

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018/Phalgun 29, 1939 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy  
(AYUSH); Civil Aviation; Corporate Affairs; Finance; Health and Family  
Welfare; Minority Affairs; New and Renewable Energy; Power)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Practitioners of AYUSH medicines system**

2721. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered practitioners under AYUSH system of medicines in the country, State/UT-wise including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of institutions/hospitals imparting medical education in AYUSH at various levels in the country, State/UT-wise including Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from State Governments to open/upgrade AYUSH institutions, colleges, universities, hospitals, health centres, research centres in the country including Himachal Pradesh, if so, details thereof along with action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of funds earmarked, allocated and utilised for the purpose during each of last three years and current year, State/UT-wise including Himachal Pradesh?

#### **Promotion of Ayurveda**

2722. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to promote Ayurveda in public health care system;

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

(c) whether Government has started any programme to provide assistance to institutions engaged in ayurvedic drug development and research; and

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

**New leukemia treatment by Ayurvedic Sciences**

2723. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that treatment of relapsed undifferentiated acute myeloid leukemia was invented by a member of Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether alternative medicine is marketed and produced by Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**AYUSH hospitals in the country**

2724. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned to establish about 50 AYUSH hospitals in the country under Centrally Sponsored Scheme/National AYUSH Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations wherein these hospitals have been/are being established, State-wise;

(c) the present status of these hospitals and whether these hospitals have started functioning; and

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

**Authentication labs for Ayush medicines**

†2725. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Ayush" medicines have been used for centuries, despite not being authenticated by any authorized laboratory;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to restrict the use of Ayush medicines not authenticated by authorized labs and whether it would consider establishing authentication labs for these medicines; and

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

**Yoga and Naturopathy treatment facilities**

†2726. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to provide better treatment facility to the people through Yoga and Naturopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Yoga colleges set up in the country so far, and the details thereof including those opened in Bihar?

**RARIGID, Guwahati**

2727. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new building of Regional Ayurveda Research Institute for Gastro Intestinal Disorder (RARIGID) has recently been inaugurated at Guwahati;

(b) if so, whether additional facilities would be provided to the patients following construction of the building, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total number of Ayurvedic Centres being run by Government in Assam and whether Indoor Patients Departments is available in these centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Inter-disciplinary research among different systems of medicines**

2728. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry promotes inter-disciplinary research among the various systems under it to develop more effective treatment of diseases and to produce new medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such co-ordination takes place also between the systems of modern and traditional medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rejections of ayurvedic medicines in foreign countries**

2729. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA &

NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various ayurvedic medicines produced in India faced rejections in foreign countries due to substandard quality;

(b) if so, the details of such medicines and reasons for rejections thereof;

(c) whether any effective mechanism is being proposed in the light of such rejections to ensure the authenticity and goodwill of Indian ayurvedic medicines; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed measures thereof?

**Research under AYUSH systems of medicine**

2730. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) what all areas of research are considered under Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy as a part of Extra Mural Research (EMR);

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) how many patents have been claimed so far under this schemes and the details thereof?

**Growing of medicinal plants**

2731. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has identified any geographical area across the country to grow medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the extent of geographical area in which currently medicinal plants are grown, State-wise; and

(d) the details of persons engaged in growing medicinal plants?

#### **Complaints against airlines and their crews**

2732. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the complaints received against Jet Airways, Jetlite and Air India and their staff members during the last one year;

(b) whether some of the complaints relate to the drunk pilots, misbehavior and smuggling activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the airlines?

#### **Incidents of windshield cracks on AI Dreamliners**

2733. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that windshield cracks are yet again haunting Air India's Dreamliners;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the most recent instance, Air India's Delhi-Dubai flight had to return to the capital within an hour of takeoff due to windshield cracks;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is at least the second case of Boeing 787 windshield cracking in the last five months; and

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

#### **Expansion of runway at Tuticorin airport**

2734. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received required land from State Government of Tamil Nadu for the expansion of runway of Tuticorin airport and its modernisation/upgradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Amount due by private airline companies to Government**

2735. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private airlines/companies operating domestic and international flights in the country and the details thereof;

(b) the approximate market share of these companies in terms of traffic and revenue;

(c) the total amount owed by each of these private airlines companies to the Government agencies by way of dues as on date towards licence fee, fuel charges, taxes, airport charges and other heads; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to recover such pending dues?

**Increase in share of international traffic of Indian carriers**

2736. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the share of Indian carriers in international traffic has increased by 2.6 per cent in 2017;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government has not given more flying rights despite demand from all big players;
- (c) whether this has helped in transportation of more passengers by Indian airline companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Upgradation/revival of airports in Rajasthan under UDAN scheme**

2737. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Regional Connectivity Scheme;
- (b) whether any airports have been identified for revival under the above scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details regarding airports in Rajasthan that are to be revived or upgraded under the above Scheme;
- (e) whether Government has increased budget allocation for the above scheme in the recent budget; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Air services from different places of Uttarakhand**

†2738. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the policy to start operation of aeroplane/helicopter services from different towns/places of Uttarakhand has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the names of towns/places of the State from where flight services would be started and the time by which these services would be started; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

**Privatisation of Indian airports**

†2739. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports in India handed over to the private companies for maintenance and operation, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware that as per the International Air Transport Association (IATA) the privatisation of airports is not satisfactory; and
- (c) whether Government is having any report about the problems, advantages-disadvantages experienced due to privatisation of airports and if so, the details of the report?

**State of art technology at Chennai Air Traffic Centre**

2740. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

measures to increase the state of the art technology at Chennai Air Traffic centre for providing the navigation signals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016 till date for installation and commissioning of such gadgets;

(c) the income generated from International airlines and their International flights passing through Indian Air Zones and also for the use of airport and air strip in landing and takeoff, Airport-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the income earned in the last three years, year-wise?

