

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, April 6, 2018/Chaitra 16, 1940 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **Worsening rural distress**

4481. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new data released by Government on rural wages, crop prices and sowing of winter crops reveals that rural distress is worsening;

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

(c) the names of the States/areas/regions where sowing area crops has declined substantially;

(d) whether it is a fact that falling profitability is the biggest problem for the farmers which has come down drastically for most crops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to speed up the implementation of flagship programmes on crop insurance and irrigation, which are lagging behind due to poor implementation?

#### **Administering of antibiotics to animals**

†4482. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that antibiotic medicines are being administered to animals to increase the production of meat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hazardous chemicals along with antibiotics are entering the bodies of those persons who eat meat;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of PMFBY in Chhattisgarh**

4483. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) along with the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

details of insurer companies and system of approval for insurance of agricultural yield;

(b) the details of the premium collected since the launch of PMFBY till date, State/ Union Territory-wise and date-wise;

(c) the details of insurance amount given away, State/Union Territory-wise and date-wise;

(d) whether insurers have returned the premium collected from farmers in Chhattisgarh, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to resolve this problem, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Benefit of MSP to farmers**

4484. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MSP, provided by Government to the farmers, actually benefits only 6 per cent of the farmers in the entire country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider enhancing the quantity of the produces purchased by Government to the maximum possible limit so that a larger number of farmers benefit through it?

#### **Unified Package Insurance Scheme in Karnataka**

4485. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Unified Package Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that this scheme is approved to be implemented in Chitradurga district of Karnataka State on pilot basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and in what manner it is helpful to farmers?

#### **Pilot project for promotion of nutri-farming**

4486. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a pilot programme for promotion of nutri-farming and introducing new crop varieties that are rich in micro-nutrients such as iron-rich bajra, protein-rich maize and zinc-rich wheat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of funds earmarked for implementation of this project?

#### **Laying of foundation stone for dairy in Jharkhand**

†4487. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had laid down the foundation stone of a Government dairy in Jharkhand without allotment of land for the same;

(b) if so, the details of the place and land area for dairy in Jharkhand where Prime Minister had laid down the foundation stone; and

(c) by when this dairy would be set up?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Development of cluster-based model  
for agriculture**

4488. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to associate all the districts in the country to specialize in some or other agricultural produce; and

(b) if so, whether Government would like to give a thrust on to develop cluster-based model in a scientific manner as an effort to promote and encourage Agriculture sector in the country?

**Remunerative price for milk to dairy  
farmers**

†4489. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the farmers and herdsman of the country, including in Maharashtra, in spite of their important contribution to market and dairy industry, get ₹ 25-30 per litre for their milk from dairy cooperative societies, whereas these cooperative societies sell it at the rate of ₹ 50-55 per litre to the consumers in the market;

(b) if so, whether, in order to ensure remunerative price to farmers for milk and milk products, Government is considering to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Protest by farmers for remunerative  
price, pension and loan waivers**

4490. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently 50,000 peasants have marched from Nasik to Mumbai from 6 to 12 March, 2018 with the demands for remunerative prices, pensions and loan waiver for the indebted farmers, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Maharashtra has given written assurance for accepting their demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Expansion of coconut plantation**

4491. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coconut plantation is not an organised cultivation in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to expand the coconut plantation on a major scale in these States;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the assistance under area expansion scheme by the Coconut Development Board, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for coconut to protect the interests of the coconut growers?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Vacancies in Ministry of Agriculture**

4492. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of vacancies in different categories in various departments of the Ministry of Agriculture in whole country;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies thereof, as on date; and

(c) the steps the Ministry proposes to take to fill up these vacancies?

appropriate mix of public and private funding and delivery mechanism;

(b) if so, the details of such policy/programmes in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) the rationale for opening up the agricultural extension programme to the private players and possible outcome for the larger agricultural productivity;

(d) whether Government is also implementing any programmes to support functioning of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**MSP for potato, garlic and onion, etc.**

‡4493. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the method being followed to assess the input cost in agriculture for making a payment, double the input cost to the farmers for agriculture produces and the action plan devised to make such payment and by when it would be done; and

(b) the measures adopted to provide the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for onions, potatoes and garlic, etc., with reference to (a) above?

**Opening agricultural extension programme to private players**

4494. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing any policy/programmes for extending the existing agricultural extension services in the country with an

**Production of organic foods**

4495. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourages production of organic foods in the country;

(b) if so, the yearly trade of organic foods such as pulses and foodgrains during the last three years; and

(c) the effective measures taken by Government for promotion of organic foods in the country?

**Loan taken by farmers from informal sources**

4496. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around forty eight per cent of farmers take loans from informal sources like money lenders, landlords and others, if so, the details thereof;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of them are small and marginal farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government loan waivers, when given, apply only to formal credit, if so, the details thereof?

**Use of Monocrotophose and Oxydemeton-methyl pesticides in the country**

4497. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ban Monocrotophos and Oxydemeton-methyl, the two pesticides as suggested by the panel which investigated the deaths of farmers and farm labourers from pesticide poisoning in Maharashtra State, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of these pesticides is still continuing in the country though same have been classified as Category-I pesticide by World Health Organisation because of their acute toxicity and being banned in several countries, including the European Union; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken to keep a check on the use of these pesticides?

**Thrust on organic farming**

4498. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given thrust to organic farming in the present Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Women Self Help Groups are also being benefited therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Claim of robust growth rate by Andhra Pradesh**

4499. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is in the notice of Government that Andhra Pradesh has achieved 25 per cent GVA growth rate in the first half year of 2017-18 whereas the country has achieved only 2 per cent growth rate as claimed by the State, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the factors contributing to such robust growth rate by the State; and

(c) whether Central Government has any plan to replicate the strategies adopted by Government of Andhra Pradesh throughout country?

