

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, February 5, 2018/Magha 16, 1939 (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

Make in India in Defence sector

161. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the areas in Defence in which Make in India has been newly introduced;

(b) the number of products developed by DRDO and other Indian institutions which are being or are proposed to be mass produced during the last three years;

(c) how many contracts the present Government has signed to import defence equipments and machinery;

(d) whether the existing defence production factories are closed now or are on their way to closure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Budgetary allocation and spending on defence modernisation

162. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation of the Ministry during the current financial year together with the actual spending so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sought additional funds for defence modernisation during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details of modernisation programmes; and

(d) whether the demand for additional funds have been met by the Ministry of Finance?

Project of building nuclear powered submarines

163. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has launched an ambitious project to build six Nuclear-Powered attack submarines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the other weapons that have been procured/proposed to be procured to strengthen the country's Naval Power?

New weapons procurement policy

164. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is willing to implement the new weapons procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the policies framed by Government to have latest technologies for development of weapons in the country; and

(d) if so, the achievement made so far?

Achievements in Defence sector

165. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements made by Government during the last three years in Defence sector; and

(b) the details of the action plan formulated for the next two years in this regard?

Abolition of community based regiments

†166. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been community-based regiments in the country since pre- independence days, if so, the details thereof along with their establishment and names;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many such regiments have been abolished after independence, if so, the details thereof along with the names thereof; and

(c) whether Government intends to revive these abolished regiments and if not, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

Development of long range submarine based missile system

167. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to strongly develop long range submarine based missile system;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to counter the emerging maritime threats in Indian Ocean region and maintain strong deterrence against any such threats?

Disclosure of Rafale deal agreement in public

†168. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government does not want to disclose in public domain the agreement made with France about the Rafale deal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the salient features of the Rafale deal and whether private sector, which does not have any experience in this field has also been included in this deal?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shortage of ammunition for armed forces

169. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of additions made to various types of ammunitions of the armed forces and the storages in ammunition since 2014;

(b) whether these additions to ammunition, meet the officially sanctioned requirement of the war wastage reserve (WWR) of 40 days of intense war;

(c) if not, the measures taken by Government to meet the minimum sanctioned requirement of ammunitions; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to ease the capacity constrains of ordnance factory boards and augment their production capacity, since 2014?

Signing of agreements with other countries

170. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which India has signed various agreements during the last three years;

(b) the details of any military or defence agreements signed with the nations during the last three years; and

(c) the details of any private company in India, producing military or defence tools or equipment?

Replacement of HAL by Reliance Defence in Rafale deal

171. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's premier defence manufacturing company Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) was very much involved in the discussions, underway with the French company along with the Defence Ministry on the Rafale deal, but HAL was jettisoned at the last minute, replacing the public sector company by Reliance Defence; and

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

Chinese road in Arunachal Pradesh

172. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report that China has made 1.3 km. of road inside Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken to stop China from building the road; and

(c) if so, how road construction was possible inspite of deployment of Indian Army on the Indo-China border?

Increase of Chinese transgression into Indian side of LAC

173. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there was marked increase in the number of Chinese transgressions into the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 2017;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian and Chinese Armies were involved in a 73 day face off at Doklam on Sikkim-Bhutan border;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were 415 transgressions by Chinese soldiers into

the Indian side of the LAC in 2017, as against 271 in 2016; and

(d) if so, how it was possible in spite of heavy deployment of Indian Army and close surveillance in the areas?

Designated cantonment areas in cities and towns

174. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cities or towns in the country having, designated cantonment areas;

(b) the number of cases of illegal encroachment or land grabbing by individuals and organizations registered against those responsible for these cases so far; and

(c) what is the overall State of litigations filed against alleged culprits so far and the total number of cases filed by the Ministry and lost during the last three years and the details thereof, State-wise?

Setting up of National Open Air Range Evaluation Centre

175. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has promised to establish National Open Air Range Evaluation Centre at Vorvakallu Village, Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the centre as on date and reasons for the delay; and

(d) whether Government is taking any step to expedite the construction work of the unit within its scheduled period for completion and the details thereof?

Penalisation of Dassault for non-fulfilment of contractual obligations

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

(a) whether Dassault was penalized for refusing to fulfil its contractual obligations under the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft Request for Proposal;

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

(c) the cost per aircraft under the Inter-Governmental Agreement for 36 Rafale aircrafts;

(d) whether offsets contract would apply to additional orders;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the cost difference caused by including a private entity under the Offsets clause instead of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been estimated; and

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

Amount earmarked for Defence

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

(a) the total amount earmarked for Defence for the year 2017-18;

(b) the amount which has been spent on modernisation of Defence forces; and

(c) the details of the break-up of amount spent on Army, Air Force and Navy?

Manufacture of ammunition by private sectors

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has allowed private sector to manufacture some of the selected ammunition for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what other measures are being explored or has been taken to develop indigenous capacity to reduce import dependence; and

(d) the total defence production which has taken place under the Make in India programme?

IT roadmap of the Defence sector

179. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the overall Information Technology roadmap of the country's Defence is more than 10 years behind;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to wear out outdated technologies and to make the Information Technology in Defence at par with other developed countries?

Intrusion by Chinese Army

180. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese army intruded into our territory during last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by our forces guarding the border;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Chinese authorities; and

(d) if so, what was their response?

Development and production of APCs

181. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has offered India the development and production of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) in a trilateral venture with Israel under the Defence Technology and Trade initiative;

(b) whether the discussion to finalize the deal has been completed; and

(c) if so, what would be the estimated cost of the project and how many vehicles would be produced under the project and by when a final delivery would be made?