**Preference to Armed Forces Soldiers to board flights first**

2741. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Armed Forces, serving soldiers are invited to board Air India flights first before other fliers in order to show gratitude towards them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to issue an advisory to other private airlines in India to invite members of the Armed Forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force to board the flight first to make them feel a sense of pride; and

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

**Sale of Air India**

2742. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

has decided to sell Air India by this year-2018;

(b) if so, whether Government has finalised the legal closing therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the report of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM); and

(d) the details of the financial exercise and disinvestment transfer conditions between the companies thereof?

**Flight connectivity from unserved airports under UDAN scheme**

2743. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total proceeds, as on date, by levying charges for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) on key routes;

(b) the total number of proposals for connecting unserved airports *vis-a-vis* routes awarded so far under Uday Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to connect more unserved airports under UDAN scheme?

**Failure in bailing out AI**

2744. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government owned Air India is saddled with huge debt burden and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge funds were injected by Government to bail out the flagship carrier; and

(c) if so, the details thereof together with the reasons for failure on the part of Air India?

**Expansion of passenger services by  
A.I.**

2745. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing airports in the country, the capacity of each of them and the details about their expansion and development thereof;

(b) the details of financial achievements of Air India during each of the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken to expand the passenger services of Air India and to make it on time and passenger friendly?

**Infrastructural bottlenecks under  
UDAN Scheme**

2746. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights being operated under the Uday Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme and the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of flights allotted to carriers but not yet operational and the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of parking slots and landing slots availability and the infrastructure available to carriers under the UDAN scheme and the details thereof; and

(d) whether the airports face any infrastructure bottlenecks in terms of facilities available to carriers under the UDAN scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Uniform air fares for same sector by  
different airlines**

2747. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to rationalise air fares so that uniform fares can be charged by different airlines in same sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held talks with airline companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Inclusion of foreign airlines and  
pilots in Regional Connectivity  
Scheme**

2748. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are enough specialised aircrafts to carry out operations for Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) from the identified airports, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether pilots are being included to carry out training to implement the regional connectivity scheme for the present identified airports, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether foreign airlines and pilot personnel would be included in the process for the regional connectivity scheme and if so, the details thereof?

**Low share of Indian domestic airlines  
in international traffic**

2749. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

Indian domestic airlines have a very low share in international traffic to and from India and if so, what are the specific reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has taken any action on the report of the Economic Survey which has suggested a mix of protectionism for domestic airlines and liberal norms for flying abroad to bolster their share in international air traffic and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of Jewar airport**

‡2750. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the information regarding the steps taken, so far, for the development of Jewar airport, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh and by when operation of flights would commence from here;

(b) whether some laxity has been witnessed in the development of the proposed International airport in the district Kushinagar in U.P. considering the Buddhist tourism here;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) the present status of the airport being developed in Kushinagar and the targeted timeline for operationalisation of international flights from this airport; and

(e) the number of proposed airports in the country for whose development/ construction the Ministry is taking initiatives?

#### **Grounding of A-320 neo aircrafts**

2751. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether A-320 neo aircrafts were grounded recently by various airlines;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all aircrafts operated by various airlines including private airlines are in air worthiness and to ensure maximum safety for passengers and cargo?

#### **Loan for modification of aircrafts for ferrying VVIPs**

2752. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:  
SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India has sought a loan of ₹ 1100 crore for modification of two Boeing aircraft scheduled to be acquired soon for ferrying VVIPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these planes will be used to ferry the President, Vice President, and Prime Minister; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the cost for modification in its interior configuration is estimated to be US \$180 million?

#### **Loss of Air India**

2753. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has suffered loss

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



on almost all the routes and if so, the details for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the income generated and the expenditure incurred by Air India during each of the last three years and the reasons for increasing loss, if any;

(c) whether any scheme for restructuring/bail-out package for Air India was approved recently and if so, the steps taken to implement the scheme/package along with the results achieved; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating disinvestment of Air India and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Cases of fraud involving companies**

2754. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of cases of fraud involving companies reported from 2014 onwards, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that fraud cases involving companies went up by 21 per cent in 2017 as per Kroll Annual Global Fraud and Risk Report 2017-18, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to take any steps to curb cases of fraud and theft; and

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

#### **CSR spending in Maharashtra**

2755. SHRMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies of both

public and private sectors have mandatorily spent certain percentage of their profits on welfare development activities as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);

(b) if so, the details of the amount utilised and major activities/programmes undertaken by various public sector and private sector companies during the last three years, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government has laid emphasis on the effective implementation of CSR and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has constituted any committee/authority to ensure proper use of CSR funds and to monitor the activities therein?

#### **Investment under CSR by MNCs**

2756. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on investment under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the multi-national global institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with investments and spending of top 50 Multinational Corporations (MNCs) thereon; and

(c) the detail of the projects that have been carried by the MNCs for North-Eastern States?

**Law to ban unregulated deposit schemes**

2757. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drafted a new law to ban unregulated deposits schemes to prevent duping of gullible investors through ponzi schemes;

(b) whether with so many amendments/new legislations enacted earlier, the field is still open for fly-by-night operators who still operate with impunity in amassing deposits from the unwary public; and

(c) the present status of direct marketing companies who promote/sell their own products through highly placed social club members in their individual capacity?

**LoUs issued to companies owned by Nirav Modi and relatives**

2758. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) issued to companies owned by Mr. Nirav Modi, Mr. Mehul Chocksy and their relatives from 2011 to 2018 by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and its year-wise break up;

(b) the amount committed by the Bank against each LoU, the amount of loan availed and the amount of repayment made by the companies against each LoU; and

(c) the total payment due to the Bank from them as on today?

**Non-filing of IT returns by shell companies**

2759. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of shell companies have not filed their financial statements or annual returns for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of some of the prominent directors of these companies;

(c) how much is the tax liability of these companies for the last three years and how much Government has recovered so far; and

(d) the details of punitive action taken by Government against these companies and also for recovering taxes with penalty, etc. from them?

