

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Monday, March 26, 2018/Chaitra 5, 1940 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Defence; Drinking Water and Sanitation; Earth Sciences;  
Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and Broadcasting;  
Mines; Panchayati Raj; Road Transport and Highways; Rural Development;  
Science and Technology; Shipping; Textiles; Water Resources,  
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Decline in defence expenditure**

3361. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that defence expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been declining over the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to increase the defence expenditure; and

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

(c) whether it is a fact that army combat uniforms are easily available in the market, if so, steps Government is taking to monitor their sale;

(d) the measures Government is taking to ensure garrison security;

(e) whether Government has implemented the recommendations of the Lt. Gen. Philip Campose committee's Report, 2016, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Attacks on army camps**

3362. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of attacks on army camps that have occurred during the last three years and number of soldiers who have died in the attacks;

(b) the reasons for these attacks;

#### **Defence manufacturing under 'Make in India'**

3363. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from any State Government for promoting defence manufacturing under 'Make in India' programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Approval for manufacture of small arms**

3364. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any letters from Members of Parliament as regards delay in according approval to the MoU proposal with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for the manufacture of small arms Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) pistols;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether any probe with regards to the company verification by Government in the facility of the OEM on 2 August, 2017 had been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of the probe?

**Return of MoU by Government**

3365. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had given any specific explanation to Government in its reply dated 24 October, 2017 with regards to the returning of a MoU proposal by Government in its letter dated 25.07.2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government to that reply;

(c) whether the Department of Defence Production had discussed this issue further in its subsequent board meetings; and

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

**SoP followed in OFBs**

3366. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) followed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), was deficient before the Board Meeting held on 28 February 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, agenda discussed and deliberated in the meeting as regards the signing of MoU with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM);

(c) whether Government has suddenly found the SoP followed by OFB to be deficient; and

(d) if so, why was so much time wasted on this project and the Government's view thereon?

**Use of Army for civilian tasks**

3367. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has involved the Army and para-military forces in civilian tasks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is justified in using Army engineers to build railway bridges in Mumbai, if so, the reasons therefor?

**Exodus of scientists from DRDO**

3368. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which is engaged in developing state-of-the-art weaponry for the armed forces, has been facing an exodus of scientists over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of scientists who resigned from DRDO between 2014 and 2017; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop the exodus?

**Training for retirees from armed forces**

3369. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is organising pre and post-retirement training to enable re-employment and self-employment for armed forces personnel who retire at comparatively younger ages of 35-45 years and need a second career to support their families;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

**Corruption in defence deals**

†3370. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of corruption in defence deals in the absence of competition and transparency in the country;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to check corruption in defence deals?

**Equipments for Peace Keeping Missions**

3371. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall

of equipments for the Indian troops deployed as part of UN Peace Keeping Missions in Congo and South Sudan;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in the matter in order to get smooth reimbursement from UN for India's contribution to Peace Keeping Missions?

**Budgetary allocation of Ministry**

3372. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to increase the budgetary allocation of the Ministry in view of the prevailing external threat to the country, particularly from China and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being adopted by Government to keep the morale of the fighting forces high?

**Army personnel handicapped during training**

†3373. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army personnel are rendered handicapped much more during training period as compared to a war;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to reduce such incidents?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Assault guns for Army**

3374. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army is still using technologically inferior assault guns;

(b) if so, reasons for not making available sophisticated assault guns to Army jawans deployed in sensitive areas;

(c) whether Government has any immediate plans to make available assault guns to Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Projects pending in HAL**

3375. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence projects pending with Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) and length of pendency of each project along with the dates from which it is pending;

(b) whether HAL is unable to handle such projects due to technical problems and inadequate methodologies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the likely date of completion of each project?

**Mission Mode Programme for drinking water**

3376. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to collect standardised data on drinking water availability;

(b) whether Government plans to introduce a Mission Mode Programme (MMP) for drinking water like the MMP for sanitation introduced in 2014;

(c) the details of the programmes and schemes in place for promoting importance of safe drinking water as a public health concern and not just as a basic necessity and for spreading awareness about the kinds of diseases that arise out of non-availability of potable water; and

(d) the efforts of Ministry in helping Karnataka, which is reeling under severe drinking water crisis in many districts?

**Sanitation in dalit panchayat areas of Andhra Pradesh**

3377. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many panchayats in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, particularly in dalit areas have reported very poor sanitation facilities;

(b) the details of panchayats from East Godavari district in AP which have requested Government to allocate funds and improve drainage and sanitation;

(c) the details of each of the schemes available for funding of drainage and rural sanitation in such panchayats; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to help such panchayats improve their sanitation facilities for benefit of dalits and poorer sections in 2017-18 and 2018-19?

**Fluoride free habitations in Andhra Pradesh**

3378. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Integrated Management Information System 14 rural habitations have been identified as Fluoride affected in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh in 2012-13;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their status as of March, 2018;

(c) what efforts the Ministry has made to make them Fluoride free; and

(d) the details of technical and financial assistance provided to the State Government to deal with the above problem?

**Supply of clean drinking water in rural areas**

3379. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any project to supply clean drinking water in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of districts likely to be covered under the project; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented, State-wise details thereof, including State of Uttar Pradesh?

**Construction of SBM toilets**

3380. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

construct toilets in villages under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);

(b) whether women in the villages still have to relieve themselves in the open;

(c) the total fund requirement under SBM (Gramin) for the State of Maharashtra and the Centre's contribution/share; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and utilised under SBM (Gramin) during the past two years and the current year for the State, district-wise?

**Supply of clean drinking water to all citizens**

‡3381. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to supply clean drinking water to all the citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that maximum number of persons fall ill in the State of Bihar due to non-availability of clean and safe water for drinking; and

(d) the details of plans of Government for supply of clean drinking water to every household and by when every citizen would get clean drinking water to avoid illness?

