

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018/Magha 18, 1939 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Commerce and Industry; Culture; Home Affairs; Labour and  
Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Petroleum and  
Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Steel;  
Tourism; Youth Affairs and Sports)**

**Total number of questions — 160**

#### **DPR on export of Pulivendula bananas**

481. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under  
NABARD a Detailed Project Report (DPR)  
is being prepared to export the world  
famous bananas from Pulivendula of  
Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a few  
export agencies have also come forward  
to export Pulivendula bananas to other  
countries which are otherwise restricted to  
Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and to what  
extent this will help farmers from Kadapa?

#### **Employment generation under new Industrial Policy**

482. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to  
come out with new Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, by when it would be ready;

(c) whether in view of transformation  
and tough competition, Government would  
reduce the number of regulations and give  
more leverage to the industry; and

(d) whether any focus would be made  
on generation of employment and if so, the  
details thereof?

#### **Power to Inter-Ministerial Board of Approval to promote SEZs**

483. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the  
Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee  
constituted by Government has suggested  
that the Inter- Ministerial Board of  
Approval be accorded power to grant  
exemption, relaxation or relief to units and  
developers from certain rules to promote  
Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said  
committee has also invited suggestions

from stakeholders on the points raised by the committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Challenge to domestic content stipulation under JNNSM**

484. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic content stipulation for solar cells and modules under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) has been challenged in WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding India's position on above and the steps taken by Government to counter the challenge?

**Guidelines for grievance redressal through social media platforms**

485. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared any structured guidelines for grievance redressal related communications *via* Twitter and Facebook, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total grievances voiced *via* Twitter and redressed during 2014 to 2017 and what has been the general nature of these grievances; and

(c) the details of human as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure created for this task?

**Pesticide residue on exported pomegranate**

486. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been adverse effect on exports of pomegranate from the country, particularly from the State of Maharashtra due to pesticide residue on this fruit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this has affected foreign exchange earnings; and

(d) what remedial measures Government has taken/propose to take in the matter?

**Foreign cooperation in implementing 'Make in India' programme**

487. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sought cooperation and expert advice from foreign countries in implementing 'Make in India' programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Japan's help has been sought in this regard, if so, the response of Japan in executing only a few projects in India?

**Release of new Industrial Policy**

488. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Industrial Policy which seeks to promote emerging sectors will be released within a few months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new Industrial Policy will completely revamp the Industrial Policy of 1991;

(c) whether the August draft policy had envisaged attracting US 100 billion dollars in FDI annually and to promote foreign technology transfer as well as to create jobs over the next two decades; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Ban on import of chillies by Bhutan**

489. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutan has banned the import of chillies from India which confirmed the presence of pesticide residues beyond the Codex Alimentarius Commission's limits;

(b) whether the Government Test House at Alipore, Kolkata has also confirmed the presence of pesticide residues in chillies exported from Falakata in West Bengal; and

(c) whether the European Union has been imposing similar bans on imports from India, mainly on food and horticultural products?

#### **100 per cent FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading**

490. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to put 100 per cent FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading under the automatic route, accompanied by the long sought relaxation of mandatory local sourcing norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the concern being expressed by the small traders in the country against this decision?

#### **Decline in manufacturing sector**

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reasons for consistent decline in manufacturing sector, resulting in large scale unemployment along with the review undertaken by Government in this regard and the outcome thereof; and

(b) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to boost/improve manufacturing sector in the country?

#### **Operation of SEZs**

492. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 60 per cent of total notified area for Special Economic Zones are lying vacant, 224 SEZs designated as non-operational and 109 areas are in approval of cancellation;

(b) if so, total land acquired and now being actually utilized for the special purpose thereof;

(c) the problems in making SEZs operational, the amount spent on SEZs, employment generated and amount of exports by SEZ units during the last three year period thereof; and

(d) present status of SEZs in the hills, North-Eastern region and funds allocated and spent towards development thereon?

