

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, March 23, 2018/Chaitra 2, 1940 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Coal; Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing Industries;
Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs; Railways)

Total number of questions — 160

NDDB grant to various organisations

3201. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants given by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during 2004-14 to various organisations other than cooperatives for various activities including studies subventions etc.;

(b) the names of these institutions and the amount of grant given to them;

(c) the names of the Chairman/MD/Secretary of these organisations during the period when the grants were given;

(d) whether any of the senior officers of NDDB were office bearers in these organisations during that period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Production of Kharif crops

3202. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's Kharif foodgrain production is estimated to decline by 2.78 per cent to 134.67 million tonnes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Kharif production during the last five years; and

(c) whether the pulses output may drop to 8.71 million tonnes from the record 9.42 million tonnes, if so, the steps taken by Government to curb any possible price rise in future?

Reduced budgetary outlay to Price Stabilization Fund

3203. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for more than 78 per

cent reduction in the outlay to Price Stabilization Fund, from ₹ 6900 crore in 2016-17 to ₹1500 crore in 2018-19;

(b) the reasons for fall in allocation for Market Intervention Scheme—Price Support Scheme (MIS-PSS) from ₹950 crore in 2017-18 to ₹200 crore in 2018-19;

(c) the details of price stabilization activities undertaken by Government to stabilize prices of farm output during last four years, crop-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of farm output, where its market price is less than the MSP during the last four years, crop-wise and State-wise?

Market regulation for seafood

3204. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry to extend MIP/MIS schemes for domestically produced fisheries/seafood items, as due to lack of domestic market regulation for seafood, fishermen are facing great difficulties and sometimes they are not able to recover their production cost; and

(b) whether the Ministry is going to approach/communicate with State Governments for market regulation of domestically produced seafood/fisheries items, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Agriculture courses in engineering colleges

3205. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed

Gujarat Technology Affiliated Engineering Colleges to start the agriculture courses without ICAR permission;

(b) whether there in any rule that private universities can start the agriculture courses in Gujarat and in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the said rule?

Fall in prices of farm produces

3206. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to increase the import duty on farm produces to the maximum allowed limit, to control the falling prices of farm produces due to the cheap imports;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and time-frame for its implementation; and

(c) the details of other steps taken by Government to check falling prices of farm produces?

Production of pulses

3207. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of pulses in the country has been affected due to drought during the last three consecutive years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of pulses;

(c) the names of States where the National Food Security Mission is being implemented; and

(d) the allocation made for increasing pulses production during the Financial Year 2018-19?

MSP for crops of next Kharif season

3208. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete proposal is there to raise the funds needed to guarantee MSP to farmers at 1.5 times of the cost of production from the next Kharif season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Meetings on Pesticide Management Bill, 2017

3209. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many farmers' groups and safe food activists, who were not invited to stakeholders meeting on the draft Pesticide Management Bill, 2017, have raised a number of concerns arising out of the said Bill;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to them, the Bill does not focus on reducing pesticide usage, does not talk about rigorous bio-safety testing and periodic review of health and environmental impact of pesticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Modification in guidelines of PMFBY

3210. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, to address various gaps in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Government has

modified its guidelines which would be released soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme is being implemented in 25 States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for crops diversification projects in Himachal Pradesh

3211. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has sought additional funds of ₹ 1,000 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for extending a crop diversification project in all 12 districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any meeting with the JICA has been held recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the meeting?

Assistance for crop waste management

†3212. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per order dated 8 November, 2016 of the National Green Tribunal, Central Zonal Bench, Bhopal, instructions have been issued to provide machineries for crop waste management to the small, marginal and other farmers either free of cost or through grant;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Ministry had also instructed Government of Chhattisgarh to submit proposal for providing financial assistance in addition to the grant due presently for promotion of appropriate agricultural machineries required for waste management;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government so far?

Decline in production of wheat and pulses

‡3213. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that area under wheat cultivation in current Rabi season for the year 2017-18 has reduced to ₹ 3.04 hectare with reduction of 4.27 per cent and the production of wheat will be less as compared to 9.84 crore tonnes in the previous year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent decline in production of wheat and pulses; and

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

Payment of claims under PMFBY

3214. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent by the Central Government in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from the very beginning; and

(b) the actual number of insured farmers

who have received the claims under PMFBY in the country?

Demand and production of wheat

3215. MS. DOLA SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and production of wheat in the country; and

(b) the reason behind import of wheat at high price for the country?

Protection of farmers' right

3216. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will bring a pro-farmer seed legislation to regulate monopolies, ensure price control and protect the right of farmers to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell their farm seeds and planting materials and fix liabilities for crop loss as well as black list the erring companies; and

(b) if so, by when such legislation would be brought and whether the same is being brought after detailed discussions with various farmers' organisations in the country?

Organic farming in the country

‡3217. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the country in the field of organic farming in the world; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government to encourage organic farming in the country during the last three years?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of RKVY in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

3218. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several projects were sanctioned under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects sanctioned and their latest position along with estimated cost of each of the project?

Doubling of farmers' income

3219. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no current estimates of farmers' income in the country and those available are more than four years old;

(b) whether the Ministry will consider to launch such survey in 2018-19;

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

(d) to what extent more investment in PMKSY will help in achieving target of doubling farmers' income by 2022; and

(e) how Ministry would achieve the objective when Central and States' Budget for agriculture is ₹ 1.05 lakh crore and ₹ 3 lakh crore are required annually to provide water to every farm?