**Fluoride affected habitations in Telangana**

3382. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Integrated Management Information System, 89 rural habitations have been

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

identified as Fluoride affected in Nizamabad and Nalgonda districts of Telangana in 2012-13;

(b) if so, the details of habitations and the status of the same as of March, 2018;

(c) the efforts of the Ministry to make them Fluoride free; and

(d) the details of technical and financial assistance provided to the State Government to deal with the above problem?

#### **Construction of personal toilets in villages**

‡3383. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coverage of personal household toilets has risen to almost 80 per cent at present and hundred per cent target coverage is set to be achieved before October 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding open defecation free villages where the authentication of the construction of toilets has been inspected and examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Drinking water proposals/projects in Karnataka**

3384. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government to provide assistance to the States, including

Karnataka for improving the facilities for drinking water;

(b) the details of proposals/projects received by Government from various States under these schemes since 2014, State-wise; and

(c) the details of number of proposals/projects cleared and the funds sanctioned/released during the above mentioned period, State-wise along with the status of implementation of these projects?

#### **Toilets for women under SBM**

3385. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is constructing separate toilets for women in the backward and remote areas of Maharashtra and other States under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);

(b) if so, the details of amount spent in each State along with number of toilets constructed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the role of State Governments in this regard?

#### **Assessment of winter rainfall**

3386. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of winter rainfall this year;

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

(c) whether winter rainfall has been deficient in any State;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding quantum of winter rainfall in Rajasthan against the long term average?

**Deficient winter rainfall**

3387. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India got just 33 per cent of normal rainfall during the last winter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India Meteorological Department (IMD) figures show that 95 per cent of the country had deficient winter rainfall with as much as 67 per cent of the country's area recording either large deficiency or no rain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Monitoring, mapping and sharing of seismic data**

3388. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing facilities for monitoring and mapping seismic activity and management of earthquake released data and sharing it with all the stakeholders in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to assign seismic hazard risk mapping work at micro level to the Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(c) if so, the details thereof including the zones likely to be covered and the reasons for assigning the task to GSI;

(d) whether any time-frame has been set

for this purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to identify earthquake prone areas by monitoring seismic activities?

**Inaccurate weather forecasts by IMD**

3389. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the complaints of farmers relating to inaccurate weather forecasts made by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study to ascertain the impact of inaccurate forecasts made by the IMD on crop yields, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is proposing to deliver long-range forecasts at the block-level instead of district-level to improve their relevance to farmers; and

(d) whether new technologies are being adopted by Government in getting accurate forecasts and these technologies are comparable with those available in other advanced countries?

**Action plan to stop stubble burning**

3390. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan to deal with the issue of stubble burning would be prepared soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all State

Governments would be asked to follow the action plan against stubble burning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of E-waste rules**

3391. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that e-waste rules 2016, seeks to cover manufacturing and sales details of the past ten years, in a retrospective application of law and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of representations received from mobile phone manufacturers regarding suspension of these rules;

(c) whether the Ministry feels that this will stifle growth in the mobile manufacturing sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Ministry is planning to amend the rules, if so, the details thereof?

#### **GEACs approval for GM mustard**

3392. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has given its approval for commercial cultivation of GM Mustard;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact the GEAC has put some conditions for its commercial cultivation;

(d) if so, the details of each of the conditions imposed by GEAC;

(e) whether many activists and scientists are opposing these conditions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and present view of the Government in the case?

#### **Illegal cultivation of GMHT soybean**

3393. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GMHT soybean was illegally cultivated in Gujarat and other States recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details on the investigation and prosecution regarding this illegal cultivation?

#### **Forests as food and nutrition habitats**

3394. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether forests are recognised as bio-diverse food and nutrition producing habitats;

(b) if so, details thereof and provisions for assessment of forests as food and nutrition sources, in view of the fact that they are diverted for non-forest purposes including mono-culture plantations; and

(c) whether there is a data base on the food habits of forest communities and the nature and extent of their dependence on forests?



**Import of GM soy seed**

3395. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether live GM soy seed has been allowed to be imported into India by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in view of the fact that official databases are showing such material coming into India through legal import routes; and

(b) if so, details of the safety assessment based on which this permission was accorded?

**Protection of Gangetic Dolphins**

3396. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga has been ranked as one of the most polluted and dirtiest rivers in the world with WWF listing Ganga as amongst the world's most endangered rivers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gangetic River Dolphin is placed on the red list of the International Union Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and that the species are on the verge of extinction; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to counter issues such as poaching, industrial and municipal waste dumping, siltation, mechanised boats to protect these aquatic animals and preserving their habitats?

**Policy on GMOs**

3397. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);

(b) whether Government plans to join 17 of the 20 most developed countries by not growing GMOs at all, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) number of field trials done till now in a closed environment for GMOs;

(d) whether Government plans to make the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) free of bureaucrats and induct non-Government experts to avoid conflict of interest; and

(e) reasons as to why GM mustard was approved by GEAC despite the fact that the matter is pending with Hon'ble Supreme Court?

**Pollution in major cities and rivers**

‡3398. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the five major cities which have recorded the highest level of water and air pollution in the country during last three years and the changes and additions noticed at present in those cities;

(b) the comparative details regarding the pollution in five major rivers along with the places where highest level of water pollution has been recorded during the said period; and

(c) the results of the measures taken to

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

control pollution at these places during the last three years?