**Providing quality seeds to farmers**

4500. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to identify problems of farmers and resolve them;

(b) whether quality seeds are out of the reach of small/marginal farmers due to their exorbitant price, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to provide good quality seeds to small/marginal farmers at fair prices; and

(d) the average holding of farmers in the country, State/UT-wise, particularly in Jharkhand and Gujarat?

**Allocation for Price Stabilization Fund**

4501. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted the Price Stabilization Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind constitution of the said Fund;

(d) the details of financial allocation made for the Fund in the recent Budget; and

(e) the details regarding interventions made through the mechanism of the Fund during the last two years?

**Achievement of Madhya Pradesh in Agriculture sector**

†4502. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Madhya Pradesh has shown the highest achievement at national level in terms of agricultural production, the growth rate in Agricultural sector and increase in the income of farmers during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the model adopted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh could prove to be the best for agricultural

development towards achieving the target of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Economic condition of farmers**

†4503. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of debt burden on small and marginal farmers, at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of monthly/annual income of the farmers, at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of increase/decrease in the income of farmers during the last one decade, State-wise; and

(d) the details of financial assistance provided to farmers by the Central Government during the last one decade, State-wise?

**Increasing the limit of agriculture input subsidy**

4504. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present maximum limit for agriculture input subsidy, as per the existing State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, is 2 hectare;

(b) whether Government intends to increase the maximum limit for agriculture input subsidy from 2 hectare to 5 hectare in context of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**MSP for Rabi crops**

4505. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1613 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9 March, 2018 and state:

(a) the basis on which Government is claiming that it has given 1.5 times the cost of production as MSP from current Rabi season;

(b) whether increase in MSP, in terms of percentage for Rabi crops for 2017-18 over the MSP of 2016-17, is lesser than increase in 2016-17 over the MSP of 2015-16; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Remunerative price for farmers' produces**

4506. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small farmers suffer from their reliance on middlemen to sell their produces; and

(b) if so, the steps which have been devised during the last three years to ensure that farmers are not compelled to sell their produces at a rate less than their cost of production?

**Utilisation of funds by APMCs**

4507. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural Produce

Market Committees (APMCs) are utilising their total funds collected from renting of immovable properties for the benefits of the farmers and development of agricultural marketing infrastructure in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government intends to include levying Service Tax on income of APMCs from renting of their immovable properties prior to 1 July, 2012 to be included in negative list of the Finance Act, 1994; and

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

**MSP for Rabi crops**

4508. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable agricultural items during 2017-18, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated under MIS and price support system during 2018-19;

(c) whether Government has implemented 1.5 times the cost of production as MSP during current year for Rabi crops; and

(d) if so, the details of difference in MSP of Rabi crops announced last year and the current year, crop-wise?

**Indebtedness of farmers in Maharashtra**

4509. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers and agricultural labourers who committed suicide and injured in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB);

(b) the average per cent of families which are indebted in Maharashtra State in comparison to the national average;

(c) the latest average debt of a farm household in Maharashtra State, compared to the national average; and

(d) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that will be effected by farm loan waivers by 2019?

**Export of cotton**

4510. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bt. Cotton had witnessed pest attacks in the past year and now farmers are adopting the traditional cotton variety;

(b) the details of cotton exports in the last three years; and

(c) the names of the countries that are the biggest competitors in cotton production?

**Calculation of cost of production and MSP of crops**

4511. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers that have been given Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for one or more crops in last three years and their percentage of total farmers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the MSPs for all 23 crops in last three years and detailed methodology for calculating MSPs for each crop as well, State-wise;

(c) the detailed methodology for calculating farmers' cost prices for all 23 crops; and

(d) the percentage of margin of MSPs offered by Government in the last three years over the cost for 23 crops, State-wise?

**Farmers' income in West Bengal**

4512. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware that the State Government of West Bengal has doubled farmers' income in the last six years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has any plans to take up the model of the State Government of West Bengal and double the income of the farmers in rest of the country; and

(d) if so, the time-bound details thereof?

**Shortage of fodder**

†4513. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 5 per cent of agricultural land is used for growing

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



fodder in the country, including Maharashtra, due to which there is 11 per cent shortage of dry fodder, 35 per cent shortage of green and fresh fodder and 28 per cent shortage of nutritious and mix fodder in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for providing nutritious fodder to dairy industry, herdsman and farmers; and

(c) whether Government is considering to establish a fodder bank at district level to counter the continuous rising prices of fodder?

#### **Benefits of Government schemes to farmers**

4514. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government schemes are helping only the rich farmers and the one who really deserve help even do not qualify for loans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that very few farmers get the right price for their produce and the calculation of MSP needs to be done honestly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that farmers who after getting the loans waived once, default the next time, and get debarred from all other Government benefits; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to bring out any plans to address these issues?

#### **Implementation of agricultural schemes**

4515. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exist

several agriculture-related Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is satisfied with these schemes so far as for effective utilization of funds are concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Promoting smart irrigation system**

4516. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States in the country are still extremely vulnerable to climate change due to poor irrigation system;

(b) if so, the names of these States;

(c) the measures taken in the last three years to promote smart irrigation system, such as drip, sprinklers and also for spreading awareness among farmers about efficient water management; and

(d) the technical or any other assistance that has been provided to these States in this regard?

#### **Setting up of new fertilizer plants**

†4517. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide sufficient fertilizers to farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of operational fertilizer plants in the country along with the closed ones, as on date and by when the closed ones would be made operational; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up any new fertilizers plant in this financial year, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Incentives for manufacture of medical devices domestically**

4518. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants allocated by the Ministry for manufacturing medical devices domestically, along with the details thereof;

(b) the public sector/private sector companies that have shown interest for this initiative so far, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of subsidies/incentives provided to the companies by the Government for manufacturing in India?