**Providing banking services in rural Maharashtra**

2760. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public and private sector banks presently operating in the rural areas of Maharashtra; Bank-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether the penetration of banking services in the rural areas of the State is relatively low;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide banking services including mobile banking, ATMs etc. in rural Maharashtra within a time-frame; and

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

**Reduction of GST on horticulture items**

2761. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce GST rates on greenhouse materials-horticulture items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any demand for reduction of GST on horticulture items; and

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

**Disinvestment of Pawan Hans Ltd.**

2762. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disinvestment of Pawan Hans Ltd. has found no bidders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken particularly with regard to liberalising certain conditionality/s to attract more buyers?

**Statistics of growth rate and GDP**

2763. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic situation of India is in a critical state due to demonetisation and due to hasty implementation of GST;

(b) if so, what is the growth rate and GDP in the current financial year; and

(c) the growth rate and GDP in 2015-16, 2016-17?

**CD Ratio of banks in West Bengal**

2764. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CD Ratio of the banks in West Bengal is lowest in India amongst the major States;

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

(c) the CD Ratio in other major States in India?

**Rates of small savings schemes**

2765. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 2018 and state the revised rates of interest on various small savings schemes including saving deposits, Public Provident Fund, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samridhi accounts schemes?

**Credit programmes for farmers**

2766. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit programmes for farmers launched by Government since 2014;

(b) the number of beneficiaries under these programmes, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether credit market has failed to include majority of agricultural labourers, marginal and small land holders despite several credit programmes introduced by Government, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether more than 30 per cent of agricultural households that avail a loan,

take credit from informal sources especially from moneylenders charging high interest rates, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how Ministry plans, to improve financial inclusion with respect to agricultural labourers, marginal and small land holders?

#### **Merger of LIC divisions in Odisha**

2767. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many divisions of LIC have been merged in Odisha to make a larger division;

(b) what is the purpose of merging these divisions and shifting to some other place which hampers the greater interest of the public of the State; and

(c) whether Government is further planning to merge some other divisions of LIC in Odisha and neighbouring States?

#### **Establishment of new division of LIC in Balasore**

2768. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish a new division of LIC in Balasore in Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) why Balasore is not considered as a division till now as Balasore LIC Branch is qualified for new division from all aspects?

#### **Exemption of film from GST**

2769. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State/Central Government can exempt films as defined under section 2(dd) of The Cinematograph Act, 1952 from payment of CGST/SGST;

(b) if so, under what policy/notification can the State/Central Government exempt films from paying GST; and

(c) how many films were exempted from paying GST w.e.f. 01.07.2017, the details thereof?

#### **Extension of grant of bonus to Autonomous Bodies**

2770. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended the grant of Non-Productivity Linked Bonus to Autonomous Bodies for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17;

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

(c) whether representations have been received in the Ministry for extension of orders to Autonomous Bodies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether recovery of *ad hoc* bonus paid to lower level employees of Autonomous Bodies during festive season, resulted into resentment; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to extend order to Autonomous Bodies at the earliest?

**States exempted from tax refund after GST**

2771. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North Eastern and hilly States have been exempted from tax refund till March, 2027 even after GST came into force;

(b) if so, under which Section the above exemption has been granted to above States; and

(c) how many industries are likely to be benefited and how much Government of India has to forego as tax in view of exemptions?

**Import duty on wheat**

2772. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on increasing the import duty on wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed duty is a marginal or considerably equal to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to assure Minimum Support Price to the farming community?

**Withdrawal of GST on skill development, start-ups and tourism**

2773. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

representatives of start-ups from across the country have sought the withdrawal of levy of GST on skill development, start-ups and tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details of the demands sought by the start-ups representatives;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision on the demands of those representatives;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the stand of Government in this regard?

**Penal action against business houses not repaying loans**

†2774. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated to check the practice of turning an old bad loan into a good loan by providing a fresh loan again; and

(b) whether Government has taken any penal action against the industrial/business establishments/houses not repaying their loans, if so, the details thereof?

**Recent amendments to Small Savings Act**

2775. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently made amendments with regard to Small Savings Act;

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

(c) the mechanism devised to protect the small savings of poor people who

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

invest their savings in the fake saving schemes in the rural areas?

**Appointment of inexperienced person as non-official members in boards of PSBs etc.**

2776. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come across any instances of persons who lack work experience and various other categories being appointed as non-official members under the Boards of State run Banks, insurance companies and financial companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Inefficient implementation of GST**

2777. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the failures of Government to implement the GST scheme efficiently has resulted in confusion in trading circles and the common people are agitated that the entire tax burden has fallen on them resulting in higher prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the manufacturing sector has failed to pass on the tax benefits they received to the consumers by reducing the prices of their products, resulting in higher burden on the common consumer; and

(c) if so, the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

**Investigation of PNB scam by SIT**

†2778. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has

made a suggestion to Government for conducting an inquiry into the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam by special investigation team;

(b) if so, whether Government would act in compliance of the suggestion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) if not, whether Government would get this scam investigated through a Joint Parliamentary Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Contingent liability to gems and jewellery sector**

2779. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PSU banks are evaluating their exposure to other groups in the gems and jewellery business in view of the Nirav Modi and Choksi groups scams; and

(b) the steps to recognise contingent liability to the sector?

**Assesment of impact of GST on prices of goods and services**

2780. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of impact both favourable and adverse on the prices of goods and services after the imposition of GST w.e.f. 1st July, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the prices of both consumer and capital goods which have declined since imposition of GST?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Merger of State-owned general insurance companies**

2781. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of net profit, net worth and total market share of State-owned general insurance companies namely Oriental Insurance, National Insurance and United Insurance during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has decided to merge these State-owned insurance companies and if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;

(c) whether Government is to list the unified entity on the stock exchange;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be listed; and

(e) the benefit that all the three State-owned general insurance companies will get out of this merger?