#### **Impact of projects in forest area**

‡3399. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Wildlife Board has accorded approval to various projects which are in areas identified for forest conservation or passing near such areas which may cause death of wildlife;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that this would not only affect the wildlife but the entire eco-system as well for a long time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Pollution due to plastics**

‡3400. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution caused by plastics in the country has reached its highest levels;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to ban the use of plastic;

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to set up plastic recycling units at various places in the country to recycle plastics; and

(d) if not, whether there is a plan to end plastic pollution and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Funds for Berach river under NRCP**

3401. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to sanction an amount of ₹ 87.49 crores for Abatement of Pollution Project for Berach (Ayad) river, Udaipur under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Impact of mining on forests**

3402. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forests exposed to mining projects in the year 2016;

(b) whether Government is aware of the report by Forest Survey of India (FSI) in August 2016, which stated that mining should be barred in 40 per cent of India's forests;

(c) whether Government has adopted a new comprehensive policy to identify and protect 'inviolable forests' post the Supreme Court judgement, cancelling licenses of 204 coal blocks in September 2014; and

(d) whether Government uses the same parameters as FSI for approving projects, if not, reasons as to why Government parameters for 'inviolable forests' have changed since 2014?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Clearance for mining projects**

3403. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government takes wildlife parameters into consideration while approving mining projects;

(b) whether reports by Greenpeace and Forest Survey of India (FSI) have pointed out the adverse impact of mining activity on fresh water sources and bio-diversity; and

(c) whether breaking up of large forest blocks into smaller patches (fragmentation) have been referred to as one of the most serious threats to long-term Indian bio-diversity conservation?

**Loss of forests due to industries and encroachments**

3404. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 14,000 sq.km of forest land has been lost to industrial projects and 15,000 sq.km to encroachments during the last three decades;

(b) if so, measures taken by Government to reclaim the land;

(c) whether compensatory afforestation compensates the loss of complex flora and fauna by creating monoculture plantations;

(d) whether there exists a verification procedure to monitor compensatory afforestation, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the 14,000 sq.km. of lost forest has been planted afresh, if not,

reasons therefor and percentage of funds set aside for afforestation?

**Amendments in slum rehabilitation scheme in CRZ-II areas**

3405. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra in 2011 regarding amendments in the Guidelines on Slum Rehabilitation Scheme in CRZ-II area requesting removal of the condition of 51 per cent to be retained by State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for withholding the proposal which is a major reason for private entrepreneurs avoiding development of slums in CRZ areas, in view of the general policy of Government to encourage private players in infrastructure and housing sector; and

(d) time-line set by Government to amend the guidelines accommodating the request of Maharashtra Government?

**Policy for curtailing stubble burning**

3406. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has advised the Government to frame a policy to stop crop stubble burning by farmers around Delhi to curtail air pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has allocated any funds for implementation of this plan

and the activities planned under the policy;  
and

(d) whether States have been advised to frame policies to curtail this stubble burning by farmers to contain air pollution?

#### **Withdrawal of USA from Paris Agreement**

3407. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of United States of America (USA) to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change had an impact on developing nations like India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry for enlisting support of other developing nations to make the US abide by the Paris Agreement; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

#### **Levy of fees by SPCBs for ECs**

3408. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry on representations regarding levy of fees by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for processing applications for Environment Clearance (EC) so as to facilitate provision of infrastructure and manpower requirement of these Boards and to fast track pending clearances;

(b) whether the SPCBs would be empowered to levy such fees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when they would be empowered, and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Measures to curb stubble burning**

3409. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the burning of paddy straw/stubble of crops in various States, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is a major cause of air pollution in Delhi and in urban areas in these States;

(b) what other pro-active measures and financial incentives are the Central and State Governments taking to discourage this practice apart from prohibition of the burning of paddy straw or stubble; and

(c) whether this straw or stubble would be utilised for economically valuable activities like building material or mushroom cultivation etc. and whether Government has any policy on this?

#### **CPCSEA registration of Universities**

3410. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of universities which are running courses in Life Science and Zoology, are not registered with the Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA);

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that all the establishments having facilities for animal dissection are registered with CPCSEA?

**Effluents discharged in Sutlej River**

3411. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN  
SINGH DUNGARPUR:  
SHRI RAMKUMAR  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the untreated  
sewage and industrial effluents are being  
discharged in Sutlej River and its  
tributaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this  
polluted water is being released in the  
canals of Rajasthan at Harike;

(c) whether Government intends to take  
action as per law, against the industries and  
Municipal Authorities in Punjab which are  
directly responsible for polluting the canal  
water being supplied to Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Pollution control in rivers**

3412. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government  
plays a prominent role in ensuring  
implementation of directions related to  
pollution control in polluted areas of the  
rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken on the  
representations received from public

representatives regarding pollution in the  
rivers; and

(d) the amount of funds spent for  
checking/controlling pollution in rivers  
during the last two years?

**Levels of Benzene in the air of Delhi**

3413. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Central Pollution  
Control Board (CPCB), level of Benzene  
in the air in Delhi has spiked consistently  
at an alarming level which is a cause of  
cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would make  
it mandatory to construct cycle tracks on  
the roads while granting environmental  
clearances;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Conservation of Asiatic lions**

3414. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be  
pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths of Asiatic lions  
in the country, particularly in and around  
Gir sanctuary, during the last two years and  
in the current year, year-wise;

(b) the number of unnatural deaths and  
the reasons behind it;

(c) the measures being taken to prevent  
unnatural deaths of wild animals;

(d) the details of action taken for smooth translocation of lions from Gir forest to Kuno-Palpur forest in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the details of efforts being made to conserve the endangered animal in the country?

**Deaths and injuries due to Jallikkattu**

3415. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons and bulls which died and number of persons injured in Tamil Nadu as on date, after the passage of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, which facilitated holding of Jallikkattu in the State;

(b) whether the guidelines and regulations framed by the Supreme Court and Government agencies were followed by the organisers; and

(c) if not, whether action was taken against the violators who committed cruelty and mental and physical torture on bulls and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Plantation on degraded forest land**

3416. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state whether the Ministry has issued a circular regarding provision of plantation of 1000 plants per hectare, on degraded forest land which is not feasible on the proposed compensatory afforestation land identified in Odisha?

**Action plan for mapping air pollutants**

3417. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to prepare a plan for mapping the sources of air pollution in Delhi and other important towns and cities across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an action plan is proposed and implemented with urgency and stringency and in a time-bound manner, can help make sustained improvement in air quality; and

(d) whether many towns and cities across the country need to reduce particulate pollution by at least 74 per cent to meet clear air standards?