**Employment generation and investment in SEZs**

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for employment generation and investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the last three years;

(b) to what extent the targets have been achieved; and

(c) the targets fixed for the current year?

**Measures for development of tea industry**

494. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by the Tea Board/Government for the development of tea industry in the country, especially in Assam;

(b) the details of the schemes being implemented by Government for the welfare of tea workers/labourers, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide any special package for the development of tea gardens and welfare of workers/labourers with respect to education, health and sanitation?

**Benefits of global trade expansion due to WTO**

495. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits of global trade expansion have accrued largely because of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is optimistic about tackling the issue of food security, following the impasse at the Buenos Aires WTO meeting in December, 2017; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**US-India High Level Working Group on IP**

496. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US-India High Level Working Group on Intellectual Property met in 2017;

(b) if so, what are the issues raised by the US in the Working Group;

(c) the issues mentioned by the Indian delegation in the Working Group; and

(d) what are the main outcomes or decisions of the High Level Working Group?

**Changes in FDI caps in various sectors**

497. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) allowed in various sectors;

(b) the changes in FDI caps in various sectors in the previous three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to allow or increase FDI in more sectors?

**Setting up of iPhone manufacturing units**

498. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is waiting for good proposals from iPhone manufacturer for setting up manufacturing base in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there were reports that leading iPhone manufacturer has shown keen interest to set up units in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Incentives to States for promoting exports**

499. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give incentives to States for promoting exports and push the country's industrial growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for growth of exports and becoming less dependent on imports, particularly in electronics, defence sector, etc.?

**Installation of donation boxes at Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial at Rajghat**

500. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed installation of donation boxes at Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial at Rajghat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for proper maintenance of Rajghat as well as removal of donation boxes, disrespectful to the Father of the Nation?

**Cultural exchange programmes among States**

501. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of the State-pairs which have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with each other for cultural exchange programmes within the scheme;

(b) the details of the type of cultural exchange programmes involved in this scheme for children between various States; and

(c) whether Government has designed post-implementation surveys to evaluate the impact of this scheme on national integration, if so, the details thereof?

**Degeneration of Jama Masjid**

502. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Jama Masjid in the Capital has started

degenerating for lack of regular maintenance;

(b) whether Government has received any request from the Shahi Imam of the Masjid to carry out its repair and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken thereon?

**Offices and work force of ASI for protection and preservation of ancient monuments**

†503. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether offices and work force are operational at local level in various regions of the country by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the protection and preservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether offices and work force of ASI are also functional in Mithila region of north Bihar; and

(d) if so, the ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains being protected and preserved by the office and work force of that region?

**Making civic bodies to deposit library cess**

504. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether branch libraries and village libraries, located in rural and urban areas are facing serious problems due to fund crunch as the civic bodies are not depositing the library cess, collected from

people as part of the property tax, with the 'Granthalaya Sansthas' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government would take to make civic bodies to deposit library cess with the 'Granthalaya Sansthas'?

**Cases of theft of artefacts from ASI**

†505. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of artefacts reported from centrally protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) the details of stolen artefacts, items, their periods, place of their origin and historical values thereof; and

(c) the quantum of antique items brought back from different countries during the last three years, the country-wise details thereof?

**Introduction to Indian culture and traditions**

†506. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state the measures taken through various ways, means and forms to introduce people to Indian culture and traditions, the place-wise and form-wise details thereof?

**Action for return of Kohinoor from United Kingdom**

507. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in a counter

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in WP(C) no. 185 of 2016 with WP(C) no. 367 of 2016 stated *inter alia* that Government was mindful of the sentiments expressed by the Indian public and the Parliament from time to time, about the return of the Kohinoor diamond and continued to explore ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution to the issue;

(b) if so, the details of action initiated so far by Government for return of Kohinoor; and

(c) if so, the details of response received so far from United Kingdom (UK) Government?