Construction of houses for soldiers

182. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for construction of houses for soldiers is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent thereon;

(c) whether such houses are also likely to be built under any such scheme at Vidarbha in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the number of houses to be

built under this scheme and the total amount to be spent thereon;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot such houses to ex-servicemen also; and

(f) if so, the number of houses likely to be allotted to ex-servicemen, out of those at Vidarbha or elsewhere in Maharashtra?

Establishment of Sainik Schools

183. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for establishment of Sainik Schools in the country;

(b) the number of Sainik Schools established, State-wise;

(c) whether request for establishment of such schools have been received from State Governments and other authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's response to each such request, with particular reference to Maharashtra Government to establish a Sainik School at Vidarbha Region?

Assault rifles for soldiers

184. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide assault rifles to the soldiers guarding the borders and those fighting terrorists on top most priority basis; and

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

Budgetary concerns of the Indian Navy

185. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief of Naval Staff of the country has recently flagged budgetary concerns of the Indian Navy to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

Prevention of suicides by soldiers

†186. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 100 soldiers are committing suicide every year as per the study conducted by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research; (DIPR);

(b) whether one of the reasons for committing suicide by soldiers is posting in difficult areas or not getting leave;

(c) whether the DIPR has given any suggestion to prevent the soldiers from committing suicide;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to prevent the soldiers from the tendency of committing suicide?

Recruitment of foreigners in the Army

†187. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

some foreigners were recruited in the Army through recruitment held in January, 2016 at 39 Gorkha Training Center, Varanasi by producing wrong name and address;

(b) whether Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has identified three persons out of these;

(c) whether involvement of any agent has come to notice during the investigation;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the involvement of the agents in Army recruitment in future; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check the recruitment of the unwanted elements in the Army?

Engagement of private players in design and development for HAL

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

(a) whether Government has any plan to engage private players in design and development of products and technologies relating to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL);

(b) if so, the details of the products and technologies opened up;

(c) whether the private players have expressed interest to come forward to join hands with HAL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Comparative military spending of China and India

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

(a) whether the budgetary spending on military preparedness of China is three

times more than that of India;

(b) if so, the strategy to protect the borders adjoining China;

(c) whether the Indian Defence Forces should be immediately equipped with information and cyber warfare, Artificial Intelligence, autonomous systems, robotics, etc. and also the basic infrastructure like air strips and roads on the borders in a big way; and

(d) the details thereof?

Purchase of anti-tank guided missiles from Israel

190. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to buy 8,000 anti-tank guided missiles from Israel's state owned defence contractor;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the DRDO is manufacturing similar type of missiles as a part of the Make in India initiative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Defence purchase from Israel

191. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's defence purchase from Israel has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount of purchase made from Israel; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

India as number one Defence importer

192. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is the world's number one Defence importer;
- (b) if so, the import details of countries, country-wise;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to change the status and have the Defence hardware manufactured in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Fluoride affected rural habitations in Visakhapatnam

193. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: 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 47 rural habitations have been identified as fluoride affected in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh in 2012-13;
- (b) if so, the details of those habitations;
- (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?

Arsenic contamination in ground water in Bihar

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted

a study of the fact that people of Buxar and its nearby districts in Bihar are suffering from cancer and other deadly diseases due to excess of Arsenic in ground water; and

- (b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to make ground water free of Arsenic and to make it potable?

Parameters for providing minimum drinking water

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

- (a) parameter of providing minimum drinking water per person per day in rural areas of country, the details thereof;
- (b) percentage of settlements out of total rural settlements and the number of persons in those settlements to whom minimum drinking water has been provided and the number of persons who are not covered under the stipulated parameter, the details thereof;
- (c) number of settlements where pure drinking water is unavailable due to affected quality of ground water or other water resources; and
- (d) by when the target of providing pure drinking water to all will be achieved, details thereof?

Scarcity of drinking water

†196. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that people are facing scarcity of drinking water despite implementation of drinking water schemes in some areas of country and whether

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

people are forced to bring water from farway places and drink contaminated water, if so, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether any corrective measures are being proposed to be taken by Government to meet shortage of drinking water in those areas and whether Government has fixed any fund for this work; and

(c) if so, details of steps taken and the said fund alongwith funds provided State-wise?

Clean drinking water supply in rural areas

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

(a) whether Government has resolved to increase the drinking water supply service levels in rural areas from 40 LPCD (liters per capita per day) to 55 LPCD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will be able to achieve this target, given the fact that almost all the water resources are contaminated; and

(d) if so, the course of action conceived by Government in this regard?

Water purification plants

198. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 crore people in the country are consuming water contaminated with excess fluoride;

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

(c) the details of the people consuming water with excess contamination of Arsenic in the country, as on date, State-wise along with the details of the source of data;

(d) the details of fund allocated, released and spent on community water purification plants during current fiscal, State-wise; and

(e) the details of community water purification plants set up during current fiscal, State-wise and district-wise in case of Uttar Pradesh?

Arsenic and Fluoride contamination in drinking water

†199. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for Arsenic and Fluoride affected settlements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken in this regard so far;

(d) whether Government has estimated the number of persons being affected by Arsenic and Fluoride every year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with special reference to Odisha?

Budget for installation of water purification system

200. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to relax the capital cost norms of installation of standalone drinking water

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

purification systems for States having drought history in recent years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide extra budget to achieve the targets under the scheme of installation of such systems in rural areas; and

(c) the other steps undertaken by Government to increase the availability of drinking water in rural areas?

Innovative technologies for minimum use of water

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

(a) whether any achievement has been made to promote new innovative technologies and if so, whether a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar has been constituted for periodically reviewing newer technologies for minimum use of water in public toilets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Open defecation in metro cities

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

(a) whether the number of people defecating in open remains the same in metro cities, near slums area even after the declaration of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan programme, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the study undertaken by Government in this regard, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the target fixed by Government to minimise open defecation in metro cities near slum areas?