Training for farmers on e-NAM

3220. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of commodities that are

permitted to be traded on e-NAM platform;

(b) in what manner the Ministry is showcasing the success of e-NAM initiative to farmers and traders so that more and more are linked to e-NAM;

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers are still not being educated about e-NAM scheme;

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Ministry to conduct workshops, etc., to educate farmers to join e-NAM; and

(e) the details of mandis from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana which have joined e-NAM, district-wise?

Setting up of Grameen Anaj Mandis

3221. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish 22000 Grameen Anaj Mandis for the farmers to sell their agricultural produces;

(b) whether these 22000 mandis include the already existing 7600 Grameen Haats; and

(c) in what manner Government proposes to fund the establishment of these 22000 Grameen Anaj Mandis throughout the country?

Allocation of funds to Chhattisgarh for tackling drought

†3222. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by Central Government to the State of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Chhattisgarh under the Drip Irrigation Scheme during the last two years;

(b) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has sent information to the Central Government regarding its districts affected by constant drought during the said period, if so, the names of such districts; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated by the Central Government to Chhattisgarh for its drought-affected districts during the last two years, district-wise?

MSP for various crops

3223. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government announces the MSP for various crops;

(b) if so, the MSP for paddy, jowar, cotton per quintal;

(c) whether FCI or other institutions put too many conditions on procurement which makes the farmer choose the easy way out *i.e.* resorting to distress sale; and

(d) the reasons why middlemen are fleecing farmers for all types of crops?

Online payment to farmers

3224. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced Unified Payment Interface facility through BHIM;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that currently

e-NAM portal provides for online payment to farmers through RTGS/NEFT, debit card and internet banking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Integration of more mandis with e-NAM

3225. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 479 regulated wholesale mandis have been integrated with e-NAM across 14 States and one Union Territory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government aims to integrate 585 mandis with e-NAM soon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

UID for cows

3226. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to assign four crore milk producing cows a unique identity number;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives behind the move;

(c) whether the Ministry has acquired the Unique Identity technology for this purpose, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the cost of each UID card;

(e) the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(f) the other steps taken by Government to improve milk production in the country?

Initiatives to check pre and post harvesting crop losses

3227. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to check pre and post harvesting crop losses so that farmers can make good returns from farming, which is becoming more un-remunerative years after years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also taken any initiative to follow and adopt age old practices in agriculture which has become more dependent on fertilizers and pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Identity cards for women farmers

3228. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide identity cards to women farmers so that they can be recognised as cultivators in their own right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Seizure of fishing vessels by Pakistan

3229. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has information regarding seizing of fishing vessels of Indian fishermen by Pakistan;

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

(c) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to such fishermen whose fishing vessels have been seized by Pakistan;

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

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents of seizure of fishing vessels by Pakistan?

MSP for crops

3230. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to include 23 agricultural crops in all for providing Minimum Support Price (MSP), if so, the names of crops proposed;

(b) whether Government has made any budgetary provision for providing MSP to these crops; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which Government proposes to provide MSP to these crops?

National conference on farm distress

3231. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has called a two day national conference to discuss farm distress and find a permanent solution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the deliberations made in the conference and the suggestions put forward by the participants to address the farm distress in the said conference?

Implementation of PMFBY

3232. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a professional team would be put in place to speed up the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to increase the coverage under the scheme to 50 per cent of the gross cropped area in 2018-19; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

App facility for mandi operators

3233. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced a facility for mandi operators to carry out one of the critical operations of Gate Entry directly from the app;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers can also see the real-time bidding progress and assaying certificate through app;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even buyers on e-NAM can do online payment from the app through debit card and net banking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on the interest of loan to farmers

†3234. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision has been made

by the Central Government for providing subsidy on the interest of loan to the farmers and whether sufficient grant-in-aid has been released;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of farmers have been benefited in Madhya Pradesh through the grant-in-aid released by the Central Government for the purpose of giving subsidy on the interest of loan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Empowerment of farmers and doubling their income

3235. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

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

(a) whether Government is committed to double the income of farmers and strive for their empowerment;

(b) whether there is great delay in payment of crop insurance amount to the farmers in spite of repeated supplications;

(c) whether Government is aware that since 2012-13 crop insurance amount has not been paid yet and farmers are facing innumerable difficulties;

(d) whether Government has received any representation in this regard from Government of Andhra Pradesh or from any public representative; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide justice to the farmers and for empowering them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Production cost of crops

3236. SHRI NEERAJ
SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH
VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the increase in cost of production of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, year-wise and crop-wise;

(c) the details of increase/decrease in market price/MSP of crops during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, separately, crop-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of difference between market price/MSP and cost of production during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, crop-wise and year-wise?

Rehabilitation programme for farmers

3237. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme/programme for the farmers who have lost their crops and are in difficult situation and want to change their profession;

(b) if so, whether Government has rehabilitated such farmers and given any suitable livelihoods to them according to their eligibility;

(c) if so, the number of such farmers who have been rehabilitated since the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Formula used to calculate MSP

3238. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while determining the MSP for Kharif crops which is 1.5 times higher than the cost of production, the production cost will be calculated as A2+FL (actual paid out cost plus imputed value of family labour) as against the formula C2 (comprehensive cost including imputed rent and interest on owned land and capital) which was recommended by Swaminathan Commission;

(b) if so, the details of difference in the "production cost" when calculated by A2+FL formula as against when calculated by C2 formula, crop-wise; and

(c) in what manner the "Cost of Production" is currently being calculated for other crops?