**Vacant posts of professors/teachers in premier cultural institutes**

508. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts of professors/teachers are lying vacant in premier cultural institutes like National School of Drama (NSD);

(b) whether Government proposes to upgrade status of NSD, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to increase seat capacity of NSD from 26 to 40 per year; and

(d) the details of the proposal to open branches of NSD in other parts of the country, if any?

**Release of funds to States with international border**

509. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has released a sum of ₹167 crore to nine States with international border for the development of infrastructure in forward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) covers all villages which are located within 0-10 kms. of the international border in seventeen States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Organisations behind attacks on journalists**

†510. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of attacks made on journalists and the number of journalists killed during the last three years, the details thereof including State-wise cases;

(b) the names of the organisations whose role has come to light behind the continuous attacks on journalists and the action taken thereon including details thereof; and

(c) the number of such cases in which culprits have been arrested and the number of unresolved cases so far, the State-wise details thereof?

**Protesters killed by pellet guns in Jammu and Kashmir**

511. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protesters and bystanders injured or killed by pellet guns

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in Jammu and Kashmir each month during last three years;

(b) the number of security personnel injured or killed in protests each month during the above period;

(c) the number of pellets and Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl Amide (PAVA) shells used each month during the said period;

(d) whether Government has developed any alternatives to pellet guns;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **People killed by pellets in J&K**

512. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tests were conducted on the effects of the pellet-firing shotgun used against protesters in Jammu and Kashmir including the impact of lead-based pellets that are used in this weapon;

(b) if so, the details of procurement processes and the authorities responsible for testing and selection of the metal pellets and the details of the metals, used to make the pellets used in these shotguns; and

(c) whether Government was aware of the harm these metal pellets cause to the human body before sanctioning the weapon for use by Central Reserve Police Force?

#### **Status of fencing work along Indo-Bangladesh border**

513. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of fencing work along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) the reasons for very slow progress in the fencing work; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle illegal influx of immigrants including Rohingyas through Indo-Bangladesh border?

#### **Female prisoners in jails**

†514. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of female prisoners in various jails, especially in 144 central jails of the country as on 31 March, 2017 and out of them, number of those who are behind bars without even hearing of case and since when they are behind bars;

(b) the number of female prisoners lodged in jails, with whom children are staying;

(c) whether number of female prisoners lodged in jails is more than capacity and appropriate health facilities are not available to them; and

(d) whether Government is conducting survey to know condition of female prisoners lodged in 144 central jails of the country?

#### **Raids on ashram of Baba**

†515. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted raids on the ashram of the so called Baba Virendra Dev Dixit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the illegal acts detected during the above raids; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(d) the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

**Agreement with Bangladesh on illegal migrants problems**

516. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make any new bilateral agreement with Bangladesh on the issue of illegal migrant problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Assam is facing various problems in early updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and tracing illegal migrants; and

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

**Increase in number of gun licences**

517. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of gun licences have increased in the last two years;

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

(c) what are the reasons behind increase in applications and allotments of gun licences?

**Mob lynching of minorities in Rajasthan**

518. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have

been a series of mob lynching of minorities in the State of Rajasthan from May, 2015 to January, 2018;

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

(c) the list of incident-wise victims;

(d) whether the criminals associated with the series of minority lynching have been identified and booked;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) what remedial measures are adopted to curb such heinous crimes?

**Pending applications for Indian citizenship**

519. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of applications for Indian citizenship are pending from nationals of other countries, who are having Indian origin;

(b) if so, the total number of such applications pending; and

(c) the reasons for delay in processing such applications?

**Procedure to avail work permit**

520. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationals of SAARC countries who are married to Indian citizens are eligible to work in India;

(b) if so, what is the procedure to avail work permit in such cases; and

(c) whether they are eligible to apply for job under Government sector in India?