**Closure of NGT Southern Bench**

3418. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Chennai has been closed due to vacancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the number of vacancies at the NGT bench in Chennai; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to fill the vacancies?

**Awareness campaigns for employees and associates**

3419. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole has attempted to create requisite awareness amongst its employees, associates, its Departments and public sector organizations as regards important programmes of the Government like Swachh Bharat, Digital India and Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao etc., if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any replicable best practices of implementing these programmes or creating greater awareness about them have been identified in this course, if so, the details thereof?

**Irrigation projects pending**

3420. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the irrigation projects in Maharashtra that are pending for forest clearance and/or environment clearance with the Ministry;

(b) the details of the time period for which each of these projects has been pending;

(c) the project-wise details of reasons for pendency; and

(d) the project-wise details of steps the Ministry is taking to resolve the concerns so that clearance may be granted or project may be relocated?

**Air quality in metro cities**

3421. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by Government for better air quality, especially in major metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Deaths due to extreme weather conditions**

3422. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths in the country due to extreme weather conditions in the last three years;

(b) whether any steps are being taken by Government to prevent such deaths;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Forest cover in India**

3423. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started any programme to increase forest cover in India;

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

(c) if so, details regarding budget allocation made for this purpose in the recent budget; and

(d) details regarding achievements of such programmes during the last three years?

#### **Poaching of leopards**

3424. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there have been large number of leopard deaths during last two months, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of deaths were due to poachers; and

(c) if so, action taken and proposed to be taken to avoid such killings?

#### **Centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry**

3425. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including flagship programmes, being implemented at present; and

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

#### **Forest cover and dense forest in India**

3426. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forest cover available as a percentage of total area;

(b) the area under dense forests;

(c) the extent of forest used for developmental activities, including industrialization during last three years;

(d) the extent of afforestation during the same period; and

(e) number of forest dwellers and animals displaced during last three years?

#### **Conservation of Kolleru lake in A.P.**

3427. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kolleru is the first lake in Andhra Pradesh to be identified as a wetland under National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) in 1987;

(b) whether NWCP is mandated to conserve and manage Kolleru;

(c) if so, what steps Ministry has taken under NWCP to conserve, preserve, manage and implement programmes and schemes for Kolleru;

(d) whether Ministry is aware that Kolleru has shrunk over the years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the reasons why Government has reduced its share of finance to 50 per cent from April, 2015, from earlier 70:30 ratio; and

(g) the present status of Kolleru lake?

#### **Decline of mangroves in Sundarbans**

3428. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the



Sunderbans is one of the biggest mangrove forests in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth of mangrove forests in Sunderbans is lagging behind as compared to the growth of mangrove forests in other parts of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons behind this slow growth of mangrove forests in the Sunderbans; and

(d) efforts being made to accelerate the growth of mangrove forests in Sunderbans?

#### **Telecast of fake news**

3429. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the social media is overwhelmed with fake and disruptive news, which is deeply affecting the socio-economic structure of society;

(b) whether there had been unwarranted communal tension due to these illogical and absurd news, which spreads like wild fire in the society;

(c) the measure Government would take to ensure that such news are immediately removed from the social networking and the culprits are booked immediately; and

(d) whether Government would consider bringing in legislation to take care of such anti-social activities?

#### **Monitoring of social media accounts**

3430. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the social media accounts related to Government, its schemes and policies that have been created till date, post August 2014;

(b) the details regarding the hiring of people to monitor these social media accounts, their background qualification, past experiences along with the salaries given, account/employee-wise thereof; and

(c) the details of number of Apps that have been developed for the schemes and policies of Government, third parties involved, funds incurred, reasons for developing these Apps?

#### **Autonomy of Prasar Bharati**

3431. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati, an autonomous body under the Ministry is still enjoying its autonomous status;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has directed the Prasar Bharati to appoint a serving IAS officer as Member (Personnel) on the Board of Prasar Bharati;

(c) the number of instances where the Ministry tried to impose its authority on the Prasar Bharati and was rejected by Prasar Bharati; and

(d) whether Government will make all efforts to maintain the autonomous nature of Prasar Bharati?

#### **Termination of contractual employees in Prasar Bharati**

3432. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had issued any directive to Prasar Bharati to terminate the services of the contractual employees without providing any alternative in order to avoid any dislocation of work;

(b) the number of contractual

employees on the roll of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati, as on the 31st of January, 2018; and

(c) the employees who would be carrying out the work of the contractual employees in the event of their termination of their contract?

#### **Establishment of AIR & DD**

3433. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when was the All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) set up and what was the aim behind setting up of these organisations;

(b) has the objective changed now and whether it has become more commercialised; and

(c) whether impartial cultural, literary programmes etc. are being telecast as was done earlier?

#### **Expansion of DD news broadcasts**

3434. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans for expansion of DD news broadcast to 100 countries;

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

(c) the countries identified wherein the DD news broadcasts are proposed to be made available?

#### **Ease of doing business in broadcasting sector**

3435. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had floated a consultation paper on ease of doing business in broadcasting sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response received from the stakeholders thereto;

(c) whether Government is exploring the possibility of auctioning satellite television channels as was done in the case of FM stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move; and

(e) whether Government has consulted TRAI in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Advertisement policy in cinema halls**

3436. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Ministry of Law and Justice has given its clearance to the easing of advertisement policy in cinema halls; and

(b) if so, the Ministry's stand on this matter?

#### **Board Members in Prasar Bharati**

3437. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring any change in the existing Prasar Bharati Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint Government nominees as Members of the Prasar Bharati Board;

(d) whether there is any proposal to give financial autonomy to Prasar Bharati; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Coverage of International Film Festival of India**

3438. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecast rights for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa in 2017 was given to a private entity;

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

(c) the quantum of funds to be paid to the said private entity as fee and the source of the funds; and

(d) the reasons for which Doordarshan was not given rights for coverage of the IFFI in 2017, as was done in previous years?