Implementation of NFSM in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

3239. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has significantly increased production of rice, pulses and coarse cereals in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of districts which are covered under NFSM in both States for production of rice, pulses and coarse cereals?

Decline in production of Kharif crop

3240. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the advance estimates of Kharif crop this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that foodgrains output during the current Kharif season is short by 3 per cent, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will hit the rural income due to reduction in output; and

(d) if so, the contingency plans Ministry has prepared to help the farmers?

Agreements for cooperation in agriculture with other countries

3241. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed agreements for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors with as many as 20 countries in the past three years;

(b) if so, the details of the activities exchanged with these countries;

(c) whether the agreements provide for constitution of a Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from both the countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of subsidiary company by NDDB

3242. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has

set up a wholly-owned subsidiary company named NDDB Dairy Service to undertake some of the tasks that NDDB was expected to do;

(b) whether it is also a fact that substantial resources of NDDB were transferred to this new company;

(c) the value of resources transferred to this company; and

(d) whether this company will be covered under RTI and CVC Acts and if not, the reasons therefor?

Mission for development of high yielding seeds

3243. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any mission for development of high yielding quality seeds;

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

(c) the budget allocations for this purpose, if any, during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make high yielding seeds available to farmers?

Charging of high prices by companies for Hepatitis C drugs

3244. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pharmaceutical companies have been charging high price for drugs used for treating Hepatitis C Virus;

(b) if so, the price set by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

and the actual price charged by various companies for selling tablets to treat Hepatitis C; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to regulate the companies charging high prices for the drug?

Plan to reduce reliance on import of bulk drugs

3245. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Pharmaceutical industry, which was a leading producer in bulk drugs, is becoming dependent on China for its bulk drug needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan of action for reducing reliance of Indian Pharma sector on imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the actual imports of bulk drugs during the last three years?

Reviol of Ramagundam fertilizer unit

3246. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned revival of Ramagundam fertilizer unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited by 2018;

(b) if so, the present status of the work along with the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for revival of the plant in a time-bound manner?

Shortage of urea

3247. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are in distress due to shortage of urea in the country, particularly in Haryana, thereby suffering heavy losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise in case of Haryana;

(c) the reasons which compel the farmers, every year, to face shortage of urea; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to redress the hardships faced by the poor farmers?

New investment policy for Fertilizer sector

3248. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating upon formulating a new investment policy for the Fertilizer sector;

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

(c) by when the new policy is likely to be implemented for the benefit of farmers of the country?

Inclusion of more life-saving drugs/ medicines in DPCO

3249. DR. V. MAITREYAN:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government has noticed that drugs used for the treatment of cancer, etc., are expensive and not affordable by poor;

(b) if so, the details and the steps taken by Government to ensure affordability and availability thereof;

(c) whether Government has included/proposes to include more cancer and diabetes drugs as well as medicines for heart and lung ailments in DPCO, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total volume and value of the cancer drugs produced and supplied from within the country during the last three years?

Awareness about crop nutrition among farmers

3250. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to promote value added fertilizers or speciality nutrients, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government provides subsidy on any of the value added fertilizers, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase awareness about crop nutrition among the farmers along with the details thereof?

Adoption of new technology for various coal sector activities

3251. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steps towards adoption of new technology for conversion of coal to fertilizer and methanol, exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Coal Mine Methane (CMM) and underground coal gasification have not moved beyond the planning stage; and

(b) if so, the details of all activities for adoption of new technology during the last three years, year-wise?

Shortfall in production of coal

3252. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yearly figures of actual coal production have been consistently falling short of production targets for more than six years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Problems of fire in coal mines of Jharkhand

3253. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that people have been facing problems for a long time due to fire in the coal mines in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made, so far, in last three years to quench fire in these coal mines?

Location of coal mines and coal repositories

†3254. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and places therein, where coal mines are located in the country and coal mining is being done therefrom, a complete list thereof;

(b) whether new coal repositories have been explored in the country, if so, the list thereof;

(c) by when the extraction from present coal repositories is likely to start;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether, in view of increase in air pollution caused by increasing use of coal, restriction will be imposed on the usage of coal in future; and

(e) if so, whether Government has found an alternative to coal, if so, the details thereof?

Quality of coal produced by CIL

3255. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether opening up of coal mining sector to private companies, will address the chronic coal shortage afflicting the thermal power units and the industrial sector at large;

(b) whether CIL's monopoly, known for inconsistent coal production, is also discredited for the poor quality of coal it produced, with stones and boulders beyond permissible limits; and

(c) whether apart from the Indian Captive Power Producers Association, the Aluminium Association of India also flashed their concerns to the Centre about the capacity of CIL to keep their power plants and aluminium smelters running, by ensuring regular assured supplies of good grades of coal?

Commercial mining of coal

3256. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approved commercial coal mining by Indian and foreign private companies for all end-uses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has estimated losses to the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) as a result of this move;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government intends to privatize CIL in light of these developments?

Expenditure on environmental measures

3257. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure incurred on Environmental Measures and Subsistence Control (EMSC) under the Central Sector schemes in coal mines during the last three years is nil; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Regulation of social media

3258. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans before the Ministry to regulate social media like WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype, etc., as they are sometimes crossing the limits;

(b) the reaction of the Ministry to the view of Over-the-Top (OTT) services that there is no privacy aspect involved in the social media apps; and

(c) the status of progress of the case in the Supreme Court?