**Law for unregulated deposits**

2782. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed a stronger law to punish those who raise funds through unregulated deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the bill proposes to create three different types of offences such as unregulated deposit schemes, fraudulent default in regulated schemes, and wrongful inducement for unregulated deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Sale of stake by stock exchange of Bangladesh**

2783. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Bourse has agreed to sell a large stake in its stock exchange to a Chinese consortium, rebuffing a rival bid from India's National Stock Exchange (NSE);

(b) whether the Mumbai based NSE had offered 15 taka per share which was outbid by the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchange by a higher offer of 22 taka per share; and

(c) whether the global watchdog Transparency International had strongly condemned the move of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission for trying to favour India as illegal and unethical meddling?

**Impact of demonetisation**

2784. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has finally counted the total amount of currencies demonetised in November, 2016, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of black money unearthed through this act;

(c) other negative trends snuffed out by this move; and

(d) the employment created or blocked by this move?

**Tax incentive to start-ups in Food sector**

2785. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Yes Bank and FICCI came up with a report demanding exemptions for the incubators from taxes and customs duty levied on the goods they import incentivising Start-ups in the Food sector; and

(b) whether the Ministry has deliberated upon the same, if so, the details of the position taken by the Ministry on the demand?

#### **Merger/privatisation of PSBs**

2786. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of taking any policy decision to make Public Sector Banks (PSBs) privatised, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee-I which stated that there is no need of so many PSBs and these should be privatised or merged; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to implement the recommendations of Narasimham Committee-I, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Linking of SWIFT to the Core Banking System**

2787. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to collaborate with technologically resilient fin-tech companies or others for digitalisation of payments system in PSBs during this deplorable financial condition of PSBs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that in many PSBs, crucial applications like SWIFT are not linked to the Core Banking System (CBS) which is vulnerable to hackers; and

(c) if so, whether any fin-tech company or other institutions have been collaborated with Government to integrate these systems, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **LoUs issued by PSBs**

2788. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LoUs issued by PSBs since July, 2014 till date;

(b) the details of these LoUs regarding their repayments or NPAs as the case may be; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure that SWIFT transactions are reported in the Core Banking System of PSBs?

#### **Investigations on scams relating to LoUs in banks**

2789. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has done forensic audit of all SWIFT communications and messages, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of internal inquiries/investigations conducted by RBI to fix responsibility over the recent scams relating to LoUs; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has taken action and fixed responsibility of those involved in the recent LoU scam of Public Sector Banks, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?



**RBI caution on malicious misuse of SWIFT infrastructure**

2790. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted an expert committee to look into the entire gamut of issues relating to classification of bad loans, rising incidents of frauds and effectiveness of audits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the RBI had confidentially cautioned and alerted banks of such possible misuse at least on three occasions since August, 2016;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the RBI had suggested to banks to implement the safeguards and about the potential malicious use of the SWIFT infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Inoperative accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana**

2791. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Jan Dhan Yojana' initiated by Government has failed miserably as the banks are planning to shut down about 8,00,000 accounts opened under this scheme which are totally inoperative and the bank is unable to meet the operational cost of such accounts;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the bank employees have put money from their pockets to open such accounts under pressure from the Ministry to meet the targets of the Branch; and

(c) how many bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan Yojana have been closed since the launch of the scheme?

**Waived off loans of farmers**

2792. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers whose loans have been waived off under the scheme till date;

(b) the number of such farmers whose loans were waived off after Government got complaints of non-waiver of their loans; and

(c) the details of such waived off loans, State-wise?

**Strengthening of checks and balances in Banks**

2793. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Bank Employees Association have said that Government has not appointed workmen and officer directors in Public Sector Banks which had weakened the checks and balances;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to strengthen the checks and balances?

**Use of revenue to pay interest on loans by States**

2794. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States can avail additional borrowings every year to the extent of growth recorded in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State subject to maximum percentage ceiling prescribed in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that several States are paying a considerable percentage of their revenue towards payment of interest of loans availed by them, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of total debt and interest paid on debts during the last three years State-wise?

#### **Loans to weaker section under PSL**

2795. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan disbursed by the Public and Private Sector Banks to the weaker sections including Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) under the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) along with rate of interest charged thereon during the last three years, year and bank-wise;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has laid down any guidelines in this regard;

(c) if so, the details along with the compliance status thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to restructure Priority Sector Lending (PSL) in order to facilitate better credit access to the people?

#### **Regulating loan fraud cases**

2796. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of loan fraud cases reported by State-run banks since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the value of these reported loans since 2014, year-wise;

(c) whether Government intends to take steps to regulate lending practices to address the rise in loan fraud cases; and

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

#### **Shishu, Kishore and Tarun loans under MUDRA scheme**

†2797. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Mudra Scheme" launched by the Government has failed completely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the rate of interest and the amount of loan to be provided under "Shishu Loan", "Kishore Loan" and "Tarun Loan" under the aegis of the MUDRA scheme and the number of people who have taken the above loan?

#### **Action against banks involved in converting black money into white**

†2798. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken any action against those Banks which were involved in converting black money into white money during demonetisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the action taken by Government against accused Banks and their officials during demonetisation?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Recovery of bad loan/NPA**

2799. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bad debt or Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) till date;

(b) whether concrete steps have been taken by Government to recover the huge amount of bad loans (NPAs);

(c) whether private sector banks suffer bad debt syndrome, if not, how does it inflict the Public Sector Banks only;

(d) how many bank officials have so far been booked and given punishment for being found guilty in the matter; and

(e) details of the concrete steps have been taken against the defaulters and punishment awarded?

**Increase in margin amount for taking agricultural loans**

†2800. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that margin amount has been increased from 15 to 30 per cent for taking the loans from Banks for purchasing various agricultural equipments such as tractors, pumpsets, rotavators etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to increase in margin amount farmers are forced to arrange the same by borrowing from money lenders or through other ways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Seizure of red sandalwood**

2801. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized recently red sandalwood in large quantity that was being smuggled/exported to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of persons and companies involved therein; and

(c) the details of action DRI has taken in this regard?