**Publicity Officers from DD/AIR**

3439. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officials from Doordarshan and All India Radio are posted as Publicity Officers for various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio have expressed their concern about the workability of this decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

**Refusal to release salaries by I&B Ministry**

3440. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has refused to release funds for the salaries of its employees during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has refused to hire two senior journalists who were recommended by the Ministry at an exorbitant package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Funds for DAVP and NFDC**

3441. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the details of total fund allocated/ spent for documentary and corporate films by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) and National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, till date;

(b) the details of total amount spent on making of documentary and corporate films by private organizations through DAVP and NFDC during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, till date; and

(c) the details of amount spent on making of above films by Doordarshan during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, till date?

**Withholding of funds for Prasar  
Bharati/Doordarshan**

3442. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government has withheld  
the funds of Prasar Bharati and  
Doordarshan (DD) for denial by Prasar  
Bharati/Doordarshan to pay fees to a  
Mumbai based private company for  
coverage of Goa International Film  
Festival, 2017 and Prasar Bharati has been  
compelled to pay salaries to employees  
from contingency fund;

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

(c) if not, the details of fund allocated to  
Prasar Bharati during 2017-18, head-wise;  
and

(d) the details of fund released to Prasar  
Bharati during 2017-18 till date, head-wise,  
month-wise and date-wise?

**Ban on movies at film festivals**

3443. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will  
the Minister of INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of movies banned from  
public screening and from being screened  
at film festivals by the Ministry and State  
Governments, during last three years and  
the reasons therefor, year-wise;

(b) whether as per Supreme Court  
ruling in S. Rangarajan vs. P. Jagjivan Ram,  
Government cannot cite inability to handle  
a hostile audience to ban a movie;

(c) whether independent jury decides

which movie is to be screened independent  
of Ministry's directive for movies screened  
at film festivals; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry banned  
the screening of the film 'S. Durga' at 48th  
IFFI?

**Funds allocated for DAVP**

3444. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will  
the Minister of INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry  
is expected to allocate about ₹ 220 crore  
to Directorate of Advertising and Visual  
Publicity (DAVP) in its 2018-19 budget,  
up from ₹ 180 crore in 2017-18;

(b) if so, whether the hike in  
advertisement budget is expected due to  
elections; and

(c) the amount spent by DAVP during  
the last three years on advertising and  
publicity across print, television, radio and  
digital media, year-wise break-up?

**Auction of mineral blocks**

3445. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the  
Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has  
indemnified more mineral blocks to be  
auctioned by mid-March, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government  
is also contemplating setting up special  
purpose vehicles that would acquire  
necessary project clearance, including  
environmental clearance for the mineral  
blocks before bidding; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this  
would add pace to the auction process?

**Rules for exploration in Mines**

3446. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to ease the rules for exploration and mining of minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that changes in policies would benefit Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and enhance domestic economic activity; and

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

**Bidding rules for auction of Mines**

3447. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent changes made in the bidding rules are expected to lead to wider participation and smoothening of the auction process;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has held discussion with the stakeholders in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Escalation of price due to shortage of iron ore supply**

3448. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel and mining companies operating in the mineral rich State of Karnataka continue to bear the brunt of the iron ore mining ban, which ended in 2013 but the State is still not getting adequate supply of iron ore supply;

(b) whether many B-Category mines in the State are yet to be approved and shortage of iron ore supply has resulted in escalation of iron ore prices;

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive the steel and mining industries in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Women sarpanch in panchayats**

3449. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women sarpanch in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the female sarpanchs over the years, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether female sarpanchs have performed better than their male counterparts and whether their trend has shown any progress in the status of women in village areas?

**Funds released for PRIs**

3450. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to various States for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the details of funds out of that for which utilisation certificates have not been received, along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise?

**Construction work of NH-37**

3451. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the extremely poor conditions of National Highway-37, in general, and Numaligarh and Dibrugarh stretch in Assam, in particular;

(b) whether the work of four lanning of NH-37 is running behind the schedule;

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

(d) whether Government is seriously monitoring the project and if so, by when the work of HN-37 is likely to be completed?

**Deaths in road accidents**

3452. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of million plus-cities in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per Government data 50 cities out of the million plus cities recorded higher road accidents in 2016, as compared to previous years;

(c) the reasons that severity has gone up to 20 deaths per 100 accidents, as compared to 15 deaths in 2015; and

(d) the innovative methods, Ministry is going to adopt to reduce these accidents by using technology?

**Growth of logistic sector**

3453. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of logistics policy, which is crippling the growth of logistics sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is planning to have a logistic policy to increase the movement freight transportation and reduce logistic costs;

(c) whether the Ministry has studied logistics sector in other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Allocation of funds for construction of new NHs**

3454. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of National Highways (NHs) under construction in the country;

(b) whether new highway has been approved in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds sanctioned for construction of NHs per Kilometer; and

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

**Potholes on highways in the country**

3455. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any data regarding the number of potholes in highways across the country;

(b) if so, the number of accidents during the last three years due to potholes;

(c) if not, whether Government has any plan to conduct such a survey; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry to eliminate potholes and build safer roads and highways?

**Road safety norms for private-taxi operating companies**

3456. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to join hands with private-taxi operating companies to create awareness about road safety among road users;

(b) whether Government would impress upon these companies to ask their drivers to follow road safety norms strictly and set example for other road users; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

**Changes in scheme of CRF**

3457. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would suffer in case changes are made in the Central Road Fund (CRF);

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is entitled to get the largest share of the CRF which is estimated at 41 per cent; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that this proposal was initiated, when the proposal to incorporate NHAI did not materialise?

**Maintenance of road by private toll operators**

3458. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to auction completed projects for a fixed number of years to private players under Toll, Operate and Transfer Model and hopes to get ₹ 1 lakh crore out of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the operators would pay Government upfront and recover the amount by collecting toll; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the private players would have to maintain the roads and charge toll as decided by Government?