Mandatory provision of GPS in feature phones

3259. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is likely to make GPS mandatory in feature phones by withdrawing an exemption it granted earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the association of mobile manufacturers has consented to the

introduction of this feature, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Women and Child Development has also sought the Telecom Ministry's help for introduction of panic button along with this system, which would help the women in distress, if so, the details thereof?

Non-functional network and landlines in Samastipur, Bihar

‡3260. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is engaged in improving the telecommunication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no improvement has taken place in BSNL, so far;

(d) whether network and landlines usually remain non-functional in Samastipur of Bihar; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be improved fully along with the details thereof?

Irregularities in plan system offered by telcos

3261. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that telecom service providers are adopting commercial techniques to lure the customers and resorting to different plan system under the same plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by the TRAI to curtail such irregularities?

Roll-out of 5G technology

3262. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has flaunted its technological prowess to roll-out 5G technology, by sending a delegation to the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona;

(b) whether in the Budget speech, the Finance Minister committed support to a 5G test-bed at the IIT, Chennai;

(c) whether going by the problems that beset the Indian telecom sector at present, the most optimistic timelines do not envisage 5G roll-outs in India until 2020; and

(d) whether the majority of Indian subscribers are still using the 20 year old 2G technology and handsets?

Cartelisation by telcos

3263. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telcos have resorted to cartelisation to take on the Reliance Jio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reliance Jio has complained to the TRAI in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to penalise telcos against cartelisation along with the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allotment of backhaul spectrum through auction

3264. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is mulling to allot backhaul spectrum through auction, instead of fixed fee, as suggested by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the working group on microwave access and microwave backbone at the DoT is largely in favour of allocating "E" and "V" band spectrum through auction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government on the recommendations of the said working group?

Solar-powered mobile towers

3265. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has installed solar-powered mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism-affected 10 States in the country, if so, details thereof including expenditure involved and its outcome;

(b) whether Government has proposed to install additional mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism-affected districts in Phase-II of the project;

(c) if so, the number of proposed mobile towers and source of funding;

(d) whether it is also proposed to change the technology in this regard despite the fact that the technology applied in Phase-I is a success; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

Assessment of manpower in the Ministry

3266. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole, together with all its Departments and public sector organisations under it, has conducted any manpower need assessment for its own functioning and administration, if so, when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether, before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organisations, option of re-skilling and re-deploying existing human resources, that may be under-utilised, is explored as a matter of practice?

Landline telephone connections of BSNL and MTNL

3267. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline telephone connections of BSNL and MTNL in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of landline telephone connections which were disconnected during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for the disconnections?

Call rates of Government sector telecom companies

‡3268. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to call rates of Government sector telecom companies, *i.e.*, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., being more than those of the private sector telecom companies, consumers are rapidly becoming subscribers of private sector telecom companies;

(b) the number of new consumers included in Government sector telecom companies during the last five years and the number of consumers who left their connections during the same period; and

(c) the reasons why consumers are avoiding services of Government sector telecom companies?

Bulk landline connections by individual(s)

3269. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline connections in the country, as-of-now, State-wise;

(b) whether Government gives bulk landline connections to any individual in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the norms fixed for this purpose;

(d) whether Government is aware of any illegal bulk landline connections that have been obtained by any individual(s);

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government against such individual(s)?

Alleged scam in procurement of high grade data transmission equipment for DWDM

3270. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam of ₹ 935 crore has been reported recently in procurement/ tender during 2017 by BSNL for high grade data transmission equipment for 'Dense Wave Division Multiplexing' (DWDM) of the defence forces' Network for Spectrum (NFS) project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not taking action against the culprits?

MSP for paddy in Odisha

3271. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rates of

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

certain incidentals for paddy procurement operations of Odisha for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2017-18 have been fixed abnormally low compared to last KMS; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Assessment of manpower in the Ministry

3272. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole, together with all its Departments and also public sector organisations under it, has conducted any manpower need assessment for its own functioning and administration, if so, when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether, before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organisations, the option of re-skilling and re-deploying existing human resources, that may be under-utilised, is explored as a matter of practice?

Reach of PDS in backward areas

3273. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been reviewing the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such districts identified in Bihar; and

(c) the other steps taken to ensure that

PDS reaches the deprived and backward areas?

Installation of CCTV cameras in ration shops

3274. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of installation of CCTV cameras in all the ration shops; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise including the reasons, if any, for slow progress thereof?

Protecting the interests of consumers

3275. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Ministry is protecting the interests of consumers of food items/articles;

(b) the number of individuals and families who have complained in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the complaints that have been attended to;

(d) the action that has been taken against offenders of law; and

(e) the number of affected consumers who have been compensated so far?

Disposal of consumers' grievances

3276. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

constitute a Central Consumer Protection Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of reference; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure that consumers' grievances are redressed in a time-bound manner at least possible cost?

Guidelines for linking Aadhaar with rationing system

‡3277. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to link rationing system to Aadhaar in order to prevent pilferage of ration items;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments are not doing even this work properly;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government is contemplating to issue any guidelines to such State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when and the details of such guidelines and if not, the reasons therefor?

Complaints against e-commerce companies

3278. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of consumers are not getting their refunds from the various e-commerce companies;

(b) if so, the details of number of

complaints received by various consumer helplines/portals, such as, National Consumer Helpline, *consumer-helpline.gov.in*, etc., regarding the same; and

(c) whether Government is considering taking any action against such e-commerce platforms for failure to implement return and refund policies in a timely manner?