**Reinstating old agency by LIC**

2802. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1673 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd January, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India had condoned non-fulfilment of MBG quota *vide* email dated 1st December, 2011 to LIC, as special case and it was recommended by Chief Manager BO-11B on prescribed proforma to reinstate the old agency which was further forwarded by Senior Divisional Manager

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to Regional Manager (Marketing), Northern Zonal Office, LIC, *vide* letter dated 26th December, 2011;

(b) if so, the reasons for misleading the August House; and

(c) the details of action Government would take to reinstate the old agency in view of above facts and condoning by IRDAI?

(c) the details of total loss reported by PNB due to frauds during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 so far;

(d) the details of tax payers money infused/announced to be infused in PNB during last three years; and

(e) how Government and PNB would compensate the loss of money due to massive frauds in PNB?

#### **Fraud in OBC**

2803. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another fraud of ₹ 390/- crore in Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has inquired into the alleged fraud and has fixed responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Loss to PNB due to scam**

2804. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab National Bank (PNB) has recently reported an additional scam of ₹1300/- crore related to diamond trader Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi which has reached upto ₹ 12,600/- crore, officially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

#### **Uploading details of tax exempt organisations on website**

2805. SHRIMATI VANDANA  
CHAVAN:  
SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued any internal instructions in May, 2016 about the necessity of strict compliance with the orders passed by the Central Information Commission;

(b) if so, whether names and relevant details of all organisations availing income tax exemption has been uploaded on any website;

(c) whether Government is satisfied that details of all tax exempt organisations have been uploaded on the website; and

(d) the total number of organisations availing tax exemption under each relevant Section of the Income Tax Act, 1961, State-wise?

#### **Clarity on E-Way Bill**

2806. SHRI DHARMAPURI  
SRINIVAS:  
SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from association of exporters seeking clarity on functioning of E-Way Bill with regard to the movement of goods from dry-ports to sea ports and from SEZs within the zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any clarification has been given on the matter, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the stand of Government in this regard?

**Involvement of top management in PNB fraud**

2807. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fraud of ₹ 11,300 crores of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) which was going on from the year 2011 escaped the eyes of the Bank auditors continuously till January, 2018 when it was detected;

(b) whether the top management of PNB is also involved in the fraudulent activities and deliberately overlooked the fraud happening for last 7 years; and

(c) whether the complaint to CBI carries the names of low/middle level officers only or of the top management people of the bank have also been named in it?

**Increase in wilful defaulters in PSBs**

2808. DR. SANJAY SINH:  
SHRI HARIVANSH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Question 2477 given on 8th August, 2017

and starred Question 155 given on 2nd January, 2018 in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wilful defaulters in PSU banks have risen in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of lending to corporate and multinational sectors in the country which accounted for NPA in domestic sector for Indian Banks; and

(d) action taken by Government apart from filing cases to recover the bad loans, the details thereof?

**Penalty on non-maintenance of minimum balance in Jan-Dhan accounts**

2809. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being collected as penalty for not being able to maintain minimum balance in saving accounts for last three years, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether minimum balance penalty is applicable to Jan-Dhan accounts also; and

(c) if so, the details of penalty amount collected so far towards minimum balance of Jan-Dhan accounts?

**NPA from agricultural and business sectors**

2810. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major NPAs of Banking system is from business sector;

(b) if so, total NPA in the last three years, Bank-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the amount of total NPA from agriculture sector and business sector separately for the last three years?

#### **Embezzlement of funds in Banks**

2811. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken against Banks/officials who were involved in carrying out irregular transactions and violating the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructions, creating mismanagement in Banks after demonetisation, the details thereof, Bank-wise including Private Sector Banks; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by Government to avoid recurrence of incidents of embezzlement of funds of banks and similar types of instances in future and strengthening of the banking system?

#### **Opening of bank branches in Odisha**

2812. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than seventy per cent of Gram Panchayats in Odisha still do not have a bank branch;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Odisha has time and again requested the Union Government to set up more branches of Nationalised Banks in the unbanked area; and

(c) if so, the plan of action of Government in this regard?

#### **Implementation of CPS in States**

2813. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was made mandatory to implement Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) for States and its employees, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether States can come out from this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Unclaimed money with insurance companies**

‡2814. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the insurance companies have unclaimed money worth thousands of crore rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to use this amount on social and welfare schemes; and

(d) if so, how and by when?

#### **Disappearance of appeal files from CESTAT, Bangalore**

2815. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member (Judicial) has brought all the files on his transfer from The Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Bangalore to Delhi;

(b) if so, total number of appeal files which got destroyed or disappeared and which are now being reconstructed by CESTAT with the help of revenue and appellants/respondents;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the period of delay in delivery of justice caused in each appeal due to above reasons, separately, appeal-wise; and

(d) any action taken by president, CESTAT or Central Government for causing harassment to appellants/respondents against the member/officials responsible for the above delayed delivery of justice?

#### **Improving population to medical infrastructure ratio**

†2816. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise population in the country and the ratio of doctors, nurses, medical staff and beds available in the hospitals;

(b) the norms of World Health Organisation thereof;

(c) whether substantial improvements have been registered regarding above as a result of steps taken by the Central Government during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Shortage of specialists with CGHS**

2817. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of specialists/surgeons in various departments of CGHS wings in Government hospitals in Delhi;

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

(c) the average waiting period for

patients for getting treatment due to this shortage;

(d) the details of sanctioned posts and filled up posts in CGHS wing hospitals;

(e) the time by which the vacant posts are proposed to be filled up; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to review the strength of specialist doctors in CGHS wing due to increased number of patients from Delhi?