**Call rates for Border Security Force**

521. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the call rates made through satellite phones for the Border Security Force increased from ₹ 1 to ₹ 5 per day;

(b) if so, the rationale for this decision, when there is less mobile connectivity in border areas;

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure subsidised call rates on all satellite phones issued to the Border Security Force; and

(d) whether Government has considered bearing the cost of subsidised calls to security personnel until the Department of Telecommunications makes a decision?

**Division of Telugu Academy**

522. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation seeking division of Telugu Academy situated in Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad, in view of the bifurcation of Joint Andhra Pradesh State into two States viz. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in dividing Telugu Academy even after lapse of three years after bifurcation of the States, the details thereof;

(d) whether Supreme Court has sought status report on the subject; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government

to divide Telugu Academy between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh at the earliest?

**MISA and DIR detainees**

523. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and Defence of India Act (DIR) detainees during the Emergency, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) which are the States providing any sort of facilities including financial assistance to the needy surviving ex-detainees for their participation in the pro-democracy movements during that period; and

(c) whether Government would consider to allow any sort of such assistance, if so, what is the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

**Driving licences suspended by Delhi Police**

524. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Delhi Police is suspending driving licences for a period of three months under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(b) if so, the number of licences suspended and restored after three months during the last one year;

(c) whether it is a fact that suspended licences are not being returned in Delhi and NCR due to lack of coordination between Delhi Police and Transport Department; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to return the licences by the Delhi Police instead of Transport Department?

#### **Status of construction of BOPs**

525. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposed construction of 422 Border Out Posts (BOPs) along the Indo-Pakistan Border (IPB) and Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB);

(b) whether Government will be able to complete the construction of 422 BOPs along the IPB and IBB by July, 2018;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Meeting of Inter-State Council**

526. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the 11th meeting of the Inter-State Council (ISC) held on 16th July, 2016, it was agreed that the Punchhi Commission Report on Centre-State relations would be considered first in the Standing Committee of the ISC and then placed before the ISC for finalizing the recommendations;

(b) if so, whether the said report was placed before the Standing Committee of ISC;

(c) if so, whether the Standing Committee has considered the said report;

(d) if so, the result thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (b) is no, the reasons therefor?

#### **Housing concession for paramilitary forces**

527. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide housing concession for paramilitary forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the paramilitary personnel will be allowed to retain their accommodation beyond the three years stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Policy towards surrendered insurgents**

528. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government towards the former members of insurgent groups who have surrendered in the North-East;

(b) whether financial assistance is provided for rehabilitation of those surrendered people, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a special surrender scheme specific to Manipur is being implemented, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the policy has expired or lapsed, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any new policy or extension of the earlier policies is contemplated, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Indo-Myanmar Border Committee**

529. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of Indo-Myanmar Border Committee;

(b) the resolutions adopted in the meetings of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee is also tasked with the responsibility of filtering militants and criminals at the border, if so, the works of the Committee in this direction; and

(d) what are the achievements of the Committee till now?

**Incidents of stalking of women**

530. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of stalking of women have been on the rise across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the rate of conviction in these cases has been abysmally low;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure time bound trial of all such cases?

**Meeting of NPDRR**

531. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently

held a meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend financial assistance to the State of Himachal Pradesh so as to compensate for the loss of life and property occurred every year due to cloud bursts; and

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

**Establishment of Regional Response Centres in Himachal Pradesh**

532. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has been designated as the first responder in the Himalayan region and is the first to establish Regional Response Centres in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of equipments including disaster vehicles ITBP possess at its Regional Response Centres in Himachal Pradesh, centre-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to establish 'National Institute of Training, Search, Rescue and Disaster Response'; (NITSRDR) in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh; and

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

**Representation of women in State police force**

533. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the women

police constitute only 6.6 per cent of the total State police force of the country;

(b) the details of States which have failed to give proper representation to women in their State police force; and

(c) what action Government would take, in view of the rising crime against women, to ensure proper representation of women in State police forces for securing the women of the country?