Hiring of private godowns

3279. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FCI godowns along with their capacity and date of construction, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that, this year, Government is hiring private godowns, if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of foodgrains stored therein along with the revenue paid; and

(c) the details of total agriculture productions since 2014, division of storage of total agriculture production between FCI and private godowns along with the cost incurred, year-wise and State/UT-wise?

Supply of foodgrains to the needy

3280. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the rationale and structure of the PDS was carried out keeping in view the current scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether such a review would be conducted in the near future;

(c) whether specific interventions have

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been made to ensure that adequate supply of foodgrains reach to the needy and in the places facing food insecurity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Coverage of BPL families under TPDS

3281. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of BPL families identified/covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS); and

(b) the reasons for not covering the entire BPL families, identified under the TPDS?

Payment of arrears to the sugarcane growing farmers

†3282. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, year after year, sugar mills are not paying the dues of sugarcane growing farmers on time and consequently, the arrears are increasing;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry keeping in view the non-payment

of arrears to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills and the results of the same; and

(c) the details of the arrears year-wise and State-wise?

Allocation of funds to State Food Commissions

3283. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where State Food Commissions under the National Food Security Act, 2013 have become operative as per the orders of the Supreme Court, so far, along with the date of their operation thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and released to State Food Commissions during 2017-18; State-wise;

(c) whether State Food Commission of Uttar Pradesh has not been provided with staff and adequate funds, so far;

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

(e) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Dual price policy for domestic and commercial consumption of foodgrains

3284. SHRI SAMHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

consideration of Government to introduce double price policy for domestic and commercial consumption of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Procurement of paddy in Jharkhand

‡3285. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of various States, Jharkhand, in particular are compelled to sell their paddy at the rate lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the agencies, that purchase paddy at MSP, are being unable to achieve their targets;

(c) if so, the action being taken against the officers responsible therefor; and

(d) the prescribed period for procurement of paddy in Jharkhand and the achievement made therein so far?

Supply of rice to the poor under PDS

3286. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether States/UTs possess flexibility to fix retail price of commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS) considering local parameters;

(b) if so, the details thereof about Jharkhand along with the response and subsidy granted to Jharkhand and other States/UTs;

(c) whether PDS has impacted country's rice production and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for adequate supply of rice to the poor under PDS?

Creating awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste

3287. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to create awareness on environmental hazards of electronic waste;

(b) the details of number of organisations and educational institutes given funds for organising workshops and seminars to create awareness during last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the impact assessment of such workshops and seminars is done along with the details thereof?

MoU with NASSCOM

3288. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has signed a MoU with NASSCOM to reskill the existing IT professionals and other potential employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main features of this MoU and how the scheme will be implemented?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Adoption of blockchain as a technology tool

3289. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to adopt the blockchain as a technology tool for service delivery, maintenance of records, etc.;

(b) whether Government has a roadmap of how this technology can be adopted and streamlined for regular Governance, if so, the details thereof, the targets set and the time span required to achieve those targets; and

(c) the key areas of governance, according to the Ministry, where blockchain as a technology can be a game changer?

Independent legal policy advisory groups for implementation of Aadhaar Act

3290. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is receiving services from independent legal policy advisory groups for hassle-free Aadhaar Act implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is spending funds for obtaining services from any independent legal policy advisory groups in formulating and hassle-free implementation of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016;

(d) if so, the individual fee payment details of expenditure for receiving these

legal services from each legal advisory group since last five years, including from the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hacking of Government websites

3291. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a French national with pseudonym, Elliot Anderson, is penetrating/hacking into several Government websites;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware of all the websites broken into by this foreign national and how much of sensitive data has been affected by his actions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government carried out forensic audits of these websites to establish identity of this French national; and

(d) the action Government has taken to prevent foreigners from breaking into Government websites?

New electronics manufacturing policy

3292. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to have a new electronics manufacturing policy to push in manufacture of electronics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how does the proposed policy help in even exporting electronic goods from the country; and

(d) whether the Ministry is focussing on medical electronics, which is an important and highly demanding one in the world, if not, the reasons therefor?

Vulnerability of Aadhaar data security

3293. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the matter of Aadhaar data security, which has become vulnerable to cyber crime;

(b) whether Government has made any investigations on the security of Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make Aadhaar details cyber-proof and secured?

Concessions to WhatsApp Pay

3294. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Payments Corporation of India has allowed WhatsApp Pay to use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) without abiding to all the provisions of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 during the beta stage, which is binding to all members of UPI;

(b) if so, whether any such similar concession was given to other popular payment apps/interfaces during their beta stages; and

(c) the reasons for allowing such concessions to WhatsApp Pay in contravention of statutory requirements?

Recent cyber attacks

3295. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recent cyber attacks;

(b) whether this has revealed vulnerability of both businesses and critical national infrastructure; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for cyber defence and maintenance of IT infrastructure?

Aadhaar-based Digital Life Certificate for pensioners

3296. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced the facility of submission of Aadhaar-based Digital Life Certificate for pensioners; and

(b) if so, the details and salient features of this facility?

Live streaming of sexual acts

3297. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of Indian couples are engaging in live streaming of their sexual acts on porn websites for quick money;

(b) whether Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the number of such couples found involved in this illegal profession and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons who have

been arrested, as transmitting a sexually explicit act is a crime under Section 67A of the IT Act, 2000?