#### **Malpractices in medical colleges**

2818. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of large scale of malpractices like fake faculty, inadequate infrastructure and patient load etc. in running of allopathic degree courses in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases along with the type of malpractices coming to light in the country along with the action taken by Government against the defaulting colleges during the last three years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to promote medical education on one hand, and weed out wide-spread corruption in granting recognition to medical colleges and also strengthen the inspection mechanism on the other?

#### **Awareness campaign on Leprosy**

2819. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures Government is taking to generate awareness on Leprosy disease in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what measures Government is taking to ensure that such persons are not discriminated against in the society; and

(c) how many people are affected by Leprosy in the country as on November, 2017?

#### **Shortage of doctors**

2820. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of severe shortage of doctors in the public health sector in India, if so, the State-wise data regarding shortage of doctors; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to rectify the problems and the details thereof?

#### **Healthcare proposals from Chhattisgarh**

†2821. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 373 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th February, 2018 and state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Chhattisgarh that are pending as on 28th February, 2018 and the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when approval shall be accorded on the pending proposals?

#### **Regulatory framework for granting affiliation**

2822. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has

been drawn to the fact that a large number of pharmacy colleges which lack adequate faculty members and have sub-standard laboratory facilities, have been given affiliation;

(b) if so, the details of the colleges which have been granted or have applied for affiliation without meeting the prescribed norms, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take, to check the proliferation of Pharma Colleges and improve the regulatory framework for granting affiliation?

#### **Banning of ads promoting processed foods and sweetened beverages**

2823. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee of medical experts and nutritionists tasked by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended a tax on highly-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages;

(b) whether the Low Income Groups consume more fried snacks and sweets than High Income Groups; and

(c) whether Government is planning to enforce FSSAI's long standing order that requires food companies to ensure no more than 5 per cent of the daily calorie requirement of their products derives from fats, if so, what is the approximate time-frame for its implementation?

#### **Quality assurance for CGHS drugs**

2824. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



urgent need to put in place an efficient mechanism of quality assurance of the drugs supplied through (CGHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Diagnosing TB at District Hospitals**

2825. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made adequate arrangements including TB confirming tests at all District Hospitals across the country to diagnose TB and other incidental tests thereto;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with Government to appoint sufficient Counsellors at the District Hospitals across the country to counsel TB patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Mandatory NEET clearance for foreign medical degree holders**

2826. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students wishing to study MBBS in foreign universities may soon have to clear the NEET as Government plans to make the test mandatory for them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of graduates who have studied abroad and have cleared the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) ranged between 13-26.9 per cent during last five years;

(c) whether this is really a matter of concern as they are not able to contribute to healthcare in India after their come back; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increase of Medical seats in Andhra Pradesh**

2827. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India is proposing to increase the seats in the existing medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh following the bifurcation of the State and fulfil the promise made in the A.P. Reorganisation Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Funding of NHPS**

2828. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has made any calculations about the money required for National Healthcare Protection Scheme (NHPS) announced in the Budget by the Finance Minister;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per health experts and economists, the amount required for this scheme is ₹ 7,000 crores with contribution to the tune of ₹ 4,000 crores to come from the States;

(c) if so, how Ministry is planning to pool the resources and convince States which are reeling under severe financial trouble; and

(d) how Ministry can implement the scheme in the absence of standard rates for common treatments?

**Oncology surgery course at medical colleges in Telangana**

2829. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to introduce Oncology Surgery Course in the Medical Colleges situated in the State of Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

**Investment in TB R&D**

2830. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government needs to invest more in tuberculosis research and development to meet the global targets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tuberculosis vaccine was a global public health good which meant Government needs to invest if they want to own it later; and

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

**FSSAI's norms for imported food items**

2831. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has proposed that all imported food items should have at least three months to go for expiry, or a minimum 60% of their shelf life;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the FSSAI has proposed that the customs officer should not approve the import of food items that do not meet the condition; and

(c) whether the FSSAI will profile the importer, customs house agent, manufacturer of the imported product, country of origin, source of the consignment, port of entry, and history of compliance?

**Cases of Triple Concurrent Infection**

2832. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of Triple Concurrent Infection (person can get dengue, malaria and chikungunya at the same time) have been reported recently and are on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported so far in the country;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to check the spread of Triple Concurrent Infection; and

(d) the details thereof?

**Capacity addition of hospitals for cancer treatment**

2833. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has figures of total capacity of all hospitals in the country to treat cancer patients; and

(b) how much fresh capacity is being added in the next two years?

**TB cases in Odisha**

†2834. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons identified with tuberculosis in Odisha during the last three years;

(b) the new techniques used to treat tuberculosis in Odisha; and

(c) the measures taken to eradicate tuberculosis from Odisha and the outcomes thereof?

**Major reforms in MBBS curriculum**

2835. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes major reforms in MBBS curriculum;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which new curriculum is likely to be ready for medical students?

**Decrease in recorded malaria cases**

2836. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has reduced its new malaria cases by one-third and even crossed the malaria mortality targets of 2020;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with nearly three fourth of the share of the regional burden, India's success had significantly contributed to the reduction

of the burden of malaria for the entire Southeast Asia region;

(c) whether a majority of malaria cases in the country occurred in its border districts, forests and tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**PHCs functioning without doctors**

2837. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of PHCs is functioning without doctors;

(b) if so, the details of PHCs where doctors post is vacant, State-wise; and

(c) whether any concrete measures are being taken to address such deficiency of doctors?

**Compulsory on time vaccination of children**

2838. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 72 per cent of children in the country are not getting compulsory vaccine on time;

(b) if so, the reasons behind their not getting on time immunisation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that almost 6 per cent of children of the country between age group 12-23 months have never been vaccinated at all;

(d) whether Government proposes for special drive with adequate staffs to make infant mortality rate down to zero from present 4.1 percent therefor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sex ratio at birth**

2839. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed statistical information regarding the sex-ratio at birth in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details of measures taken by Government to counter the prevalence of unlawful sex selective abortion in the last three years; and
- (c) the outcomes of measures taken by Government in this regard in the last three years?