**CRF funds for Chhattisgarh**

‡3459. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received a list of cost for eight works under the CRF Scheme 2017-18 and estimates of cost for seven works relating to national highways from Chhattisgarh; and

(b) whether the Central Government would urgently grant approval for the estimated cost of said works?

**CRF for development of inland waterways in Rajasthan**

3460. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding utilisation of

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years;

(b) whether Government proposes to use CRF for development of inland waterways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any such funds have been earmarked for development of National Waterways in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **NHs in Kerala**

3461. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways development projects approved by the Kerala Government during the year 2018-19 and the total amount allocated for this purpose in the year 2018-19; and

(b) the present status of Cherthala to Kazhakoottam National Highway development work?

#### **NHARSS for road accidents**

3462. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS) with a view to save life of a accident victims through prompt and appropriate medical care during 'Golden Hour' by cashless treatment for road accident victims on pilot basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government found it feasible and also felt that it can be extended all over the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Road accidents in Delhi-NCR**

3463. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of road accidents leading to deaths, is on increase in Delhi-NCR in particular and country as a whole;

(b) the total number of road accidents reported during the last three years State-wise and Region-wise;

(c) the number of deaths reported in such road accidents;

(d) the preventive measures taken by Government to curb such road accidents; and

(e) the total amount spent by Government in close co-ordination with State Governments to prevent such road accidents and to educate people for road safety?

#### **Steps for reduction of road accidents**

3464. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 1.5 lakh deaths every year and another five lakh are left injured in road accidents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that enforcement of law by States and police is very crucial to reduce the road accidents; and

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



**Survey on old bridges under IBMS**

3465. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted India's first ever survey of the 'Health of Bridges' under its Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS);

(b) if so, findings thereof;

(c) the details of the bridges which have completed 100 years, State-wise; and

(d) whether any plan has been drawn to replace/restore the health of these bridges?

**Construction work of national highways in Maharashtra**

3466. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new national highways passing through Maharashtra constructed during the last three years and the progress of maintenance and repairs of the highways in the State during the said period, year-wise;

(b) whether the works of four lanings and six lanings were also undertaken and bridges and tunnels constructed during the last three years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to ensure proper maintenance and repairs of highways in Maharashtra?

**Modern bus terminals in Gujarat**

†3467. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is considering to contribute a certain amount in the total cost of modern bus terminals to be established by the States;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been provided so far to Government of Gujarat under this head; and

(c) if so, the amount provided under the head and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Women staff on toll plaza**

3468. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has decided to deploy all-women toll collecting staff in day shifts on atleast one toll plaza, close to city area in every State and UT by March 8, the International Women's Day, in a gesture towards enforcing gender equality;

(b) whether NHAI proposes to replicate this initiative and if found successful, it would be adopted across all toll plazas under operation by NHAI within the next three months; and

(c) whether NHAI will also consider providing emergency medicare along expressways/highways by trained medicare and paramedics through ambulances on patrol?

**Construction of road in Mizoram**

3469. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had received a concept paper from the Mizoram Government for construction of road from Sihmui to Ramrikawn (stage-II) on May 9, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in accepting the request?

#### **Ranking of toll plazas**

3470. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to start ranking of the toll plazas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and standards which are going to be checked by Government before giving the ranking to any toll plaza;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an increase in the case of man-handling by the toll staff with the commuters and *vice-versa*; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard, State-wise?

#### **NHAI bonds for highway projects**

3471. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to issue bonds to finance highway projects;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to generate funds from various portfolios by adopting proactive infrastructural policies?

#### **Targets and achievements in NH projects**

3472. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is way behind the overall target of construction of 15,000 km. of National Highways for the year 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is going to finish the construction of 15,000 km. of NHs;

(d) whether the Ministry has been able to identify the reasons for the failure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken to address the situation?

#### **Delays in NHAI projects**

3473. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a huge number of delayed projects with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

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

(c) the reasons for such delays; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure the completion of the delayed projects?

#### **NHAI as a professional body**

3474. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to enhance the

institutional capacity of NHAI and to turn it into a multi-disciplinary professional body;

(b) whether there is any mechanism in place to address inter-ministerial issues including the removal of bottlenecks in the on-going projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Mumbai-Vadodara expressway project**

3475. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government envisages to invest more than ₹ 10 lakh crore in the highway sector in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mumbai-Vadodara expressway project alone would cost ₹ 44,000 crore;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are other several big projects involving huge investments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Delay in payment of wage under MGNREGA**

3476. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of wages given under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been delayed causing financial problems to the people;

(b) whether funds to States are not released timely, if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the ratio of funds spent on paying wages and acquiring raw materials for

construction, and work carried out during last three years;

(d) the performances of employment guarantee under MGNREGA in different States, and reasons for some States performing better than others; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase efficiency and output of work carried out under MGNREGA?

#### **Construction of roads under PMGSY**

3477. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the number of those yet to be connected by roads, State/UT-wise;

(b) the total length of roads constructed under various phases of the scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period and 2017-18, State/UT-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated, sanctioned, released and the expenditure incurred under various phases of PMGSY during the said period, State/UT-wise and year-wise; and

(d) whether the work on certain projects under the scheme is being delayed, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise?

#### **Roads to connect rural habitations**

3478. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to construct roads to connect rural habitations in the country;

(b) if so, the total length of roads built and the number of rural habitations connected; and

(c) the names of States that have benefited most and the least, with a particular reference to Bihar and Jharkhand?

**Construction of roads under PMGSY in Madhya Pradesh**

‡3479. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the length of the roads constructed in Madhya Pradesh during last three years till date since the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the system adopted for their proper maintenance and the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these roads, so far, district-wise?