Difficulty faced by senior citizens and farmers in getting Aadhaar

3298. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several senior citizens and farmers find it difficult to get an Aadhaar due to faded lines on their hands;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to address the problems of such people;

(c) in what manner the benefit of Aadhaar is made available to homeless people and the number of such homeless people who have been issued Aadhaar so far; and

(d) the alternative offered by Government to people with no Aadhaar, to have access to Government benefits?

Error rate of Aadhaar biometric authentication

3299. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any studies on the error rate of Aadhaar biometric authentication;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that individuals are not denied Government and other services due to errors in biometric authentication outside their control?

Huge growth of e-payments post-demonetisation

‡3300. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR
PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA
VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that e-payments have registered a huge growth post-demonetisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of charges levied by public and private sector banks for transactions made through e-payments and the growth registered in their businesses post-demonetisation, public and private sector, bank-wise;

(d) whether the banks have right to fix floating rate of interest on e-payment, like home loan; and

(e) the factual position thereof?

State Resident Data Hubs

3301. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the State Resident Data Hubs which are active across the country or were active in January, 2018;

(b) the type of data stored or was stored by these State Resident Data Hubs and whether States were storing 360 degree profile of all residents, including caste and religion information;

(c) whether UIDAI shared Aadhaar data

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with States for State Resident Data Hubs, if so, the percentage of data shared listed, State-wise, so far; and

(d) whether any State Resident Data Hubs have been shut down, if so, the reasons therefor?

Cyber Surakshit Bharat

3302. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the same; and

(c) the extent to which the new initiative will be helpful in protecting the interests of Indians, especially in protecting the women and children who are vulnerable to be exposed to online cheaters/frauds?

Mechanism to determine ownership of data on internet

3303. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to determine the ownership of data on the internet;

(b) whether Government is planning to come up with a mechanism to institutionalize data protection; and

(c) whether Government has invited proposals from social media companies and civil societies for mechanisms for data protection?

Curbing of post-harvest losses at various levels of processing

3304. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post-harvest losses of various crops, meat and horticulture crops during undergoing different stages of processing but before human consumption for the last three years; and

(b) the measures adopted by the Ministry to curb these losses at various levels of processing along with the details thereof?

Financial assistance for fruits and vegetable processing units

3305. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government implements a number of schemes and extends financial assistance for fruits and vegetable processing units in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the fruits and vegetable processing units in Karnataka covered/benefited under these schemes during the last three years?

Assessment of manpower in the Ministry

3306. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole, togetherwith all its Departments and public sector organizations under it, has conducted any manpower need assessment for its own functioning and administration, if so, when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether, before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organisations, option of re-skilling and re-deploying existing human resources, that may be under utilised, is explored as a matter of practice?

Decriminalization of politics

3307. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in major electoral reforms to ensure decriminalization of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction; and

(c) whether the Law Commission has been entrusted to give concrete suggestions in this regard, if so, the details and the current status thereof including the response of Government thereto?

Pending court cases

3308. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in various courts, as-on-date, court-wise;

(b) the number of cases, out of them, pending due to stay orders for more than one year and two or more years, separately; and

(c) the average number of sittings for judgement of any case in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts, separately, along with the average number of days for next hearing in a case, court-wise?

Use of Hindi/regional languages in justice system

†3309. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made, so far, to make the mother tongue, language of lingo justice and official language Hindi, a language of law and justice in independent Republic country along with the details of time-bound action plan to achieve this target; and

(b) the latest status of usage of regional languages or official language Hindi in proceedings of law and justice decision making in High Courts and the Supreme Court of India?

Implementation of official language Hindi

†3310. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the measures taken to achieve the targets set according to 'annual programme' in every meeting after the constitution of Implementation Committee of the Ministry for implementation of Official Language Hindi by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and by when they would be achieved?

Setting up of AIJS and Judicial Administrative Agency

3311. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans for starting an All India Judicial Service for the Subordinate judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has any plans for establishing a Judicial Administrative Agency akin to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Vacant posts of Judges and pending cases

3312. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Judges in High Courts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the number of cases pending in Karnataka High Courts along with the details thereof?

Legal aid to poor and victimized women

3313. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether legal aid is being provided to poor and victimized women for fighting cases of dowry, domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, etc;

(b) if so, the details of agencies providing such legal aid, State-wise; and

(c) the procedure for getting such aid?

Simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies

†3314. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the Election Commission for conducting elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether amendment in the Constitution is required for conducting elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies simultaneously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Effectiveness of EVMs

3315. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial (VVPAT) make it a foolproof system;

(b) if so, how many democratic countries are currently using this system;

(c) whether it is a fact that many technologically advanced democratic countries are still using paper ballots only; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Use of VVPAT with EVMs

3316. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be connected with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial (VVPAT) before the next Parliamentary Elections as per the Supreme Court's directions;

(b) if so, the current preparedness for the VVPAT;

(c) whether Government would assure that VVPAT will be counted (100 per cent) and tallied with EVM outcomes; and

(d) the details of steps taken, or

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

proposed, to put to rest all apprehensions about tampering of EVMs?

**Renaming Bombay High Court as
Mumbai High Court**

3317. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is pending with Government for changing the name of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when was it referred to Government; and

(c) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in this respect and the time-line fixed, if any, for grant of approval for change of name of Bombay High Court?