**Major diseases afflicting the Nation**

2840. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) which are the main three diseases in India which are disturbing health of the human beings and the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) what are the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) what are the long term solution for the same?

**Setting up of RIPS at Bhubaneswar**

2841. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has selected Bhubaneswar as one of the sites for establishment of Regional Institute of Paramedical Sciences (RIPS); and
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

**Neonatal mortality rate**

2842. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that UNICEF's recent report indicates that India has become the riskiest country for the newborns;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is taking any steps to curb this neonatal mortality rate throughout the country; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to strengthen the States which have reported high neonatal mortality rate in our country?

**Use of medicines without medical consultation**

†2843. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that almost half of the population of the country is taking medicines without any medical consultation; and
- (b) if so, steps being taken by Government in this direction?

**Population addicted to alcohol and tobacco**

2844. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey recently to find the percentage of population consuming tobacco and alcohol;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the urban and rural area-wise percentage of women, men and children consuming tobacco and alcohol for the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save people from this problem?

#### **HPV vaccine in National Immunisation Programme**

2845. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would not include the HPV vaccine in the National Immunisation Programme, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons due to which Government is dragging its feet in prevention of HPV infection, genital warts and precancerous lesions in spite of 25 per cent of all cervical cancer deaths in the world occurring in India; and

(c) whether Government plans to introduce HPV vaccine in the National programme and increase screening programme with quality health care infrastructure including trained health workers?

#### **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**

†2846. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced the launch of a new health insurance scheme called 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' under which all the poor families in the country are proposed to be covered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many States have announced not to join this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Flagship programme under the Ministry**

2847. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) under the Ministry including flagship programmes being implemented at present; and

(b) the details of schemes along with the details of targets and allocations made, funds allocated, disbursed and utilized to these scheme in the past three years including present year State and UT-wise, scheme-wise?

#### **Shortfall in drug inspectors**

2848. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mashelkar Committee had recommended one drug inspector for every 200 medical shops and one drug inspector for every 50 manufacturing units and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Delhi had just 21 drug inspectors for 25000 medicine shops who are unable to check the quality of medicines sold in the market and as a result thereof spurious drugs are freely sold in the markets; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Public health action for TB patients**

2849. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the mechanisms/steps taken by Government to provide public health action *i.e.* Contact, Tracing, Direct Benefit Transfer etc. for TB patients under the private sector hospitals as the number is more than public sector hospitals;

(b) other than the free medicines what are the steps taken by Government to support TB/Drug resistant TB patients to complete their treatment; and

(c) what budgetary allocation has been made to provide psychosocial and economic support to the TB patients under the private sector?

**UNICEF report on neonatal mortality rate**

2850. SHRI D. RAJA:  
SHRI MD. NADIMUL  
HAQUE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent UNICEF report on neonatal mortality rate which ranks India as 12th worst country among 52 low middle-income countries based on number of children dying within first month of their birth which is 25.4 per 1000 live births;

(b) if so, details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) steps taken by Government to reduce newborn deaths and achieve target for neonatal mortality of 12 by 2030 to meet Sustainable Development Goals; and

(d) steps taken by Government to strengthen mother and newborn health services to improve the above rankings and details thereof?

**DST guided treatment for TB**

2851. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has published the guidelines for the Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) guided treatment and the treatment of monopoly drug resistant TB;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government is planning to implement the Universal DST and DST guided treatment for all DR TB patients across the country?

**Under-five mortality rate**

2852. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of annual under five deaths in India has gone down for the first time in 2016;

(b) if so, the number for the years 2014 and 2015 as compared to 2016;

(c) the steps taken to prevent higher mortality among girls as compared to boys; and

(d) the plans of Government to meet its Millennium Development Goal target for the under-five mortality rate of 25 per 1000 live births by 2030?

**Waste management in rural hospitals**

‡2853. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of spread of chronic diseases like plague, malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, allergy, skin disease and cancer are on the rise due to increasing quantities of wastes (diaper, sanitary napkins, bandies, infected cotton, syringes, expired medicines) and lack of adequate and effective waste management system in the hospitals of rural areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for waste management in rural hospitals in view of health and hygiene?

**Empanelment and de-panelling of private hospitals under CGHS**

2854. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of private hospitals are opting out of CGHS panel in the country;

(b) if so, the number and names of hospitals that de-panelled during last three years with reasons for de-panelling; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to include more hospitals in panel of CGHS so as to ease pressure on Government hospitals?

**Funds released for combating vector-borne diseases**

2855. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released for

combating vector borne diseases from 2015-2017 and how much of it was actually utilised; and

(b) if there was under-utilisation of funds, the reasons therefor?

**Elimination of Kala Azar**

2856. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been unable to fulfil its commitment of eliminating Kala Azar from India by the end of 2017;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the revised deadline by which Kala Azar would be eliminated;

(d) the measures being taken to eliminate Kala Azar and details thereof; and

(e) whether specific measures are being taken to eliminate Kala Azar from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh which see high cases of prevalence of the said disease?

**Performance of National Waqf Development Corporation**

2857. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Waqf Development Corporation (NAWADCO) has taken up any projects for development of Waqf properties after it came into existence;

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

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) how had the NAWADCO been performing financially during the last three years; and

(d) the details of income and losses incurred, if any, during that period?

#### **Fake Madarsas in Uttar Pradesh**

†2858. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees have been saved by Government of Uttar Pradesh by banning fake Madarsas and initiating online registration of Madarsa education;

(b) if so, the details thereof available with Government; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide higher and modern education in Madarsas and stop frauds therein and whether the new directives have been issued to all States in this regard?