**Action against hospitals for overcharging**

†4519. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the report of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per report, private hospitals overcharge the patients many times extra for medicines and diagnostics, by manipulating the manufacturing companies and getting excess rate and MRP printed on medicines;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government against such hospitals; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shortage of coronary stents**

4520. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has observed shortage of coronary stents in the country after price regulation;

(b) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has further reduced the prices of stents in the second week of February, 2018;

(c) whether several stent manufacturers have decided to withdraw their products from the market protesting price regulation by Government;

(d) if so, the manner in which DCGI and the Ministry are planning to address this problem; and

(e) the details of companies which have sought to pull out their coronary stents from the market and action taken by the Ministry against such companies?

**Overcharging by private hospitals on drugs and consumables**

4521. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an investigation by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has found that four private hospitals in Delhi were profiteering by overcharging for the drugs and consumables;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on these hospitals based on the study report;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chairman of NPPA was transferred just ten days after this study report was released; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sale of drugs by hospitals at exorbitant prices**

4522. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private hospitals in Delhi are selling drugs at exorbitant prices, sometimes more than 1000 per cent on medicines;

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

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has conducted any raids in hospitals in Delhi regarding inflated prices on medicines; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken against such hospitals for inflated prices?

**Employment in chemical and fertilizer industry**

4523. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in chemical and fertilizer industry in the country;

(b) whether potential for creating opportunity for additional employment has been assessed, if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the ministry has conducted/has been conducting training programmes for facilitating the recruitment of efficient manpower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Availability of generic medicines at fair price**

†4524. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan to extend the measures taken for making the generic medicines easily available to common people through pharmacy stores of private hospitals at fair price; and

(b) the manner in which the findings of related inter-ministerial policy for making medical equipments, medicines, injections, etc., available at fair price, will be implemented?

**Availability and affordability of life-saving drugs**

4525. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether life-saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to their scarcity in the country;

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

(c) whether Government has fixed norms for maintaining minimum stock of life-saving drugs;

(d) if so, the details and the estimated stock thereof in the country; and

(e) whether Government has taken measures for conducting research on new life-saving drugs?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**R & D for production of Potash**

4526. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any Research and Development (R & D) activity in the country to produce/ manufacture Potash in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Mechanism for monitoring the prices of drugs**

4527. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any mechanism for monitoring of prices of drugs and other medical devices;

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

(c) whether Government has devised any formula for fixation of drugs prices by pharmaceutical companies; and

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

**Surprise checks in corporate hospitals**

4528. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has conducted any surprise checks in corporate hospitals across the country to check the

menace of sale of medicines at inflated rates;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Fall in revenue from sale of coal through FSA**

4529. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue earnings from coal, sold under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA), fell appreciably during the quarter ending December, 2017;

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

(c) whether Government experienced high revenue growth through e-auction in the same quarter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government proposes to take to ensure high growth rate through FSA route too?

**Rise in production and dispatch of coal by CIL**

4530. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) is dispatching 8 per cent more coal than it did a year ago, loading 308-310 rakes per day to wheel 1.87 million tonnes, of the fuel daily in March, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that production of Coal India Limited has also gone up to 2.5 million tonnes a day in the month of March, 2018; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Green clearance to CIL's projects**

4531. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether three projects of Coal India Limited (CIL) have been recommended for green clearance, including one for capacity augmentation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Details of coal blocks**

4532. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocks auctioned till now;

(b) the number of coal blocks which are operational;

(c) the number of coal blocks which are not operational; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the non-operational coal blocks operational?

**Increasing coal supply to power plants**

4533. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the Railways to increase coal loading to upto 500 rakes per day to meet power demand in summer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 50 power plants have coal stock less than the stipulated level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Filling up of vacant posts in the Ministry**

4534. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of such vacant posts, as on date; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is planning to take to fill up the vacancies?

**Ensuring higher transportation of coal**

4535. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would depute its officials to coal companies in order to ensure higher transportation of coal to the siding and faster loading of rakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that coal supplies have not improved since last monsoon when some of the power plants had faced acute coal shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Ramping up buffer stock of coal at thermal power stations**

4536. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has enhanced coal supply to ramp up buffer stock at thermal power stations in anticipation of electricity demand shooting in line with the weatherman's prediction of an early and hot summer this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 16 power stations of the 112 coal-fired power plants monitored by the Central Electricity Authority have received fuel supplies in excess of their 100 per cent requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Tackling pollution caused by transportation of coal**

4537. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed that transportation of coal in uncovered vehicles and train wagons is causing environmental pollution along the route of transportation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to curtail this pollution?

**Joint ventures of CIL with Railways for coal evacuation**

4538. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway infrastructure projects are being constructed by Joint Venture companies formed by Railways and Coal India Limited (CIL) for the growth in production of coal in future, if so, the details and the current progress thereof;

(b) the status of the railway links announced by Singareni Collieries Company Limited for coal evacuation; and

(c) whether there are other projects which the Ministry has collaborated with Ministry of Railways in the recent times for transportation of coal, if so, the details thereof?

**Payment of dividend by CIL**

4539. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) is considering to give a dividend of ₹ 8044 crore for the fiscal year 2017-18;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CIL is also considering to provide a sum of ₹ 2085 crore to the Government as a dividend tax for the said fiscal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Supply of coal to power stations in excess of trigger level**

4540. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of excess supply of coal has reached as high as 200 per cent in one case, while remaining between 104 per cent and 163 per cent for the remaining 13 coal-fired power stations monitored by the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are 28 other power stations which are getting supplies well in excess of their trigger level of the annual contracted quality of coal tied up from Coal India Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Boost to coal mining**

4541. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making any

fresh effort to push up coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the plan for the next five years from now and the manner in which Government proposes to use the surplus production in generation of thermal power;

(c) whether coal mining in the country could surge ahead since 2014; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **TRAI report on Net Neutrality**

4542. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Government on the TRAI report upholding the Net Neutrality principles;

(b) the timeline for implementation of recommendations given by TRAI;

(c) by when the process of amendment of licences of telecoms will be initiated as recommended by TRAI; and

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunication will put in place a mechanism of public consultations to implement the recommendations of TRAI, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Arriving at regulations after consultations with stakeholders**

4543. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attempts are being made to discredit TRAI through repeated allegations of bias leveled by a section of the industry, which have hurt TRAI officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that regulations have been arrived at only after wide ranging consultations with all stakeholders and thus, there is no question of according favour to any particular operator; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **New norms on predatory pricing by TRAI**

4544. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has clarified the new norms on predatory pricing and the Significant Market Players (SMPs) are free to match a price as long as it can justify the same to TRAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some telecom operators, through their industry organisation, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), are trying to discredit TRAI through misleading statements on predatory pricing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government proposes to take against COAI?