Chemical contamination of rivers, lakes and fresh water bodies

203. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to the State:

(a) whether there are any report regarding the status of chemical contamination of the rivers, lakes and other fresh water bodies in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the major parameters of contamination of such water bodies thereof?

Mission to eliminate open defecation

204. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the mission to eliminate open defecation in the country;

(b) the details, with special reference to Gujarat and Jharkhand, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Central Government for creating healthy competition among the State Governments with regard to sanitation?

Heavy metal contamination in drinking water

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

(a) whether Government is aware that contamination of drinking water with heavy metals like Lead, Mercury, Chromium, Cadmium, Copper and Aluminium is harmful and causes degenerative diseases like mental disorders, pain in muscle and joints, gastro-intestinal disorders etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that industrial workers and population living near the polluting industries are more susceptible to these diseases in the absence of supply of clean water to them; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

Potable water to villages and inaccessible areas

206. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) the number of villages and inaccessible areas of the country, where sufficient potable water is not available;

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to provide potable water in these villages and inaccessible areas;

(c) whether adequate financial provisions have been made for resolving the problem of potable water in the country during current financial year; and

(d) the details of the amount of financial assistance earmarked for Maharashtra?

Availability of safe drinking water in mining areas

207. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to make the availability of treated safe drinking water in the mining areas of Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Forecasting of earthquakes and cyclones

208. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of advancements made by Indian National Centre on Ocean Information Services in forecasting, earthquakes, cyclones, etc;

(b) whether International Academy of Astronautics has recognized the efforts in the above areas; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to become the world leader in forecasting natural disasters?

Desalination plants in coastal areas

209. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to set up desalination plants in the coastal areas for producing drinking water from sea water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented;

(c) the per litre cost of drinking water so produced from these plants; and

(d) the steps taken to popularise the technology to convert sea water into potable water?

Concerns and problems of field-level staff

210. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has

undertaken any study to understand the concerns and problems of field-level staff, including forest guards and forest rangers in the forest department;

(b) the details of the actual average forest area under the jurisdiction of forest guards and rangers, State-wise;

(c) whether the average forest area under jurisdiction of forest guards and rangers is more than the prescribed upper limit, if any; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the working conditions of such field-level staff?

Employment through environment projects

†211. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering employment through environment projects;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any step in this direction; and

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

Curbing monkey menace

†212. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make an action plan to curb the monkey menace;

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

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

Comprehensive plan to conserve Western Ghats

213. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any concrete and comprehensive plan to conserve the Western Ghats, which is a vibrant ecosystem south of the Vindhyas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial support from World Bank or FFIs on environment projects

214. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any financial support from World Bank or FFIs for State Governments to maintain a pollution free environment and to develop sewerage and solid waste management projects;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to States including Tamil Nadu during the last three years and current year, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) whether the project 'Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project' was signed with World Bank for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association Credit for several million dollars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any such project has been finalised for Tamil Nadu?

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

215. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) has been established during the year 2015-16;

(b) if so, the details thereof including help rendered under NAFCC in scaling up climate change adaptation intervention *viz.*, financial support sought, sanctioned, period of support, implementation and executing agency, during the last two years, State-wise/project-wise and year-wise;

(c) if so, whether any national/international non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private organizations are associated with the project preparation and implementation of the above programme; and

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

Dangerous crossings in wildlife reserves

216. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national wildlife reserves in the country are under threat of dangerous crossings which cause fatality;

(b) if so, the fatalities reported during the last three years in different reserves due

to unsafe railway and highway passing thereat;

(c) the study report of the Wildlife Institute of India and scientists for the safeguard of wildlife therein, if any; and

(d) the action taken by Government to ensure protection of wildlife therein?

Industrial units without environmental clearance in Rajasthan

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

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of industrial units in Rajasthan have been functioning without obtaining environmental clearance;

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

(c) what action Government proposes to take against the owners of the industrial units?

Working of waste to energy processing plants

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

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal has ruled against the feeding of untreated wet waste or recyclables to incinerators;

(b) whether foreign firms that have few takers abroad for their 'burn technology' are tempting Indians with offers of mass-burning of mixed waste, which turn out to be duds;

(c) whether Pune Municipality had

spent ₹ 20 crore in installing 25 low-capacity (two five tonnes) waste-to-energy processing plants;

(d) whether five of these are defunct and the rest run below capacity; and

(e) what action Government is taking to find solutions to dispose waste at various waste mounds in metropolitan cities in the country?

Dangerous level of air pollution in Delhi/NCR

†219. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution in Delhi/NCR has become extremely dangerous;

(b) whether efforts made so far to make Delhi/NCR air pollution free from the current dangerous levels, have not been adequate and effective;

(c) whether darkness loomed over Delhi and NCR for several days due to air pollution therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Black carbon emission by aeroplanes

220. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aeroplanes may be emitting significant amounts of black carbon, upsetting the monsoon, quickening glacier melt and depleting ozone layer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time that it has been shown that

black carbon from aircraft can go to the stratosphere and affect the ozone layer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Census for counting elephants

221. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a census to count the strength of elephants is in progress;

(b) whether it is a fact that many farmers have lost their agricultural growth due to elephant rampage;

(c) how Government proposes to compensate the farmers who have lost their agricultural products due to elephants rampage; and

(d) whether Government would consider involving citizens in the census of animals to raise the awareness about the importance of conservation and other ecologically sensitive issues so that the human-animal conflicts are minimized?

Human-animal conflict

222. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of human-animal conflicts including loss of human lives and damage to crops by wild animals reported in various parts of the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any mechanism exists to reduce man-animal conflicts and if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the natural habitat so that man and animal can live in harmony?

**Upgradation of Sri Venkateshwara
Zoological Park**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has taken a decision to upgrade the Sri Venkateshwara (SV) Zoological Park situated in Tirupathi of Andhra Pradesh to a large category park;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives and concessions being given to the SV Zoo Park under CZA authority?