#### **Assistance to get rid of illegal encroachment of Waqf properties**

2859. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes that have been implemented by Government for the development and strengthening of the State Waqf Boards;

(b) whether Government proposes to assist the State Waqf Boards to get rid of the illegal encroachment of the Waqf properties;

(c) whether any fund been released by the National Waqf Development Corporation to the State Waqf Boards to

deal with the illegal encroachment of the Waqf properties; and

(d) if so, the details of funds released for this purpose, State-wise?

#### **Removal of Haj subsidy**

2860. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy has been withdrawn from the Haj yatra;

(b) if so, whether Government to allow Haj yatri to avail any airways for Haj yatra; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Reduction in air fare for Haj pilgrimage**

†2861. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air fare of Haj pilgrims proceeding on Haj yatra this year has been reduced upto 45 per cent;

(b) if so, whether more air fare was being charged by increasing air fare from Haj pilgrims in name of Haj subsidy for last several years;

(c) the names of airlines which have started operations this year for Haj pilgrims and whether more airlines are desirous to take Haj pilgrims and whether due to coming of more airlines Haj yatra for Haj

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



pilgrims is likely to be possible at lower fares; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

#### **Power generation landfills wastes**

2862. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up plants for generating power from waste in the National Capital and Mumbai where landfills are overflowing with waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such plants are proposed to be encouraged in other parts of the country also;

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

(e) whether private sector will also be involved in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Solarisation of farm pumps**

2863. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that grid connected farm pumps, aggregating a capacity of 7250 mw would be solarised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is likely to take four years to solarise these pumps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Auctioning of solar and wind energy capacities**

2864. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present India's installed renewable energy generation capacity is 6,284 gw excluding large hydro projects above 25 mw;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has planned to auction 40 gw of solar energy capacities and 20 gw of wind projects in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to meet the tall order; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Installed solar power capacity**

2865. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present installed solar power capacity in the country;

(b) whether Government has any plan to increase this power gradually, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this capacity is going to be beneficial to the State of Odisha; and

(d) if so, in which way and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Installation of RE projects in installations/buildings**

2866. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Renewable Energy (RE) projects proposed and executed during

last three years in installations/buildings of both Centre, State Governments and private institutes;

(b) whether Government has any plans to approve such new RE projects and to make it mandatory for Government and Private sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has conducted any studies to find out the impact of efficient and cost effective technologies in generation of renewable energy in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the list of studies conducted and projects implemented annually in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

#### **Solar power generation under KUSUM**

2867. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new version of Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) will aid total solar power generation capacity of 28,250mw and entailing an investment of ₹ 1.4 lakh crore over the next 10 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10,000 mw solar power capacity is envisaged to be build under the plan;

(c) whether Government reckons to install 17.5 lakh off grid solar pumps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **NPAs with IREDA**

2868. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of non performing assets in the books of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) at the end of 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and as on date;

(b) the total amount of loans disbursed by the IREDA in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18; and

(c) the reasons for increasing loan disbursement by the IREDA despite an increase in NPAs?

#### **Failure by States to utilise non-conventional energy**

2869. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have failed to utilize non-conventional energy; and

(b) if so, Government's planning to popularize its use?

#### **Power generation through renewable energy sources**

2870. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many megawatts of power has been generated through renewable energy sources;

(b) the cost of manufacturing of per unit of power through solar and wind energy; and

(c) the cost of per unit electricity generated through renewable energy sources to households?

**Discontinuing of Akshay Urja Shops Programme**

2871. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the Akshay Urja Shops Programme including plans for alternative usage of funds usually earmarked for the programme;

(b) the number of districts in India that had received shops under the aforementioned programme with a State-wise break-up; and

(c) the plans of Government to encourage the growth of outlets that deal with solar energy products?

**Shifting of headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation**

2872. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has decided to shift the headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) from Kolkata;

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

(c) whether the matter of shifting of DVC headquarters from West Bengal have been discussed with the State Government of West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Launching of UJALA scheme in Jharkhand**

2873. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of

POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all scheme (UJALA) in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the targets of Government in the coming financial year?

**Use of straw pallets by NTPC**

2874. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a suggestion to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for sustainable use of straw pallets out of crop residue to restrict stubble burning in the fields after harvesting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with reaction of NTPC thereto?

**Under-utilisation of thermal power plants**

2875. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite improvement in power distribution in many States the demand for power from thermal power plants has not increased with the result that many of the plants are unable to exploit their installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what special measures Government proposes to take to ensure that the power generation capacity of thermal plants are fully exploited for the benefit of consumer?

**Losses of power plants**

2876. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of power plants both in public and private sector are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make these plants economically viable?

**Financial assistance for electrification**

†2877. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States in the country have sought financial assistance from the Central Government for power sector reforms and providing electricity to more and more households;

(b) if so, whether Government has given any consideration to their demands, so far; and

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

**Amendment in Power Act**

†2878. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to amend the Power Act to tighten the noose of power companies;

(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?

**Power generation in the country**

2879. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets set and achievements made for power generation during the last three years;

(b) the total amount of funds allocated/ sanctioned during the current Five Year Plan along with the expenditure; and

(c) the investments made by public and the private sector in the power sector during the said period, State-wise?

**Closure of Hydro projects due to environmental objections**

2880. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several hydro power projects on Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers were closed due to environmental objections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to operationalise these power units?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 14th March, 2018*  
*Phalguna 23, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

<b>Ayurveda, Yoga &amp; Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)</b>	: 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731,
<b>Civil Aviation</b>	: 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753,
<b>Corporate Affairs</b>	: 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757,
<b>Finance</b>	: 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815,
<b>Health and Family Welfare</b>	: 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 2831, 2832, 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2837, 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2842, 2843, 2844, 2845, 2846, 2847, 2848, 2849, 2850, 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856,
<b>Minority Affairs</b>	: 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861,
<b>New and Renewable Energy</b>	: 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871,
<b>Power</b>	: 2872, 2873, 2874, 2875, 2876, 2877, 2878, 2879, 2880.