#### **Details of segmented tariff plans by TSPs**

4545. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to furnish details of all the segmented tariff plans that the operators have offered to their

subscribers, by 25 March, 2018, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the TRAI has many times reiterated its stand that segmented offers have to be reported by operators, conveying that the offer of a discount is effectively the offer of a new tariff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Regulation on predatory pricing by TRAI**

4546. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the country, after the recent regulation on predatory pricing by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), feel deeply victimized and let down;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with this regulation, an environment of regulation and policy that is not based on an equal footing will further aggravate the deep financial stress and kill future investments, innovation in an industry that has put India on the global map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Refund of security deposits to consumers of BSNL in Ghaziabad**

4547. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL landline connections surrendered in Ghaziabad district (U.P.) in June and July, 2017 along with names of consumers to whom refunds

of their security deposits have actually been made;

(b) whether it is a fact that security deposits in respect of majority of consumers, particularly with reference to RE No. 0005910573 dated 15 November, 2017 has not been refunded even upto 14 March, 2018; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken against officers responsible for inordinate delays in making refunds?

**Poor broadband penetration in the country**

4548. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that broadband penetration is very poor in the country compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to increase the broadband penetration in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Cooperation between BSNL and MTNL on pan-India basis**

4549. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government wants both BSNL and MTNL to pitch together for enterprise customers on a pan-India basis, utilising each others networks across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) whether it is also a fact that several areas of co-operation between the two have been identified under synergy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Telecom connectivity for Amarnath yatra**

4550. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to provide telecom connectivity for Amarnath yatra;

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

(c) whether any provision has been made in the recent Budget for payment to BSNL to provide telecom connectivity for Amarnath yatra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Allegations against TRAI by COAI**

4551. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is trying to discredit the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through repeated baseless allegations of bias over new tariff order on predatory pricing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action TRAI proposes to take against COAI;

(c) whether predatory pricing is the result of wide-ranging consultations with all stakeholders and no favour has been shown to any particular operator; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Linking of Gram Panchayats and rural post offices with optical fibre network**

†4552. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government is planning to spend out of Universal Service Obligation Fund in current financial year to promote rural infrastructural facilities under Digital India;

(b) the State-wise details of number of Gram Panchayats and rural post offices which have been linked with optical fibre network in the country, including Maharashtra;

(c) by when the target to link all Gram Panchayats and rural post offices with optical fibre would be achieved; and

(d) whether Government is satisfied with current speed of providing internet service through optical fibre, if not, the efforts being made to speed up the work?

**Expansion of optical fibre network services to the Gram Panchayats**

4553. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expansion of optical fibre network services to the Gram Panchayats in the country has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which this facility will be extended to all the Gram Panchayats in the country along with the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**National Optical Fibre Network in  
Andhra Pradesh**

4554. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has given permission to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to implement the National Optical Fibre Network on its own;

(b) whether, under the programme, Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited has entered into the broadcasting and distribution business without a DAS licence;

(c) if so, whether the operations are in violation of law and the recommendations given by TRAI that State-owned entities should not enter broadcasting and distribution business; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop such unlawful activity?

**Policy guidelines to facilitate roll-out of  
Internet of Things**

4555. SHRI SAMBHAJI  
CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to issue policy guidelines to enable introduction of machine-to-machine communication in the country to facilitate roll-out of Internet of Things;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits common people can expect from this initiative?

**Prohibiting offering of tariffs below  
average variable cost**

4556. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:  
SHRI N.  
GOKULAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff order issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) prohibits significant market players, *i.e.*, operators with over 30 per cent market share, from offering tariffs below their average variable cost with a view to reduce competition or eliminate the competitors in the relevant market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in case of tariffs being found predatory, the service provider shall be liable to pay a penalty of ₹ 50 lakh per tariff plan for each circle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Composition and findings of Committee  
to enquire into award of contract for  
expansion of National Internet  
Backbone**

4557. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of  
COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 107, Unstarred Question 3424, Starred Question 138 and Starred Question 229 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25 November, 2016, 16 December 2016, 28 July, 2017 and 16 March, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) the details of the composition and findings of departmental inquiry committee, constituted in 2016 for inquiry into the ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract alongwith purchase of hardware;

(b) whether there is a deliberate delay in action against culprits since 2016;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the details of the time-frame for legal/penal action against erring companies and officials in the case?

#### **Merger of BSNL and MTNL**

‡4558. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to merge BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to introduce VRS in both the entities based on Gujarat pattern; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with its outlines?

#### **Stock holding of sugar by States**

4559. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any notification to State Governments to keep the sugar stock holding to 17 per cent of the total production;

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

(c) whether Government has received any request from Government of Tamil Nadu to exempt the State in this regard; and

(d) if so, the Central Government's stand in this regard?

#### **Storage and transit loss of foodgrains in Chhattisgarh**

‡4560. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rule for the deduction in the head of storage and transit loss of foodgrains; and

(b) the deduction made in the head of storage and transit loss under various schemes implemented by Central Government in Chhattisgarh State from 2007-08 till date, year-wise?