#### **Funds for modernisation of fire and emergency services**

534. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made/proposed to be made by Government for allocation of funds for strengthening/modernisation of fire and emergency services in the country, particularly in view of increase in the fire incidents that have been taking place in various parts of the country and leading to loss of lives and damaging properties;

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing the demanded funds; and

(c) by when these fund are likely to be released?

#### **Undertrial prisoners**

†535. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners in excess of the jail capacity in the country and the number of undertrial prisoners who have served much more time in jails than the probable maximum punishment period for the accusation they are charged with; and

(b) the details of steps taken towards jail reforms in last five years?

#### **Vacant posts of police personnel**

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of police personnel across the country as on date;

(b) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts of police in the country; and

(c) whether in view of growing cases of crimes and for making the law and order system more effective, the delay in filling up the vacant posts of police personnel is creating hurdles towards prevention of crimes by experts in the domain of law and order?

#### **Increase in offences by juveniles**

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a massive increase in offences by juveniles has been recorded in the year 2017 in comparison to previous years as per latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government towards resolution of the same in view of facts emerging from categorisation of crimes by juveniles?

**SIT to probe deaths of Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh**

538. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received demands for Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the deaths of Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

**Andhra Pradesh Government's request to set up Task Force**

539. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government requested the Centre to set up a Task Force to look into the promises made to the State at the time of creation of Telangana; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon?

**Racial discrimination against people from North-East States**

540. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of implementation of the recommendations of M.P. Bezbaruah Committee constituted to look into concerns of the persons hailing from the North-Eastern States who are living in different parts of the country, especially the metropolitan areas;

(b) whether Government has framed or intends to frame a law or amend the Indian Penal Code to prevent racial discrimination against North-East people as per the recommendations of the Bezbaruah Committee; and

(c) if so, the progress of action taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Internally displaced people in the country**

541. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 30 lakh people in the country are internally displaced;

(b) if so, report of the UN Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre thereof;

(c) the action proposal of Government to settle the displaced persons and their rehabilitation thereof; and

(d) the details of plan to re-settle the people of North-East and remove the conflicts linked to identity and ethnicity of this region therein?

**Legislation for effectuating Right to Life**

542. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent message of UN Secretary-General that large scale infraction of human rights across World is a global challenge that defies our vision of humane and just world order;

(b) whether 11 years after India became a signatory to UN Convention Against Torture in 1997, India has not been able to

ratify it or to have in place a domestic legislation to effectuate the right to life with dignity in tune with Article 21 of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor and by when legislation in this regard is likely to be enacted?

**Ratifying UN Convention Against Torture**

543. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government shall ratify the UN Convention Against Torture, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is willing to recognise torture in any form as a separate offence in the country as also proposed by the Law Commission, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Creation of CTCR and CIS divisions in the Ministry**

544. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two new divisions, Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalisation (CTCR) and Cyber and Information Security (CIS), have been created in the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current number of divisions in the Ministry?

**Increase in terrorist incidents in J&K**

†545. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of terrorism have recently increased in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of citizens killed and the jawans martyred in those terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and the details thereof?

**Low level of infrastructure in jails**

†546. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are low levels of infrastructure in most of the prisons in the country compelling a number of prisoners to lead their lives inhuman conditions in those prisons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) since the matter of maintenance and management of prison lies in the jurisdiction of respective States, the special initiative taken by Central Government to improve the infrastructure in prisons and bring the prisoners out of the inhuman living conditions?

**Policing powers to fire services personnel**

547. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to have an overarching legislation to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

expand the reach of fire brigades and emergency services personnel by integrating their roles under a single entity;

(b) whether Government also has any plan to arm fire services personnel with policing powers;

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

(d) if not, the thinking of Government in this regard?

**Research to examine reasons behind radicalisation of youth**

548. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research wing of the Ministry undertook a countrywide project to examine the reasons behind the radicalisation of youth and possible measures to tackle religious extremism; and

(b) if so, what are the outcome of this research?