**West Bengal as role model in the implementation of MGNREGA**

3480. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of mandays provided during the last three years by the States under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government's policy to use 100 mandays work scheme for garbage disposal by the Panchayats, has emerged as a role model and the Ministry has sent instructions to States and UTs to implement the same, if so, whether Government has given any official instructions; and

(c) the number of States which have

adopted the West Bengal Model, if so, the details thereof?

**Development of SAGY villages**

3481. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages is progressing at a snail's pace due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to allocate separate funds for development of SAGY villages, through use of gap funds?

**Wages under MGNREGA in Andhra Pradesh**

3482. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme in various States, particularly in drought hit Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government would consider increasing the wages under the scheme during the summer months?

**PMAY in Gujarat**

‡3483. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to construct homes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in rural areas;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to construct homes in villages in the State of Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the number and names of villages where Government would construct home and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Construction of roads under PMGSY in Uttarakhand**

†3484. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing inter-connectivity for the villages of Ghandiyal, Pali, Butli, Dangi, Garhkot, Thanul Jhakhnoli Alasu, Kunkuli Qwata, Kismola, Amtola etc. in Kaljikhil Block, Pauri, Garhwal, Uttarakhand, with the main road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether an estimate has been sent to the administration for the financial approval *vide* 0.14 number-01/PRD/XII-2/2016/102(01)2016, dated 4th February, 2016 after the survey for the construction of Ghandiyal-Pali-Dangri motor road but till date no approval has been accorded for the said road, reasons therefor and by when the approval would be accorded; and

(c) by when the metalling of the Bahedakhal-Kulkuli motor road will be complete and the details thereof?

**Bio-incubators in the country**

3485. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-incubators

operational at present in the country along with State-wise details;

(b) whether the Ministry has any plan to set up bio-incubators in Odisha; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Irregularities in CIMFR**

†3486. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints from any Member of Parliament and MLAs regarding irregularities and frauds against Director, Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad in 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any action against the culprits after conducting an inquiry into alleged irregularities and frauds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Progress of SATYAM scheme**

3487. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated under Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the progress and achievements made since the inception of the programme;

(c) whether Government has identified

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

research institutes and universities for the said programme and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has invited research proposals from Scientists and academicians under SATYAM for the year 2017-18; and

(e) if so, the number of such proposals received along with basic theme of SATYAM?

#### **Plans for water transport**

3488. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plans for initiating an exclusive water transport, with the different State Governments to facilitate and utilise route on river Ganges, including the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the plans for initiating this water transportation route on river Ganges from Haldia to Varanasi; and

(c) by when would it start functioning?

#### **Road infrastructure in Tuticorin Port**

3489. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to augment the existing road infrastructure in and around Tuticorin Port so that goods can be smoothly evacuated from Tuticorin Port to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Technically viable National Waterways**

3490. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI RITABRATA  
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to take up a new set of technically viable National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, National Waterway-wise; and

(c) whether the technical study of viability of these National Waterways have been done?

#### **Promotion of handloom and textile products of Assam**

3491. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing enough support for promotion of handloom and textile products of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance and other logistic support provided by the Union Government to the Assam Government during the last three years;

(c) the details of how Government's "Make in India" initiative has worked in the promotion of handloom sector in Assam; and

(d) whether the initiative has provided employment opportunity in the State and if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

**Impact of GST and demonetisation in textile industry**

3492. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a study on the impact of GST and demonetisation in the textile industry, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) State/UT-wise details of small and medium sector units that have shut down post GST implementation; and

(c) State/UT-wise details of action taken by Government to arrest job losses in the textile sector?

**Export of textiles and allied products**

3493. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles and allied products has fallen, if so, year-wise details during the last three years with reasons therefor;

(b) details of exports of readymade garments during said period along with the reasons therefor for the fall or rise in exports;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has fixed a target for export of textile and garment sector at \$45 billion for FY 2017-18, if so, the year-wise details of targets fixed by Government, targets achieved and reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government is planning to launch any scheme to enhance exports, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

**Special category industry status in textile sector**

3494. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government grants special category industry status to certain sectors under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the industry/sector which have been granted such status; and

(c) the achievements made thereon?

**Handloom weavers in Odisha**

3495. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in Odisha and the number which have so far been brought into the co-operative fold;

(b) number of the weavers' co-operative societies which are moribund and schemes if any to reactivate these societies; and

(c) whether Government is aware about the influx of Mill manufactured printed sarees, which are copying the handloom design, and supplying them in the Odisha market, severely affecting the handloom sector, if so, what specific steps the Central Government has taken/proposes to take to save handloom industry and protect the livelihood of thousands of handloom weavers?

**Employment in textile parks**

3496. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether violation of norms and under achievement of targeted employment has been reported from various textiles parks of India;

(b) if so, the State-wise list of such parks and details of violation of norms; and

(c) if so, the details of targeted and achieved employment of such parks?

**Promotion of Indian Handloom Mark**

3497. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of allocation of funds are on the anvil for State Governments to promote the Indian Handloom Mark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Apparel imports from China and Bangladesh**

3498. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing apparel imports particularly from China-Bangladesh bilateral trade is slowly and silently killing the entire domestic textile value chain, from fiber to apparel;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether the industry has sought immediate Government intervention, to impose sourcing restrictions in order to avoid further damage to the textile industry;

(d) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the growth of textile industry?

**Jobs in textile/clothing industry**

3499. SHRI P. BHATACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a perception that India's economic growth has been a jobless growth;

(b) if so, whether textile and clothing industry is an industry where good jobs can be created with relatively limited investment and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether textiles and clothing industry is being given less importance by Government and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is a need to modernise the machines and to add state-of-the-art facilities to help the industry and if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard and to create more jobs in the textiles industry?

**Introduction of GST on Handloom products**

3500. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of GST has adversely affected the handloom sector, if so, whether any comparative assessment of the marketing turnover of handloom products has been made post introduction of GST, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government will consider making the handloom products exempted from GST?