Appointment of Notary Public

3318. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sufficiently long period is being taken for disposal of the applications for appointment as Notary Public in various States, including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the appointment of a Notary Public would benefit the common man and reduce the heavy backlog of pending cases in various courts?

**Filling up of vacancies in High Courts
and the Supreme Court**

3319. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and the Supreme Court have come to any understanding about filling up the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) the number of vacancies in them, at present;

(c) the number of them that will be filled up soon; and

(d) whether any understanding or decision has been arrived at to fill up the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as they arise, if so, the details thereof?

Phasing out of diesel locomotives

3320. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to phase out diesel locomotives in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether electricity requirement to replace these locomotives has been estimated; and

(d) the present demand of electricity for the railways and the future requirement of electricity if diesel locomotives are totally replaced?

Container cargo handled by Railways

3321. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of container cargo handled by Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the business handled by Railways is much lower than the cargo handled by the roadways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether charges through railway containers are much higher than the charges by the roadways; and

(e) if so, whether Government would review the charges to make it more competitive?

Funds for High Speed Rail corridors

3322. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to construct High Speed Rail corridors to connect all the cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the requirement of funds for this proposed project and how funds would be pooled for the same?

Modernization of railway rake points in Odisha

3323. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernization of railway rake points in Odisha is a long pending issue, affecting proper distribution of fertilizers in the State;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any proposal regarding the same from the State Government of Odisha; and

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

Allocation of funds in Budget for safety of railway passengers

3324. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated for improvement in safety of railway passengers in the Budgets for 2016-17 and 2017-18;

(b) the amount, out of that, which has been spent;

(c) the number of passengers and railway workers who have died in accidents during these years; and

(d) whether Railways have given any compensation to the victims/their families, if so, the details of amount given?

Complaints against railway contractors for violation of labour laws

3325. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation is going on regarding complaints of poor wages and violation of labour laws by railway contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether railway authorities are in receipt of complaints about many irregularities, especially in the payment of wages to contractual labourers; and

(d) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last three years?

Booking to Tatkal tickets

†3326. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

collective booking of Tatkal tickets in a single time slot tickets used to be exhausted in minutes;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any information in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is considering to take any action in this regard; and

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

Use of drone cameras to monitor tracks

3327. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to use drone cameras to monitor tracks in Maharashtra and rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this practice will be in addition to the present system of monitoring railway tracks; and

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

Implementation of Integrated Security System

3328. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have identified certain stations across the country for implementation of the Integrated Security System;

(b) if so, the details of such stations, State-wise; and

(c) the progress made in this regard, so far, for identified stations in Maharashtra?

Courses and streams proposed in Railway University

3329. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of courses and streams proposed to be included in Railway University;

(b) whether Government would set up affiliated colleges of Railway University in all parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revamp of Mumbai suburban railway stations

3330. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to revamp seven suburban railway stations in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the list of such stations and the budget allocated therefor; and

(c) whether Railways propose for commercial development of the stations like shopping complexes, multiplexes and helath centres on PPP model?

New trains from Samastipur to New Delhi and Mumbai

†3331. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to run new trains for New Delhi and Mumabi from Samastipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new trains announced

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for Bihar in the current Budget year along with the details thereof?

Rolling out of indigenous LHB coaches

3332. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways, for the first time, have rolled out 100 per cent "Make in India" LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches, with each and every component made in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the name(s) of the factories where such coaches were manufactured;

(c) the total number of coaches rolled out so far and the target fixed for manufacturing LHB coaches during the year 2018; and

(d) the cost of each coach and how cheap it is when compared to imported coaches?

Construction of railway bridges by military

†3333. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of places in the country where railway Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) have been constructed by defence personnel;

(b) whether Government would consider to get major railway bridges (which are more than 100 years-old) constructed by military, keeping in view the construction of bridges in less time and cost, if so, the places where the bridges would be constructed; and

(c) if not, whether Government would take a decision in this regard in the interest of the country, Railways and public?

Introduction of high powered locos and modern coaches in Southern Railway

3334. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to introduce high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks in Southern Railway Zone, particularly in the divisions of Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Salem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also taken any steps to increase loop side speed in the divisions of Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Salem in Southern Railway Zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Doubling of rail tracks in Tamil Nadu

3335. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doubling of rail tracks in Tamil Nadu has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the new projects taken up for Tamil Nadu?

Death of wild elephants in train accidents

3336. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the death toll

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of wild elephants due to train accidents has increased in the last three years;

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

(c) the remedial measures being adopted by Railways to curb the death of the elephants in train accidents?

Barwadih-Chirimiri railway project

†3337. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the present status of Barwadih-Chirimiri railway project in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any record of the amount sanctioned for Barwadih-Chirimiri railway project and the expenditure incurred under this project during the last three budgets;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and category-wise; and

(e) whether it is a fact that low budget outlay has adversely affected the implementation of the said project?

Modernization of 600 railway stations

3338. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to modernize 600 railway stations in the country in the current Budget;

(b) if so, the railway stations which have been shortlisted for modernization and the budgetary allocation for each station; and

(c) the criteria adopted by Government to shortlist the stations for modernization

and by when Government proposes to complete the project of modernization of railway stations?

Railway berths for travelling to and from Bihar and Jharkhand

3339. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a huge demand for railway berths from passengers, who wish to travel to and from Bihar and Jharkhand; and

(b) the steps being taken to add more trains to meet this demand?