**Crimes against women in AP and Telangana**

549. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recently released statistics of the Ministry, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, along with seven other States register nearly 70 per cent of crimes against women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10 per cent of crimes against women in 2016 were held in AP and Telangana alone;

(c) if so, the reasons for increasing crimes against women between 2014 and 2016 in AP and Telangana; and

(d) the details of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted for crimes against women in AP and Telangana during last three years, year-wise, district-wise and State-wise?

**Prison population in the country**

550. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the prison population in the country and the total number of convicts in jails in the country;

(b) what is the detinue number in the Indian jails;

(c) how many women convicts are in Indian jails;

(d) how many undertrial prisoners are in Indian jails and how many of them are in jails for more than ten years;

(e) how many foreigners are in the Indian jails as convicts, detenues and undertrials; and

(f) how many SC/ST prisoners are in the Indian jails?

**Filing of returns by IPS officers**

551. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made compulsory to file returns under the Lokpal Act, 2013 by all officers of Indian Police Service (IPS);

(b) how many IPS officers have filed the return as on 31st March, 2017 and how many of them have not filed returns;

(c) how many IPS officers from Kerala have not declared their assets as on 31st March, 2017;



(d) if so, the name of such officers from Kerala; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against any officers?

#### **SMART Policing**

552. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of concept of SMART Policing introduced in 2014;

(b) the status of 2006 Supreme Court Directives;

(c) whether Government has any action plan to reform police;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is considering including 'Police' in the Concurrent List;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Increase in cyber crimes**

553. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Crime Records Bureau stated that India recorded 9622, 11592 and 12317 cases of cyber crime in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the data shows that the cyber crime has been increasing year after year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that people seldom come forward to report cyber crime because of loopholes in the legal system; and

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

#### **Raising of mechanised column by ITBP**

554. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved raising of mechanised column by ITBP for deployment at the sensitive border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the expenditure;

(c) whether it would include SUVs, all-terrain vehicles and snow scooters, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of personnel required to man the mechanised column and by what time it would be operational?

#### **Guidelines for NGOs/researchers to visit prisons**

555. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines prescribed in 2015 for NGOs/researchers to visit prisons undermines transparency and their ability to work towards welfare of prison inmates, the details thereof;

(b) State-wise and year-wise details of applications received from NGOs/researchers to visit prisons since 2013 and details of permission granted or denied;

(c) why a security deposit of ₹ 1 lakh is required to visit prisons, whether this provision makes prisons accessible to only the privileged; and

(d) why are jail authorities given discretionary power to delete objectionable

content recorded by NGOs/researchers without prescribing guidelines for identifying objectionable material or exercising this power?

#### **Militancy in J&K**

556. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise, month-wise details of the number of militants, security personnel and civilians killed due to unrest in Jammu and Kashmir during last three years;

(b) the year-wise details of number of incidents of stone pelting during above period;

(c) whether Government claimed that militancy and stone pelting incidents have declined after demonetisation, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government plans to take to deal with militancy and incidents of stone pelting?

#### **Modernisation of police forces**

557. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to take up modernisation of police forces on priority basis;

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

(c) whether Government has made any budget allocation for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details regarding Centre's share in cost of modernisation of police forces; and

(e) the details regarding allocations

made/proposed for the State of Rajasthan and the parameters and targets set for police modernisation?

#### **Educational institutions barred from receiving funds under FCRA**

558. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has barred certain educational institutions from receiving foreign funds under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding reasons for such debarment;

(d) whether any institution from Rajasthan has been so debarred; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996**

559. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cumulative amount of cess collected under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 during 2014 to 2017;

(b) how much of the collected amount has been spent by Welfare Boards; and

(c) under what heads has this amount been spent, what percentage of its total expenditure was incurred by each Welfare Board towards administrative affairs, State/UT-wise details thereof?