#### **Implementation of bio-metric system for PDS in Andhra Pradesh**

4561. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced Aadhaar-based bio-metric system for issuing foodgrains to the beneficiaries in ration shops throughout the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, whether Government is aware that certain States have introduced this system in their respective States, particularly Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has also provided mobile phones/tabs/laptops to each ration shop for bio-metric identification of the beneficiaries, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of ration shops in Andhra Pradesh provided with bio-metric instruments and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Consumer complaints**

4562. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of consumer complaints received during the last five years;
- (b) the reasons, if any, for the increase in the number of consumer complaints in the country;
- (c) whether any steps are being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Implementation of Jago Grahak Jago campaign**

4563. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any medium of publicity to create awareness about various schemes and programmes being implemented by the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the "Jago Grahak Jago" campaign during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the manner in which Government proposes to make the above campaign successful; and
- (e) the steps being taken to increase the allocations for the said campaign for its effective implementation?

### **Allotment of ration shops under reservation policy**

4564. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of citizens having access to ration shops opened within 2 km. 5 km. and beyond 5 km. of their dwelling, State/UT-wise including Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) whether State Governments have followed reservation policy in allotting ration shops and ensuring priority is accorded to members of SC and ST categories as notified by the Centre; and
- (c) the total number of ration shops allotted to SC/ST community, individuals, per year, for last five years, State/UT-wise along with details of total number of full time District Supply Officers appointed over past five years, State and district-wise?

### **Setting up of Central Consumer Protection Authority**

4565. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government for consumer protection on e-commerce platforms;
- (b) whether Government is planning to bring in a separate legislation for such platforms, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps, a consumer has to take, to file complaints against e-commerce platforms/companies and details of existing legal provisions in this regard; and

(d) the present status of the proposal regarding setting up of Central Consumer Protection Authority?

**Irregularities in procurement and distribution of foodgrains**

4566. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down or adopted by Government for procurement of foodgrains through various agencies:

(b) the details of the foodgrains procured by various agencies during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to check irregularities in the procurement and distribution of foodgrains by the agencies involved in the process, if so, the details thereof along with the number of irregularities reported therein during the said period and the action taken thereon, agency-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken to ensure smooth functioning of these agencies?

**Exclusion of people due to Aadhaar authentication failure**

4567. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a nation-wide survey to map the State-wise rate of exclusion of people due to seeding

and authentication failure under Aadhaar, under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the Government's plan to bring down the rate of this exclusion due to Aadhaar authentication-related failures?

**Prevention of food wastage**

‡4568. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering upon prevention of food wastage;

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

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

**Aadhaar-based cash transfers under PDS**

4569. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to go ahead with their decision of scrapping the PDS and replacing it with Aadhaar-based cash transfers or plans to take into consideration the recommendations proposed in the report commissioned by NITI Aayog to evaluate the pilot project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-period set by Government to complete the process?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Regulation of the prices of essential commodities**

4570. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to regulate the extreme fluctuations in the market price of essential commodities in the market place almost on a daily basis to help the common people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Disposal of buffer stock of Tur Dal**

4571. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is struggling to dispose of its buffer stock of 18 lakh tonnes of Tur Dal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has charted out three ways to reduce seven lakh tonnes of Tur Dal first and 10 lakh tonnes later on when the new crop hits the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Action against insurance companies for paying less medical reimbursement amount**

4572. MAHANT SHAMBHU-PRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any rule to punish the insurance companies who are paying less amount to clients for their medical treatment than the real amount insured; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Vacancies in Consumer Fora**

4573. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing vacancies in various Consumer Fora, namely, the National Commission, State Commissions and District Fora in the country, State and UT-wise;

(b) whether these vacancies are hampering the disposal of cases and pendency is increasing as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government proposes to take in the matter?

**Wastage of foodgrains**

4574. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains procured by Government gets rotten/wasted/fallen during transportation by trains to storages;

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

(c) the quantum of foodgrains produced, purchased and wasted/rotten/fallen in transportation during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent wastage of foodgrains and to ensure proper utilisation of foodgrains under various welfare schemes?

**Grants for consumer welfare activities**

4575. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to create consumer rights awareness among the people living in the rural and backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has provided any grants from Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) to the States/UTs for undertaking consumer welfare activities; and

(d) if so, the details of grants allocated/ released and utilised in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years and the current year?

**Fixation of higher MRP for products**

4576. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:  
DR. K. V. P.  
RAMACHANDRA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several companies are fixing the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for their products higher with a view to attract the consumers by offering handsome discount thereon, particularly on medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any role in fixing the MRP of the products and whether Government can take any action against the companies fixing higher MRP for their products?

**Preparation of list of eligible households for TPDS**

4577. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic omission of ineligible beneficiaries and identification of new eligible beneficiaries for the list of eligible households has been made as mandated by Section 3 of TPDS (Control) Order, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this exercise is being undertaken every year or is it up to the willingness of Government; and

(d) the details thereof?

**Export duty on sugar**

4578. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Finance to lower the existing export duty on sugar to zero per cent in the wake of bumper domestic production of sugar this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sugar production is estimated at 295 lakh tonne

this year which will be over 92 lakh tonne more than the last year; and

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

#### **Digitisation of BPL and APL cards**

4579. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any provision for homeless people who don't have any BPL card;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has a detailed list of all the BPL card holders in the country;

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

(e) the steps taken to digitise BPL and APL cards?

#### **Startups and private companies authorized to collect Aadhaar information**

4580. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Startups and private companies are demanding Aadhaar from citizens, if so, the list of such companies authorised to collect Aadhaar information;

(b) whether UIDAI audits private companies collecting Aadhaar information periodically, if so, the list of such audits carried out; and

(c) how many of these private companies have collected Aadhaar

information without appropriate permissions by forcing the customers?

#### **Women Village Level Entrepreneurs**

4581. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently inaugurated a workshop on Stree Swabhiman, a CSC initiative for promoting women empowerment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present number of Women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in the country and whether there is a plan to double it; and

(d) the amount that has been spent in the last two years for this purpose and the number of women entrepreneurs benefited therefrom, State-wise?