**Area under compensatory afforestation
plantations**

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

(a) the area under compensatory afforestation plantations, State-wise;

(b) whether compensatory afforestation under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) is taking place on forest land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the area of forest land used, State-wise?

Ailments due to pollution

225. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians are worst affected by pollution in the world as per a recent study conducted by Lancet Medical Journal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had conducted any survey about the number of people who died/suffered from major ailments due to air and water pollution during the last two years, State-wise and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government has taken to ensure major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru to become pollution free and the results thereof?

**Opening up of forest and diversion of
projects**

226. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has opened up about 92,000 hectare of forest lands and diverted for a number of major projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the forest areas opened up, the projects involved and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has assessed the impact of this move on the environment of the surroundings of those forests and their subsequent damage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Non-blossoming of cherry trees in Shillong

227. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently held International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong on 8 November, 2017, did not come upto expectations with most of the cherry trees in and around Polo grounds failing to blossom;

(b) whether apart from 2,000 cherry trees in the wild area, the State forest department had planted about 5,000 cherry trees in and around Shillong most of which failed to blossom during the Festival; and

(c) whether the Centre would initiate more studies on the flowering cycles and patterns of exotic trees like cherry blossom?

Compensation to farmers for damage by stray animals

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

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

(a) the mechanism to compensate the farmers for damage to their crops by stray animals in the country and the amount provided to farmers under this head during the last three years;

(b) the steps being taken to prevent damages to the crops by stray animals;

(c) whether the Ministry would consider establishing stray animal shelters for such animals so as to prevent damages to the crops of farmers by keeping them there; and

(d) the details thereof?

Area of wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves in Jharkhand

229. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of Jharkhand's wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves is only 2.7 per cent of its geographical area against the national average of 4.9 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps Government is taking to promote wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves in the State?

Impact of GM crops on health

230. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government agencies have portrayed a rosy picture on Bt. Cotton which is far from the truth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need for a scientific study on the impact of GM crops on health; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that all the studies that Government have been quoting are done in other countries growing GM crops?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Additional CAAQM

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

(a) the details of additional Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitors (CAAQMs), which have been set up to provide live, real time data on air pollution during 2014-17, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for including the Clean Environment Cess into the GST Compensation Fund and whether Government has planned an alternative source to fund the National Clean Energy and Environment Fund (NCEEF), if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount collected under the Clean Environmental Cess from 2014 to November, 2017; and

(d) the percentage of the amount allocated to NCEEF and the details of expenditure on clean energy and environmental projects, year-wise?

Protection of Western Ghats for damage

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

(a) whether Government has constituted an Expert Group under Dr.Kasturirangan in 2012 for recommending measures to protect Western Ghats which is included in World Heritage List of UNESCO;

(b) if so, the recommendations accepted for its Implementation;

(c) the action taken to stop unauthorized activities damaging the eco-system of Western Ghats; and

(d) the details of funds released during last three years?

Quality and contents of advertisements

233. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advertisements of alcohol and tobacco brands are being shown on print and visual media, TV channels on the pretext of advertisements on soda, music CD, mineral water and fashion tour despite the ban on advertisements on tobacco, alcohol etc.;

(b) if so, the details of tobacco, alcohol companies indulging in such advertisements, company- wise; and

(c) whether it would amount to violation of section 7(2)(viii)(a) and Clause 6 of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Code of Conduct of Advertising Standards Council of India?

Censor Board judgements on quality of films

234. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government respects the judgement of Film Censor Board as far as quality of a film to be shown in theatre or on TV is concerned;

(b) whether clearance given by Censor Board has been revoked in the case of certain films in recent past;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government maintains that only one interpretation of history and one set of social norms, for clearing a film needs to be observed?

**Criteria for film certification by
Censor Board**

‡235. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Censor Board *i.e.* Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been following the rules framed by the Britishers for providing certificate to films till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the criteria of certification of films; and

(d) the details of changes made in rules by the Censor Board, since its constitution in 1952 till date?

**Allocation of space for Press
Association in Delhi**

236. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government *vide* its letter dated 2nd January, 2018 has directed the Press Association to vacate its present office space at New Delhi which was allotted *vide* letter No. Dir.(Admn.)PIB/7/2014 dated 17th July, 2014, *in lieu of* room allotted earlier to Press Association in Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has allotted any new space in New Delhi for Press Association in lieu of National Media Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the date of allotment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Ban on misleading advertisements of
cosmetic items**

237. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of some advertisements on electronic media claiming that the use of a specific cream will turn black and dusky face skin, fair;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether such kind of advertisement are promoting discrimination among the people and hurting the feelings of black and dusky coloured people and causing depression and inferiority complex; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to put a ban on such misleading advertisements?

**Single window clearances for licensing
process of radio broadcasting**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to issue recommendations on ease of doing business;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning for a single-window clearance while seeking uplinking and downlinking licenses and automation and digitization of licensing process; and

(c) whether Government proposes to address issues pertaining to digital radio broadcasting of private FM broadcasters across the country?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Content Policy for Government advertisements

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

(a) whether Government is considering for any Content Policy for Government advertisements, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has tried to evolve any mechanism to measure the impact of its newspaper advertisements featuring launch of new schemes or inauguration of new infra projects; and

(c) if so, the results of such impact assessment, if not, the reasons therefor?

Regional film representation in IFFI

240. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plan to have more representation of regional films in International Film Festival of India (IFFI);

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

(c) the number of regional films exhibited in the last IFFI?