New Rajdhani Express train from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi via Sambalpur

3340. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Railways would consider running a new Rajdhani Express train from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi via Sambalpur, giving stoppage at Dhenkanal and Angul?

Executing agency for Gunupur-Therubali railway line

3341. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have fixed any executing agency for Gunupur-Therubali railway line in Odisha which has been sanctioned in Budget 2017-18; and

(b) the target time period for commissioning of this line?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railways demand for increase in financial powers

3342. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sought an increase by four times in the financial powers to sanction projects without having to seek approval of Parliament;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reasons behind seeking an enhancement is that the cost of projects like construction for new lines, etc., has increased manifold in the last ten years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the enhancement, if permitted, would cut down the overall project implementation time drastically through faster decision making; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Provision of escalators at railway stations

3343. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to provide escalators in all those railway stations where the footfall is more than 25,000;

(b) whether Government has made a list of all such railway stations and whether any budgetary allocation for this project has been made, if so, the details of amount so allocated; and

(c) the time-frame fixed by Government to complete the project?

Shatabdi train to and fro Delhi and Jammu

3344. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government to start Shatabdi train from Delhi to Jammu and *vice-versa*; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of high speed tracks

3345. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to start new high speed corridors to run trains, particularly inter-city trains, at a speed of 200-250 kilometres per hour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways are exploring the possibility of slashing cost of construction of high speed tracks, such as building single pillar, two track corridors on top of National Highways, etc. and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the cost of construction per kilometre as against the traditional laying of tracks?

High horsepower diesel locomotives

3346. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is claiming that the entire rail route in the country would be electrified by the year 2022;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has signed an MoU worth 2.3 billion US Dollar with the General Electric, USA to manufacture 1000 high horsepower diesel locomotives;

(c) if so, the fate of such locomotives after 2022 when electric locomotives would be used for hauling goods as well as passenger locomotives throughout the country; and

(d) the justification behind signing this MoU as Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi has already been manufacturing high horsepower locomotives in collaboration with EMD?

Delay of trains due to fog and breakdown

3347. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of trains delayed due to fog or breakdown during the last one year;

(b) the financial loss incurred by Railways on account of delay of trains during the above period; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Railways to minimise the delay of trains and if so, the details thereof?

Linking of arrival and departure of trains with data loggers

3348. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to improve the punctuality of trains, country-wide;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have asked its Zonal offices to link arrival and departure of trains with data loggers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the stations where this link has to be provided by railway Zonal offices?

Impact of flexi fares on revenue of Railways

3349. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to revise its flexi fare system;

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

(c) the impact of flexi fares on Railways' revenue since its introduction in September, 2016; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to amend the flexi fare system in a way that it does not hurt peoples' pockets and also meet the Railways' revenue target?

Heritage Darjeeling toy train

3350. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that the heritage Darjeeling toy train has started operating again from the plains to the hills in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons why the full journey of the toy train was not taking place earlier;

(d) the reasons for its full route operation again;

(e) whether Railways plan to allocate some special grants for further development of the heritage toy train; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Development of world class railway stations

3351. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways' plan to construct

world class stations in all major cities has been scaled down due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, whether Railways are considering a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to upgrade railway stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stations identified for development as world class stations under the PPP mode?

Doubling of existing and laying of new railway lines

3352. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of doubling of existing and laying of new railway lines is being taken up by Railways every year;

(b) if so, the financial allocation for this purpose during the last three years, along with the actual expenditure details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for gap, if any?

Laying of new railway lines

3353. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new railway lines are being laid by Railways every year;

(b) if so, the yearly targets and those actually laid during the last five years;

(c) the break-up in this regard, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for gap, if any, in targets and fulfilment; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite it?

Withdrawal of Reservation Charts at railway stations

3354. SHRI DHARMAPURI
SRINIVAS:
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a part of clean railway, Railways are planning to do away with the practice of providing Reservation Charts at the railway stations;

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

(c) whether Railways are aware that the decision would create a chaos in the minds of the passengers and would lead to pandemonium, the details thereof?

Railway connectivity with ASEAN countries

3355. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for railway connectivity with ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been developed in this regard and whether any budgetary provision has been made for this proposed project; and

(d) whether any discussions have been held with the stakeholders, if so, the details thereof?

Switch over to LHB coaches

3356. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target timeline has been

set for a complete switch over to Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of LHB coaches required to do so;

(d) the number of coaches produced since 2014, year-wise; and

(e) whether the annual production of coaches has to be increased in light of the target for a switch over?

Identification of long-term absentees in Railways

3357. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government launched a drive to identify long-term absentees in various railway establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees, out of the total strength, who are on long leave without authorisation; and

(d) whether Railways would afford them an opportunity to hear their views following due process, before taking any disciplinary action, if so, the details thereof?

Enhanced safety measures for women passengers travelling alone

3358. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has enhanced safety measures meant for women passengers travelling alone in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature and type of security measures available at present for women passengers in Railways?

New works approved for Railways in Budget

3359. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the 1624 new works approved for Railways in this year's Budget, 1454 or around 90 per cent are below ₹ 10 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are sitting on projects worth around ₹ 4 lakh crore for new lines, doubling and gauge conversion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Station Development Plan for Secunderabad and Vijayawada railway stations

3360. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided for re-development of a number of stations under the first phase of Station Development Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in execution of the Station Development Plan in respect of Secunderabad and Vijayawada railway stations under South Central Railway; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for time-bound execution of all the phases of Station Development Plan?

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