#### **Indigenous manufacturing of electronic items**

4582. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand for domestic branded electronic items and the items being manufactured indigenously;

(b) whether the domestic production of branded electronic items is adequate to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by Government for augmenting manufacturing of electronic items domestically;

(d) whether Government is contemplating formulation of any policy



for promotion of R & D in the field of electronics and information technology; and

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

#### **Purpose of Aadhaar**

4583. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Aadhaar was intended for direct benefit transfers of subsidies and other benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Government's rationale behind linking PAN, birth certificates, death certificates, voter ID, bank accounts, mobile phone numbers to Aadhaar number;

(d) whether instances of money laundering and black money have shown any decline post Aadhaar linking; and

(e) if so, the methodology of calculation and details of the same?

#### **Government initiatives for encouraging digital transactions**

4584. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government initiatives taken for encouraging digital transactions in the country;

(b) the increase or decrease in digital transactions in the country post demonetisation; and

(c) the details thereof?

#### **Carbon emissions due to internet usage**

4585. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that internet usage is one of the main contributors to carbon emissions;

(b) whether Government maintains any data regarding the carbon emissions of internet;

(c) if so, the details of carbon emissions due to internet usage, 2014 onwards, year-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has proposed ways of minimizing carbon emissions due to the use of internet, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Issuance of Aadhaar to homeless people**

4586. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of homeless people/people without a residential address across the country could not be issued Aadhaar number so far;

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

(c) whether Government plans to provide Aadhaar number to such people; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Use of malwares to steal data**

4587. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyber criminals are now turning to mobile applications and using malware to steal data that could be used for a number of nefarious purposes such as identity theft, fraud or pornography;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government has taken to control such malwares in order to protect consumers who are using mobile apps?

**Menace of cyber attack**

‡4588. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of cyber attacks in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to safeguard the country from the cyber attacks; and

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

**Incidents of breach of Aadhaar data**

4589. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of incidents/cases where Aadhaar data was leaked/breached;

(b) whether any investigation has been

conducted against the agencies which were responsible for breach/leakage of Aadhaar data;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against them;

(d) the extent to which the database of Aadhaar is secured along with the steps taken by Government to ensure the privacy/security of Aadhaar data; and

(e) the mechanism put in place for usage of Aadhaar data by Government agencies and the accountability of officials in case of negligence on their part in handling of such data?

**MoUs signed during World Food India 2017 event**

4590. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister committed investment worth \$11.25 billion during the World Food India 2017 event, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of investments received by the Government during the event;

(c) the details of the MoUs that have been signed during this particular event; and

(d) the details of time-frame fixed for the finalisation of these MoUs?

**Partnership with US industry in food processing sector**

4591. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is currently processing only 10 per cent of

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

its food, resulting in enormous wastage thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India aims to partner with US industry by borrowing best practices, technology and innovations, in exchange for providing US companies with untapped investment opportunities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Growth of Food Processing Industry**

4592. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Processing Industries (FPIs) are growing steadily;

(b) if so, the details of average growth of the industry during the last three years;

(c) whether the steady growth of the industry has succeeded in getting Foreign Direct Investments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

#### **Modified guidelines of PMKSY**

4593. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:  
SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has modified the operational guidelines under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) to set up food processing units apply only

to Mega Food Parks, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether proposals to set up food processing units received from private entrepreneurs have been rejected under the modified guidelines, if so, the number of proposals rejected and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether private entrepreneurs shall not be allowed to set up these units in future, if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Setting up of cold chain units/cold storages**

4594. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold chain units/cold storages set up in collaboration with public-private partnership in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the problems being faced by the entrepreneurs and stakeholders of Food Processing Industries and the steps taken to solve these problems/issues; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey to identify the places/regions for setting up of cold chains/food chains in various parts of the country in future and if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon?

#### **Entry of foreign legal firms**

4595. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has refused permission to foreign law firms and lawyers to practice in India;

(b) whether they can give legal advice to their clients on foreign laws on "fly in and fly out" basis, which means that they can not set up permanent offices in India;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also asked the Bar Council of India to make specific provisions to regulate participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **All India examination for legal courses**

4596. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to conduct All India Examination, on the lines of NEET Examination for legal course in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken to keep a check on legal courses run by the Private Institutions which are mushrooming nowadays?

#### **Setting up of an Arbitration Council of India**

4597. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to setup an Arbitration Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of setting up such a Council; and

(c) the various norms for appointing the Council's Chairperson, other Office Bearers and Members?

#### **Allowing Aadhaar cards in place of voter I-Cards for voting**

†4598. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to allow Aadhaar card holders to cast votes in place of those holding Voter I-Cards;

(b) whether the Ministry would consider to grant validity of Voter I-Cards to Aadhaar number itself in place of EVM machines which would eliminate fake voters and make casting of bogus voting impossible; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Arrests made under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**

4599. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:  
SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the police has arrested persons under the erstwhile Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, if so, the details of the number of arrests made since 2015, State-wise;

(b) whether there have been instances where the police forces are unaware of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

binding judgements of the Courts in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken any measures to ensure that judgements and laws reach the police stations, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Making delivery of justice fast and cost-effective**

†4600. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken various steps to make justice delivery system fast and cost-effective in the country during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether desired results of those steps are being achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Uploading bare Acts of Parliament**

4601. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Information Commission (CIC) issued a direction to the Legislative Department in November, 2015 seeking to upload latest amended versions of bare Acts of Parliament on the official website;

(b) if so, whether the said direction was upheld by the High Court of Delhi in May, 2016; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken till date, for ensuring compliance of the CIC's direction?