DART ratings by Doordarshan

241. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has been able to create programmes, which are able to score higher on the TRP scale, as Prasar Bharati has asked Doordarshan to conduct regular Doordarshan Audience Research

Television (DART) ratings through Audience Research units for the rural population;

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

(c) whether Doordarshan is considering for special television content for the viewers in the rural area; and

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

Risk of Silicosis among mine workers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 2.3 lakh people employed at various mine sites are at the risk of contracting Silicosis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are over 44,000 mines, where 3.44 lakh labourers are working;

(c) whether Government is conducting inspection at mines to ascertain any violation by the miners;

(d) whether it is also a fact that during the last three years only 14,064 mines were inspected as against a total number of 44,000 mines; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Mining activities under blue economy

243. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to develop the mining activities under blue economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of 73rd and 74th amendments

244. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the status of implementation of 73rd Constitution amendment during the last three years, if so, the present status of the same and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the major reasons for non-implementation of 74th amendment and whether any steps have been taken in this regard; and

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

Implementation of Gram Panchayat Scheme

245. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review the schemes being implemented by the Ministry during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to review the schemes being implemented for Gram Panchayats in order to expedite the development programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken for proper utilization of funds meant for Gram Panchayats?

Involvement of women in Panchayats

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

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

(b) whether any study or survey has been conducted to ascertain the upliftment of women in rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan if any, for further empowerment of rural women?

Construction of Patna-Buxar NH

†247. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Patna-Buxar National Highway;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed, considering the present pace of work;

(c) the reasons for very slow pace of construction of the bridge on the river Ganga in Buxar parallel to the existing bridge; and

(d) whether Government proposes to extend the Patna-Buxar National Highway upto Banaras from Chausa?

Distance-based toll charge

248. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce the distance-based toll charge system in place of open toll charge policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this new policy would be implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Additional safety measures in cars

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

(a) whether Government has made it mandatory for all cars manufactured after July, 2019 to have additional safety measures like air bags, seat-belt reminders, speeding alert system, sensors for reverse parking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing models are also required to have additional safety features, if so, by when; and

(d) whether the Ministry had consultations with the car manufacturers about the feasibility of introducing the said measures within 18 months, if so, the details thereof?

Regulation of e-rickshaws

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

(a) whether Government has any records regarding number of e-rickshaws playing in different States;

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

(c) the details regarding e-rickshaws playing in the State of Rajasthan;

(d) whether Government has made or is contemplating for making any regulatory framework regarding registration of e-rickshaws and compulsory licensing of e-rickshaw drivers; and

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

Status of four lane highways

†251. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways in Odisha and respective lengths thereof;

(b) the number and lengths of National Highways which have four-lanes;

(c) the number of National Highways which have been connected with golden quadrilateral and names thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there have been delay in above type of construction work, if so, the details thereof?

Irregularities in Udham Singh Nagar NH project

252. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has asked Uttarakhand Government to deny naming of NHAI officials in irregularities committed in procurement of land for NH-74 in Udham Singh Nagar and informed that all NH projects will be re-examined, in case a probe is constituted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether involvement of NHAI officials in fraudulent conversions of agricultural land into a non-agricultural one, ahead of the 3A notification would also be investigated by the Ministry through an independent agency, like CBI, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deaths and economic losses due to road accidents

253. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing number of accidents on various National Highways/Expressways in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the total number of accidents reported along with the number of persons killed in road accidents and the economic losses caused thereby, NH-wise during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide better medical aids on National Highways/Expressways to handle the accidents?

Achievements in highway projects

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set an all time high target of building 15,000 km. of roads in 2016-17, but have built only 8,200 km. of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had set a target of awarding 25,000 km of stretch under highway projects in 2016-17, but managed to award around 14,000 km. by March 31st, 2017; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Safety of passenger and pedestrian on roads

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

(a) whether it is a fact that all cars manufactured after July 1, 2019 will have to be equipped with air bags, seat belt reminders, alert system for speeds beyond 80 kmph, reverse parking alerts as well as manual override over the central locking system for emergencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved the move for passenger as well as pedestrian safety on Indian roads as thousands of people die in road crashes every year; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in 2016, speeding alone accounted for nearly 74,000 of the 1.51 lakh deaths in road accidents?

Review of highway projects by NHAI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to put in abeyance scrapping of 20 highway projects till a case-by-case review is done;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked the NHAI to debar a defaulting developer only after completion of any pending legal proceedings; and

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

Expressway construction between Delhi and Jaipur

257. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

any proposal for construction of the expressway between Delhi and Jaipur, from Rajasthan Government for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013;

(b) if so, action taken on the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Concessions regarding widths of NHs

258. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any concessions regarding the minimum width of National Highways to States having high density of population of difficult terrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Steps taken to expedite road projects

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

(a) whether Government has undertaken a series of measures to decentralize work;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had resolved issues that were stalling about 80 projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only a handful of projects are stuck as of now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Investment on highways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will require at least ₹ 15 lakh crore to build and upgrade about 45,000 km. of highways in the next 5 to 10 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NHAI has maintained that undertaking this amount of work can be completed easily in 10 years without any financial hassle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Road connectivity for inter-linking ports

261. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ports in the State of Odisha which are active and operational;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide road connectivity to inter-link all the ports;

(c) whether providing road connectivity to the ports would increase its commercial viability; and

(d) if so, by when Government proposes to consider and execute the proposal of inter-linking the ports in the State of Odisha?

Expansion of Vijayawada Bypass Highway

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

(a) whether Government is aware that expansion and construction work of Vijayawada Bypass Highway has stopped as the contractor "Gammon India" is not evincing any interest in its construction and expansion and it is in a stalled position;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has brought the matter to the knowledge of the Ministry and requested to expedite the work by adopting suitable action plan, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to complete the expansion and construction of Vijayawada Bypass Highway in the scheduled time and the details thereof?

**Connectivity of districts through
Bharatmala projects**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat mala project will connect 550 districts to National Highways;

(b) whether presently only about 300 districts in the country are connected to National Highways;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 70 to 80 per cent freight will move on National Highways against 40 per cent freight at present due to Bharatmala; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government will roll out most of the projects announced under Bharatmala by December, 2018?

