning to create manmade ponds, restore and renovate the old ones and if so, the details thereof alongwith time taken for completion and status of past projects State/UT/district-wise;

(b) whether the unscrupulous elements are filling the old water bodies and selling reclaimed land, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is taking steps to stop it; and

(d) whether Government considers filling of old water boies with mud, a serious threat, which will create scarcity of irrigation water in the small towns and villages in future?

Release of funds under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

3990. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for release of funds to the tune of ₹ 1086.60 crore for implementation of ongoing and proposed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

work under Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Programme (VIIDP) in Maharashtra from Pandhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for undue delay in release of funds to help improve the annual income of farmers as per the policy of Government?

Meeting on water sharing of Godavari and Cauvery rivers

3991. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has recently convened a meeting of the Irrigation Ministers of the Southern States to resolve contentious disputes on sharing river waters and push for inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the meeting also discussed the linking of Godavari and Cauvery rivers and related water disputes among States; and

(d) if so, whether any consensus was arrived at the meeting and issues that yet to be resolved?

Israeli Desalination plants in the country

3992. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether potable water supply was one of the areas of interest of the Prime Minister during his Israel visit;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and agreement reached in this regard;

(c) whether Israeli companies have set up around eight desalination sites in the country; and

(d) if so, the location of these sites and progress made so far?

Water sharing policy of States

3993. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to prevent the disputes on water sharing by adopting a clear cut water policy and doing justice to all States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether disputes between States on the banks of rivers, cannot be resolved on the basis of a set of certain fair norms; and

(c) whether Government gives more importance to water for drinking purposes than to agricultural, individual and other sectoral needs?

Pending irrigation projects in Jharkhand

†3994. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mega irrigation projects pending in the State of Jharkhand along with the amount spent on them so far;

(b) the total area of agro-land expected to be irrigated through mega irrigation projects which are in Jharkhand and the achievements made, the details thereof, project-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is contemplating to close all or some of the said projects, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Inter State SMP approval under AIBP

†3995. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter State Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project (SMP) is a Mega Project approved under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) whether the scheme beginning with an initial administrative approval of ₹ 128.99 crore, has received an amount of ₹ 6613.74 crore till date;

(c) whether an amount of ₹ 4900.52 crore has been spent upto 2016-17 on this irrigation project, if so, the achievements *vis-a-vis* the objectives set out for the scheme in this regard; and

(d) whether revised estimates have been made on higher side continuously, if so, by when the scheme is likely to be completed?

Construction of dam for storage of water

3996. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to develop the Ib and Shank rivers in northern Chhattisgarh rivers, to ensure water river flow round the year; and

(b) whether there are plans to construct dams for storage of river water?

Status of NMCG

3997. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) with details of budget allocated, released and spent since implementation of the scheme, year-wise;

(b) portion of river Ganga that has so far been cleaned and whether it is in commensurate with the money so spent;

(c) whether Government has plans to take the help of fishermen communities and others for cleaning Ganga and protecting the endangered species like dolphins; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Polavaram Head Works designs pending with CWC

3998. 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 several designs relating to Polavaram Head Works like Spill Channel etc., still need to be approved by the Central Water Commission and are pending for minor comments by the CWC, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) designs that are pending with CWC for approval and reasons for the delay in approval?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Change in name of Polavaram Project

3999. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the AP State has changed the name of the Polavaram Project, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State is permitted to change the name of a National Project, which is under the control of Government, by virtue of Section 90 of A.P. Reorganisation Act and consequent establishment of Polavaram Project Authority (PPA); and

(c) whether the AP State has sought either prior or post-facto approval of the Central Government/PPA for the change of name?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th March, 2018
Chaitra 6, 1940 (Saka)

Assets and liabilities transfer to PPA

4000. 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 inspite of repeated requests made by the Polavaram Project Authorities (PPA), the State Government has delayed transfer of assets and liabilities of Polavaram to PPA and also submission of revised estimates to Government between March, 2015 and September, 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay in transfer of assets and submission of estimates by the State to PPA, the NITI Aayog was compelled to give execution of Polavaram to the State?

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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