**Employment to registered railway porters**

†4602. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken by Government to provide employment to the registered railway porters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of porters to whom employment has been provided so far and those who are still without employment in the country; and

(d) if some porters are without employment, the reasons therefor and by when they would be given employment, the details thereof?

**Train from Ambikapur to New Delhi**

4603. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to start a train from Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, by when?

**New railway projects in Telangana**

4604. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several new projects and upgradation of present infrastructure are being taken up in Telangana, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of new projects sanctioned and the estimated cost of projects announced during the last three years in Telangana?

**Image makeover exercise by Railways**

4605. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to replace its age-old logo with a contemporary symbol as a part of its image makeover and re-branding exercise since independence;

(b) whether, in sync with Government's commitment to promote clean fuel, Government would even discard polluting diesel engines, with its iconic steam engines now confined to railway museums; and

(c) whether the exteriors of railway coaches are also to be given a makeover the uniforms worn by TTEs, as also and other staff on-board, including loco drivers?

**Release of berths under emergency quota**

4606. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for release of berths/seats out of the emergency quota earmarked in various trains;

(b) whether cases of corruption in confirmation of emergency quota tickets by touts, allegedly in collusion with Railway officials posted in Emergency Quota Cell (EQC), have been received;

(c) if so, the details of the inquiry conducted and persons found guilty during the last three years, Zone-wise; and

(d) the locations where EQC have been set up, including the number of officials posted in each of these Cells?

**Concession for youth of Jammu and Kashmir in Railway jobs**

4607. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in Railways at present and the steps taken to fill up the same;

(b) whether there is any liberty or concession for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir at the time of selection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Extension of track from Lohardaga to Gumla**

4608. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to extend its track/network to Gumla from Lohardaga in Jharkhand; and

(b) by when Ranchi, Lohardaga, Tori track would be operational in Jharkhand?

**Revision of flexi-fare system**

4609. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to revise the flexi-fare system in premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express to benefit crores of passengers of our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the

fact that flexi-fare system in Railways, where there is no private operators like airlines, is not conducive for passengers?

**Solar panels at all railway stations**

4610. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started the process of fixing solar panels at all the railway stations across the country with a view to curtail procurement of power from various entities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any target for reduction in power consumption by fixing solar panels at the railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Establishment of rapid rail from Hyderabad to new capital city of Andhra Pradesh**

4611. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking steps to establish rapid rail and road connectivity from Hyderabad to new capital city of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects sanctioned for this connectivity, their estimated cost along with the likely date of completion thereof?

**Serving of sugar-free tea and coffee in trains**

4612. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Railways had given an assurance in the House during the discussion on Railways Appropriation Bill, 2015 that sugar-free tea and coffee would be served in all passenger coaches of Railways to facilitate diabetic patients;

(b) if so, the steps Railways have taken to implement the above-said assurance till date; and

(c) whether Government will take urgent steps to supply sugar-free coffee and tea in all passenger coaches of the railways, irrespective of any category of trains such as Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Express, Mail, ordinary, etc.?

**Expansion of railway network**

†4613. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to invest Rupees five lakh crore to expand the railway network in the country;

(b) if so, by when and the details of the roadmap chalked out by Government in this regard;

(c) the names of railway stations in the country on which Government is going to utilize the said amount along with the details thereof; and

(d) whether the scheme may result in increase of rail fares, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Vacancies under Railways**

4614. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies, category-wise in the different wings under different divisions of Railways as on date; and

(b) the steps Railways are going to take to fill-up the vacancies?

**Language on Smart Cards of Kolkata Metro Rail**

4615. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kolkata Metro Rail commuter's Smart Cards do not have a single word in Bangla;

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

(c) whether Bengali, the language of the majority of the people of West Bengal, will be incorporated in the Kolkata Metro Railways commuters' Smart Cards;

(d) if so, the time-bound details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Rail route for carrying coal from Korba railway yard to Balco plant**

†4616. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail route used by Balco (Vedanta), District Korba, Chhattisgarh for carrying coal from Korba railway yard to Balco plant;

(b) the details of ownership of the said

rail route and if the ownership is with the Government, whether it gets the fare/charges for the same; and

(c) whether Government/administration has any agreement with Balco for transporting material *via* the said rail route?

**Facility of escalators at railway stations in Odisha**

4617. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in the State of Odisha and how many are major and how many are minor among them;

(b) whether Government has proposed to provide escalators in railway stations which are visited by more than 25,000 people; and

(c) if so, how many railway stations in Odisha will be provided with the escalators along with the details thereof?

**Deterioration of operating ratio of Railways**

4618. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operating ratio of Railways during 2016-17 had deteriorated to an all time low since 2000-01, when it was 98.34 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways, in its books of accounts, made its pension bill look smaller than it actually was, to under-report its expenses by ₹ 5025 crore;

(d) whether it is also a fact that if actual expenses were factored in, the operating

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



ratio would have crossed 99 per cent, as opposed to 96.5 per cent shown in the books; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Total length of railway lines in the country**

‡4619. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway lines, in kilometers, already laid in the country by the time of India's independence in 1947, the broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow gauge-wise details thereof; and

(b) the total length of new railway lines laid in independent India during the last 71 years in terms of broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow gauge respectively?

**Purpose of flexi-fare system**

4620. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that despite an increase in the railway fares due to the flexi-fare system, Railways have yet to assure proper safety, hygienic environment and food to the passengers; and

(b) if so, the purpose of Government to introduce the flexi-fare system, when the passengers are not getting the proper facilities?

**Appointment of safety-related staff**

‡4621. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

of railway employees deployed on safety-related jobs happen to be quite low, which includes Gangmen as well as Gatemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to recruit or appoint more employees to deal with the problems like cracks getting developed in railway tracks, the faults in fish plates and sabotage taking place due to shortage of employees, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of solar power plants on vacant railway land**

4622. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a roadmap for setting up solar power plants on vacant railway land in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

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

(c) in what manner Government proposes to utilize the power generated from these solar power plants, particularly in Maharashtra?