**Cancellation of road project in
Vijayawada**

264. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NHAI has cancelled the contract to construct Outer Right Road to Vijayawada in Andhra

Pradesh with Gammon India Ltd.;

(b) whether NHAI has invoked any penal provisions for failure to execute contracts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how much time NHAI will take to prepare fresh DPR and complete the entire project; and

(e) whether the new contract would be on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) or Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) basis?

Installation of GPS in public vehicles

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite it being mandatory to install Global Positioning System (GPS) in public vehicles, the system is not functioning in most public vehicles;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure GPS in public vehicles and the reasons for non-functioning of the GPS system in public vehicles; and

(c) the details thereof?

Construction of roads for connectivity

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

(a) the total length of roads identified

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for connectivity in the 34 affected districts in the country;

(b) length of road awarded by the Ministry so far and how many kms of road are constructed;

(c) the expected date of completion of the total length of roads as identified for connectivity, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Ministry for the development of roads in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas since the initiation of the scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Empowering State Governments for road projects

267. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has empowered the States to apprise it of projects worth upto ₹ 100 crore and invite tenders;

(b) whether it is also a fact that earlier all such projects used to come under the Central Government, resulting in delays; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Bypass in Almora city

†268. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many residential and commercial buildings are coming in the way of bypass road to be constructed in Almora city of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether the local public representatives have been given an option for construction thereof somewhere else;

(c) if so, whether the same has been accorded approval by Government; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, time by which the approval thereof is likely be accorded?

Pending projects under PMGSY

†269. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are around 90,000 roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which have not been constructed, though the total payment related to their construction work has been made to the contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the officers found guilty for this and the action taken against them;

(d) the steps taken for refund of payment from the contractors; and

(e) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incident in future?

Development of new Highways in Telangana

270. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has considered to sanction more National Highways in the State of Telangana under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yojana (PMGSY), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of funds allocated and sanctioned under this project, the details thereof?

Status of road projects under PMGSY

271. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) pending for more than three years, State-wise along with road length for each projects;

(b) the reasons for delay such as problem in land acquisition, release of funds; and

(c) the efforts made to complete the projects as early as possible, including overseeing and monitoring by the Ministry?

Implementation of PMGSY in Manipur

272. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads along with their lengths constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) the amount sanctioned for each of those roads and the status of their completion; and

(c) the details of roads being planned/ approved/under consideration for the ensuing years in the State?

Construction of roads under PMGSY in Karnataka

273. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the roads in the rural areas in Karnataka are being funded under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) the total fund allocated for construction of the roads under this scheme in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) the details of the status of the projects under this scheme *i.e.*, completed/ under progress and to be commenced, during the last three years, ending October 31, 2017?

Release of funds under MGNREGA to Telangana

274. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Telangana has sought the assistance of Central Government for release of pending funds under MGNREGA to the State of Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds released so far and the quantum of pending funds to be released; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Minimum days of wages under
MGNREGA**

275. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 46 days of work is being provided per employed household on an average over the last three years, against the promised 100 days of work under the legislation;

(b) if so, the reasons for not ensuring 100 days employment as promised by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that constant under-funding of MGNREGA, the rural employment guarantee scheme, is leading to low employment generation on the ground; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Governments' response thereto?

Delay in MGNREGA payments

276. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is an inordinate delay in payment of MGNREGA wages, which is causing hardships to workers;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this direction and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to expedite the payments to usher confidence among the workers under MGNREGA scheme?

**Delay in release of daily labour wages
in MGNREGA**

277. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total daily wage labour dues pending under MGNREGA to be released to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the reasons for delay in release of labour wage dues; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early release of pending daily wage labour dues under MGNREGA?

Geo-tagging of assets of MGNREGA

278. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assets created under MGNREGA in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to Geo-tag each asset so created with the help of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA); and

(c) if so, how many assets have so far been Geo-tagged out of the assets so far created during the last three years, State-wise?

Minimum wages under MGNREGA

279. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has

undertaken any study to ascertain the differences between the wages under MGNREGA and the minimum wages in different States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details regarding States where MGNREGA wages are substantially lower than the relevant minimum wages;

(c) the relevant figures for the State of Rajasthan;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to rationalise the MGNREGA wages *vis-a-vis* minimum wages; and

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

Start-up rural entrepreneurship programme

‡280. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Start-up Rural Entrepreneurship programme to provide new non-agricultural livelihood to the artisans and weavers in order to strengthen their livelihood;

(b) whether any annual target has been fixed to support the entrepreneurs by providing them training under the said programme;

(c) if so, the details of target fixed along with the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) whether opportunities of employment in the rural areas has increased through the said programme?

Construction of roads under PMGSY in the country

‡281. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of the villages connected to the roads till December 2017, per kilometer expenditure incurred thereon and the time-bound action plan for the construction of roads for connecting remaining villages under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), State-wise; and

(b) the details of method of construction, maintenance and repair of constructed roads and implementing agency, State-wise?

Cancellation of fake MGNREGA job cards

282. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cancelled 93 lakh MGNREGA job cards, if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are fake MGNREGA job cards, if so, details thereof along with the details regarding action taken by Government, State/UT-wise; and

(c) whether names of some beneficiaries have been removed from MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Aadhaar Card for MGNREGA schemes

283. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the MGNREGA workers who have been authenticated through Aadhaar Cards, State/UT-wise; and

(b) whether the wage dispersal in financial year 2017-20 are being made only to Aadhaar card holders *via* cashless

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

system, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise?

Funds for DRDA

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

(a) whether the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) have not been able to function effectively due to lack of funds in several districts;

(b) the allocation and utilization of funds made to the DRDAs during the last three years, State-wise, including district-wise details for West Bengal;

(c) the details of any complaints received against DRDAs during the last three years along with steps taken to correct the same, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the tasks done by the DRDAs during the last three years in West Bengal, district-wise?