**Awareness about implementation of  
Government programmes**

3501. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has attempted to create requisite awareness amongst its own employees, its associates all over India, including all its Departments and its public sector organisations as regards important programmes of Government such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Digital India and Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao etc., if so, when was it done and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any replicable practices of implementing these programmes or creating greater awareness about them, have been identified and if so, the details thereof?

**Expenditure incurred in Polavaram  
Project**

3502. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to only reimburse the expenditure incurred by State Government on Polavaram Project, instead of making prior allocations in the budget, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, whether Government is only reimbursing the expenditure;

(c) the total expenditure on Polavaram Project till date; and

(d) whether Government is reimbursing the expenditure incurred by State on Pattiseema and Purushothapatnam Lift Irrigation Schemes?

**Wastage of water due to irrigation**

3503. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to adopt environmentally sustainable techniques to decrease wastage of water because of irrigation uses during the last three years; and

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

**Flash floods in Assam and Arunachal  
Pradesh**

3504. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that people living in Brahmaputra valley have to regularly suffer from devastating flash floods in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is of the opinion that traditional measures taken to contain flash floods have not delivered the desired results; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider setting up of an umbrella organisation associating all stakeholders to evolve a comprehensive, long term water resources management strategy plan for flood control?

**Implementation of irrigation projects under AIBP**

‡3505. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of irrigation projects being implemented, presently, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) in the country and their present status;
- (b) the irrigation capacity to be attained on account of the said projects;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and utilised under the said programme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) the criteria/guidelines of Government for funding of these projects; and
- (e) the effective measures being taken by Government for early completion of these projects?

**Indo-Bhutan River Commission**

3506. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indo-Bhutan River Commission exists as on date;
- (b) if not, the reasons for non-existence of the said Commission till date; and
- (c) the details of how Central Government plans to protect Northern part of West Bengal from the devastating floods caused by rivers originating from Bhutan?

**Installation of Automatic Gauge Recorders**

3507. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan is a major stakeholder in Ravi and Beas river water;
- (b) whether Bhakhra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has installed Automatic Gauge Recorders on the agreed sites and whether these recorders have been made operational;
- (c) whether Government intends to give directions to BBMB that Automatic Gauge Recorders already installed on the agreed sites may be made operational at the earliest;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Supply of water to Rajasthan from BBMB**

3508. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punjab and Haryana provide short and fluctuating supplies of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej water to Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government intends to give directions to Bhakhra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to ensure supply of water to Rajasthan as per its share decided in the Technical Committee Meeting of the BBMB;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Projects under PMKSY-AIBP in  
 Telangana**

3509. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that eleven projects have been identified in Telangana under PMKSY-AIBP, which are to be completed during the next two years;  
 (b) if so, the details of each of the eleven projects, so identified; and  
 (c) the details of irrigation potential, flow of funds, share of State and the Central Government and the present status of each of the above eleven projects?

**Dark zone category status for ground  
 water**

3510. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many States in the country fall under the dark zone category as far as ground water is concerned;  
 (b) whether it is a fact that the annual ground water consumption in those States is more than the annual ground water recharge; and  
 (c) if so, the details thereof?

**River linking projects**

3511. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified and decided to begin works on three river linking projects by resolving all differences among States this year;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof;  
 (c) whether many other interlinking of river projects will also be taken up in a phased manner; and  
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Tribunal for resolving Mahanadi  
 dispute**

3512. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed Government to constitute a Tribunal within thirty days to resolve Mahanadi water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha;  
 (b) if so, what steps Government has taken to implement the order of Supreme Court and by when the Tribunal will be constituted and come into existence and the details regarding its terms of reference; and  
 (c) whether Government will direct the Chhattisgarh Government to stop further construction of barrages over Mahanadi till the proposed Tribunal gives its verdict and if so, details thereof?

**Depletion of ground water levels**

3513. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 30 per cent of the assessed blocks in the country has been witnessing fast depletion of ground water levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to fast track its ₹ 6,000 crore ambitious plan aimed at efficient management of available water resources and strengthening of recharge mechanism through community participation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Cleaning of Ganga river**

3514. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) progress achieved in river development during the last three years;

(b) the number of rivers, or parts thereof, which have been cleaned or revamped during this period;

(c) the number of rivers which have been fully rejuvenated; and

(d) to what extent cleaning and rejuvenation of Ganga have taken place?

**Draft Policy on Sediment Management**

3515. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps

to implement the Draft Policy on Sediment Management;

(b) whether Government has plans to invite comments on the aforementioned Draft Policy; and

(c) by when Government plans to have a final Policy on Sediment Management?

**Committee for river interlinking**

†3516. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether river interlinking programme has been implemented on top priority basis and a special Committee has been constituted to execute the programme successfully at the earliest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a special Committee is expediting the river interlinking programme as per the target fixed keeping in view the opinions of all the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link project**

3517. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Feasibility Report (FR) for Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link project was completed way back in 1995 itself, but thereafter work has not been initiated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has initiated any measure to bring consensus to proceed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with the project in the light of resolution passed in Kerala assembly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Irrigation projects in H.P.**

3518. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced an action plan to strengthen irrigation systems, in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is preparing any action plan for proper utilisation of irrigation on hilly States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of irrigation projects in progress in the State of Himachal Pradesh, project-wise;

(e) the funds allocated/released/utilised so far, project-wise; and

(f) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

**Water resources for agriculture**

3519. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:  
DR. V. MAITREYAN:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for sustainable use of water resources for agricultural purpose particularly in the lower riparian States like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the depletion of ground water had affected measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has assessed the availability of water resources for agriculture in each State and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the ground water levels and the details of the funds allocated, State-wise?

**Loss of ground water**

3520. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the loss of 33 cubic km of under ground water in the North-Western Region of the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that there has been a loss of an alarming 109 cubic km of under ground water in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan region, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to ensure that this loss has been provisioned for, year-wise?

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(Ministry-wise)

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