**Unavailability of seats for apprentices trained outside Railways**

4623. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 per cent seats, for apprentices trained in Railways, are not available to apprentices from other than Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rules/ regulations under which this restriction has been decided?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Vacancies in Group-IV for apprentices trained in Railways**

4624. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 20 per cent of vacancies in Group-IV for apprentices trained in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of such vacancies; and

(c) how soon these posts would be filled up?

**Reverse auction on electronic platform**

4625. DR. T. SUBBRAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to opt for reverse auction on electronic platform with the technically qualified bidders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any software is being developed for this purpose;

(d) whether specific areas, where new vendors are required, have been identified, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of money expected to be saved in a year if this auction process is opted?

**Sukhi Griha Prakalpa scheme**

†4626. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it was announced in Railway Budget 2011-12 that pucca houses would be given to people living in shanties alongside railways tracks under Sukhi Griha Prakalpa scheme;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far under this scheme;

(c) whether funds were released for Delhi and Maharashtra under this scheme; and

(d) if so, whether the said funds have been utilised?

**Provision of pucca houses to slum dwellers living on railway land**

†4627. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways and the Government of Maharashtra have decided to provide pucca houses to slum dwellers living on railway land;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and agreement between Railways and the Government of Maharashtra in this regard; and

(c) the States with whom such agreement has been signed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Railway land to private sector for development**

†4628. SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land of Railways is being given to private sector in the name of development;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far for transferring railway land to private sector and the outline thereof; and

(c) the details thereof?

**Strengthening of field units and Zonal railways**

4629. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways proposes to strengthen the field units and Zonal railways;

(b) the details of Joint Secretary and above posts or elements of higher grade posts to upgrade lower grade posts in the Ministry of Railways, which have been transferred from field units to Delhi during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for transferring senior management level posts to Delhi; and

(d) the details of the policy of Ministry of Railways in this regard?

**Payment of salaries to employees of Burn Standard and Company Limited**

4630. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:  
SHRIMATI SHANTA  
CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Burn Standard and Company Limited employees who have not been paid salaries and the amount thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry plans to shut Burn Standard and Company Limited, sell it fully or partly to private parties, or revive it with a fresh plan the details thereof?

**Net sales and revenue collected Burn Standard and Company Limited**

4631. SHRIMATI SHANTA  
CHHETRI:  
SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the net sales and revenue collected by Burn Standard and Company Limited in the last three years;

(b) the debt owed by the company to its operational creditors, including suppliers and contractors, and its employees; and

(c) the number of wagons made/ repaired in the last three years by it?

**FDI in Railways**

4632. SHRIMATI SHANTA  
CHHETRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) made in the railway

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sector during the last three years, including the current year, the details thereof along with the fields of the investments made;

(b) whether the Ministry has signed MoUs with foreign nations for sharing technology and to manufacture high-speed trains, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any foreign companies/ Governments have shown interest in the redevelopment and infrastructural enhancement of the railway stations in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**Broad gauge conversion of Ujjain-Fatehabad railway track**

†4633. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of demands made by people's representatives in a function organised at Indore-Ujjain on 17 March, 2018 with regard to broad gauge conversion of Ujjain-Fatehabad railway track falling under Western Railway, along with the details of announcement made by the Minister of Railways?

**Share of Railways in freight movement**

4634. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Indian Railways in freight movement has been witnessing a drop over a period of time, mainly on account of non-competitive tariff structure; and

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

**Land acquisition for Sivok-Rangpo railway project**

4635. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are facing difficulty in acquisition of land for its proposed strategic rail project from Sivok to Rangpo;

(b) the places where the problem of acquisition of land is arising; and

(c) the efforts being made by Railways to acquire the land at the earliest?

**Scheme for building bridges at unmanned level crossings**

4636. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) in the country, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of deaths that took place at these, UMLCs during the last three years;

(c) whether Government had earlier finalised a scheme for building bridges at railway crossings; and

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

**Vacancies in safety category**

4637. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of vacancies in safety category are lying vacant in different Zones of Railways;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, how Railway authorities are managing with shortage of huge staff; and

(c) the efforts being made by Railways to fill up all the vacancies in the interest of safety of railways along with the details thereof?

**Support to food processing units of Tamil Nadu**

4638. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated any funds or subsidy for the mango pulp and tamarind processing units in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) whether Central Government has received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide support for the export of processed mango pulp and other food products from the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Central Government's stand in this regard?

**Steps taken to bring energy/fuel efficiency in Railways**

4639. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the major steps taken by Railways to cut down use of diesel fuel as also to

bring energy/fuel efficiency in its operational system to cut down cost during the last one decade;

(b) whether such steps have yielded some positive results in terms of energy/monetary savings, the details thereof;

(c) the details of energy consumption during the last three years, division-wise; and

(d) whether Railways have charted out a plan to expand the use of solar energy in its system, if so, the details thereof and by when it would be feasible to be used in train operations also?

**Installation of anti-collision devices in trains**

4640. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have failed to check frequent train accidents;

(b) if so, whether Railways have taken any decision to install anti-collision devices for preventing the said accidents;

(c) if so, the reasons for not using the said device in all the railway Zones after its successful installation on pilot basis in the year 2006;

(d) whether Railways propose to prepare any action plan for taking immediate action regarding installation of the said device to check train accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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<b>Law and Justice</b>	:	4595, 4596, 4597, 4598, 4599, 4600, 4601,
<b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>	:	—
<b>Railways</b>	:	4602, 4603, 4604, 4605, 4606, 4607, 4608, 4609, 4610, 4611, 4612, 4613, 4614, 4615, 4616, 4617, 4618, 4619, 4620, 4621, 4622, 4623, 4624, 4625, 4626, 4627, 4628, 4629, 4630, 4631, 4632, 4633, 4634, 4635, 4636, 4637, 4639, 4640.