Fixing of MGNREGA workers output and wages

285. SHRI K.R.ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the States to carry out a study to fix output for MGNREGA wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a worker's output is expected to vary across States because of differences in the nature of terrain;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has found that the present difference in output or schedule of rates is unreasonable;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in April, 2018, the work under MGNREGA will only be awarded of as per new schedule rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Review of generation of MGNREGA assets

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

(a) whether Government has sought or received any Action Taken Reports from State Governments on various advisories issued to it during the last two years regarding progress of assets generated through MGNREGA;

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

(c) whether Government intends to make it mandatory to submit time-bound reports by State Governments in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has observed any progress/improvement in the quality of assets generated through MGNREGA during the last one year, the details thereof?

Implementation of women empowerment project

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

(a) whether women empowerment project is being implemented for enhancing the livelihood under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission;

(b) whether women empowerment

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

project has achieved expected success in securing basic livelihood of women of poor families in rural areas;

(c) the details of investment during the last three years under women farmer empowerment project, State-wise; and

(d) the details of beneficiaries under this project during the last three years State-wise?

**Delay in wage payment under
MGNREGA**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wage payments worth several hundred crores of rupees under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been stuck in various States during the year 2017, because of non-transfer of funds from Government;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that wage payment under MGNREGA have been delayed in many States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Additional days of work under
MGNREGA in Karnataka**

289. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka has been identified as one of the drought-affected States and it was decided to give additional 50 days of work under MGNREGA in 2017-18;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State has

requested for providing 50 additional work days to all districts;

(c) if so, whether additional work days are given to all districts or only identified districts; and

(d) the funds so far released to States under MGNREGA during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and district-wise?

**Delay in payment of wages under
MGNREGA**

†290. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed a time limit for payments of wages to beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in all the States;

(b) if so, details of the penal action taken on the States that have not paid the wages to the beneficiaries under MGNREGA in last two years;

(c) whether the Finance Ministry has studied the reasons for delay in payment, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken steps to obviate the discrepancies in payments to the beneficiaries of MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof?

**Release of MGNREGA funds for
Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has to release pending scheme funds under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

material and wage components of MGNREGA to Andhra Pradesh for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the funds were not released due to complaints from various quarters, if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason for the funds not being released to State?

Thrust for 'original ideas' in INSPIRE programme

292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme has been modified with a thrust to 'original ideas' having potential for social needs through science and technology;

(b) if so, how many 'original ideas' have been targetted for a financial year and the amount that has been fixed for such an award; and

(c) what is the criteria that has been adopted by Government to shortlist the schools from where the 'original ideas' would be gathered?

Fellows under women scientist schemes

293. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women who have been selected as fellows under the Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C);

(b) whether the fellows under these three schemes have received their stipend

amounts regularly and on time and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the basis for selecting the minimum age limit for WOS-A and WOS-B as 27 years and maximum age limit as 57 years; and

(d) whether Government is considering any change in the aforementioned age limits?

Mobility scheme under KIRAN

294. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and benefits of the mobility scheme launched under Knowledge, Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing KIRAN;

(b) the details of the number of women who have applied for benefits under the mobility scheme; and

(c) the details of the number of women who have received benefits under the scheme?

Percentage of GDP on R&D

295. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is spending a small percentage of its GDP on R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the low spending;

(c) how it compares with China, South Korea, Indonesia and Phillipines in this regard; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase it and if so, by how much?

Women working in mainstream science research institutes

296. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women currently working in the mainstream science research institutions;

(b) the number of women who have availed the services and received grants under Women Scientist Scheme (WOS-A, B & C) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Standing Committee for promoting women in science has been constituted and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, what is the action so far taken by the committee to reduce the gender gap in science research?

Utilization of port land

297. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major ports in India have a lot of surplus land;

(b) if so, what is the total land with Bombay Port and how much of it is surplus or unutilized till date;

(c) what are the plans to use that land in future; and

(d) the details of proposals, if any, from private sector to utilize the port land?

Sale of entire public stake in DCIL

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

(a) whether Government has decided to

sell off its entire public stake in Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL);

(b) if so, the reasons behind the sale of MINIRATNA PSU and the innovations initiatives in dredging and maritime development of DCIL; and

(c) the plan details along with buyer's proposal?

Traffic handling capacity of major ports

299. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the traffic handling capacity of 12 major ports in the country can be increased by at least 30 to 40 per cent by taking steps, such as efficient use of cranes and other machineries deployed at ports, improving procedures and digitization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the operational efficiency can push the capacity to handle more traffic from the present 989 mtpa to 1396 mtpa;

(c) whether ports are one of the infrastructure sectors, which have seen a turnaround during the past three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Non-disbursal of funds allocated for RoSL

300. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Apparel Export Production Council (AEPCC) urged the Government to restore the Rebate on States Levies rate (RoSL) from current 0.39 per cent to 3.9 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the total RoSL amount for All India Readymade Garment Exports for the period from September, 2016 to June, 2017 was ₹ 3,025 crore, of which only ₹ 400 crore had been disbursed so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for non-disbursal of funds, allocated for RoSL claim in the central budget 2017-18 for ₹ 1550 crore?

Status of handlooms sector

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry's report 'Status of Handloom Sector' released in June, 2017 shows year-after-year fall in physical progress in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and other States under the Mill Gate Price Scheme and also reveals the heavy fluctuation in the ratio of financial and physical progress;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons of unprecedented fluctuation in the ratio of physical and financial progress made, in the respective years, along with the details of the steps taken to resolve it?

Self-employment opportunities in textile industries

302. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of Government for

availing self-employment opportunities in the textile industries;

(b) whether there are any buy-back policies on the finished goods, attached with such schemes; and

(c) whether there is any special scheme of financial or raw material assistance for the single women availing the self-employment opportunity in the textile industry, particularly in Odisha?

Workshops for artisans organised by DCH

303. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Design and Technology Development Workshops that have been organised so far by the Development Commissioner Handicrafts (DCH), with a particular reference to Karnataka, during the last three years and this year, year-wise;

(b) the number of artisans who participated in the same, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any mechanism for follow up on the progress made by such participants, upon completion of the workshop; and

(d) if so, the details of the same for assessing the effectiveness of said workshops?

National Mission for Clean Ganga

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

(a) whether it is feared that the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCg)

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

programme may miss its deadline of making the Ganga clean by the year 2020;

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

(c) amount of fund sanctioned for NMCG, including amount received from CSR funding from various companies so far and details of amount utilised for cleaning of river Ganga; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the timely completion of cleaning of Ganga?

**Construction of dams/barrages on
Brahmhani basin**

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

(a) the number of dams and barrages constructed/under construction/proposed to be constructed by the Jharkhand Government on the upper stream of the Brahmhanti basin including its tributaries and the details thereof;

(b) whether permission has been obtained from all concerned authorities for those projects and the conditions laid down have been properly followed;

(c) whether the downstream riparian State of Odisha have been informed/consulted and its consent taken before taking up of the projects; and

(d) whether the downstream flow of the river has already been affected due to the said projects?

Plan to check flash floods in Imphal valley

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

(a) the details of completed, ongoing and contemplated projects in Manipur under the Ministry;

(b) the amount of funds sanctioned, released and utilized for each of the projects;

(c) whether Government is aware of the breaching of Imphal, Nambul and Kongba rivers at many places every year, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether Government contemplates any action plan or project to check flash floods which occurs in the Imphal valley routinely during monsoon; and

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

Surplus water transfer from Godavari to Cauvery river

307. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantum of precious water from Godavari river goes waste due to its discharge into the sea every year;

(b) whether Government proposes to transfer surplus water from Godavari to Cauvery river through river linking projects to help parched States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, including status and frame work of implementation of the projects?

Declaration of ILR projects as national projects

308. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to declare all Inter Linking of River (ILR) projects in the country as National Projects to expedite their implementation;

(b) if so, the number of ILR projects declared as National Projects in the country and number of proposed ILR projects identified for inclusion; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government in consultations with State Governments to expedite the implementation of ILR projects?

Pending irrigation projects in Vidarbha region

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

(a) whether many irrigation projects in the backward Vidarbha region are pending due to lack of funds;

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

(c) by when adequate funds will be provided to the State to complete irrigation projects in Vidarbha region in particular and Maharashtra in general?

Linking of major rivers

310. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned a scheme to link major rivers in the country and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if so, the details of the rivers to be linked, benefits and cost of the projects;

Inter-linking of rivers

311. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started work on several river inter-linking projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the total cost to be incurred on these projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that river-linking initiative of 14 Himalayan and 16 peninsular rivers are also pending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and step being taken to complete these river-linking projects within a time bound schedule?

Allocation of funds under FMP

312. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Flood Management Projects (FMP) approved by the Central

Water Commission during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the quantum of funds allocated under the FMP for the said period year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds released under the FMP for the said period, year-wise and State-wise?

Status of irrigation projects

313. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken a number of irrigation projects/schemes, if so, the details thereof and the progress made since inception of these projects/schemes;

(b) whether Government has made any prioritization of these projects/schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the targets achieved and the reasons for delay, if any, in meeting the targets;

(d) whether Government has made any review of these projects/schemes and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government plans to take up new irrigation projects in the country including Karnataka; and

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

Vacancies in Polavaram dam project

314. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is a severe shortage of staff at Polavaram to execute the dam project;

(b) whether regular post of Engineer-in-Chief is vacant and out of nine Executive Engineer posts, there have been filled, while out of seventy six Assistant Executive Engineer posts, thirty three have been filled, apart from other vacancies;

(c) whether there is lack of coordination between different wings of the project and a Central team had visited recently, to address these issues; and

(d) if so, what efforts Government is making to address these issues urgently?

Namami Gange Mission under CSR initiative

315. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether money charged under Swachh Bharat Cess from people of the country is being used for the Mission, if so, the details thereof and funds received so far; and

(b) whether any of the private companies donated to Namami Gange Mission as part of their CSR initiative, if so, the details thereof, along with names and amount received?

Setting up of STPs on polluted rivers

316. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has signed a tripartite agreement with private sector concessionaries for country's first two hybrid annuity PPP projects for setting up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at many places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government intends to set up such STPs for the most of the polluted rivers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Deadline for cleaning of river Ganga

317. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to fast track all projects related to Ganga cleaning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has fixed 2019 as a deadline for cleaning of river Ganga; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Consideration of Dam Safety Bill

318. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES,

RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to conduct a break analysis of 5247 large dams across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to put in place, an emergency action plan especially for the 196 dams that are over 100 years old;

(c) whether Government is considering of introducing a Dam Safety Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of Polavaram dam

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) is contemplating to construct Polavaram main dam (ECRF Dam) without constructing the coffer dam as approved by the Central Water Commission previously and planning for alternative arrangement, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) been asked to study alternative arrangements, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PPA is conducting studies for alternative arrangements of coffer dam and what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any saving of funds due to this alternative arrangement?

Projects are running at snail's pace due to non-release of funds from the Central Government;

Status of irrigation projects

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

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, whether the projects are still at construction stage, even after several years of initiation; and

(a) whether it is a fact that several irrigation projects declared as National

(c) the project-wise details including agencies which are executing the project and reasons for the delay in execution of the projects?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th January, 2018

Magha 10, 1939 (Saka)

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.

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