**Funds allocated and spent under NCLP and Grant-in-aid Scheme**

560. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and spent by Government under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and Grant-in-aid Scheme in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) through which the said schemes have been implemented alongwith funds allotted, State-wise; and

(c) the details of child labourers benefited under NCLP, including rehabilitation and skill training during the said period, year-wise and State-wise?

**Girls used as maids and domestic help in Jharkhand and Odisha**

561. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some of the States, particularly Jharkhand and Odisha, the girls are being used as maids and domestic help;

(b) what is the total magnitude of girls being sent to other States as maids and domestic help; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that minors are not made to work as maids and domestic help?

**Setting up of societies by ESIC for time-bound delivery of services**

562. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' State

Insurance Corporation (ESIC) proposes to set up societies across the country for time-bound delivery of services to its beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with financial cost involved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to transfer the reimbursement amount to beneficiaries with due diligence in a time-bound manner?

**Cess collected under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996**

563. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative amount of cess collected under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 during 2014 to 2017, the State/UT-wise details thereof;

(b) the value of construction work, cess collected, the total number of male and female workers involved in construction activity and the number of construction workers registered as beneficiaries under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the State/UT-wise details thereof; and

(c) how many workers have been issued identification cards by Construction Workers' Welfare Boards (CWWBs), the State/UT-wise and year-wise details thereof?

**Guidelines for grievance redressal through social media platforms**

564. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared

any structured guidelines for grievance redressal related communications *via* Twitter and Facebook, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total grievances voiced *via* Twitter and redressed during 2014 to 2017 and what has been the general nature of these grievances; and

(c) the details of human as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure created for this task?

**Protection of labourers and their welfare**

†565. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to give top priority to protection of interest of labourers and to their welfare;

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

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

**Percentage of women in work force**

566. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women's percentage in the labour force of the country is very low;

(b) if so, their current share in the major sectors of our economy;

(c) how this percentage compares with that in South Korea, China, Brazil and South Africa;

(d) what is the desirable level and by when we are expected to achieve it; and

(e) the extent to which it will increase our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth if the desired level is achieved?

**Increasing unemployment in the country**

567. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed in the country have increased approximately ten times and the number of job-seekers have also increased; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the employment possibilities increased by Government?

**Data on women engaged in domestic work in urban areas**

568. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic work is the largest occupation for women in urban India; and

(b) the data on the size of this labour market and the contribution of domestic work in Indian economy?

**Employed and unemployed persons in rural and urban areas**

†569. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the numerical status of self-reliant, self-employed or otherwise fully employed and unemployed persons in rural and urban

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

areas as on December, 2017, the time-bound action plan to provide them employment, and the measures taken to provide grant-in-aid to unemployed people as a means of minimum subsistence till they get employment; and

(b) the details of programmes formulated for resettlement of unemployed people?

**Advisories to concerned departments for filling vacant posts**

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry issues any advisories to concerned departments for filling of vacant posts in case of delay taking place towards the same across the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that unemployed people get employment and unemployment rate does not go up in the country;

(c) whether a delay is taking place in new recruitments towards filling up a large number of posts lying vacant in the country for a long time; and

(d) whether a number of cases are coming up with regard to delay in declaration of results of whatever recruitments that are taking place?

**Increasing unemployment and job losses in North-Eastern States**

571. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment and job losses increased in the country;

(b) if so, the details of unemployed people in North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken up some schemes or efforts to control the unemployment in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Loss of job opportunities**

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has collected information regarding loss of job opportunities in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of job opportunities in the country during last two years; and

(c) the names of industries in the country where there have been loss of job opportunities along with the number thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Provision of mandatory creche service**

573. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains data on provision of mandatory creche service at establishments as per the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017;

(b) the details of the number of creches within the premises of the establishments and those at a distance from the establishments; and

(c) whether Government proposes to share the cost burden of providing creche facility with the employers to discourage potential employers from reducing hiring of women?

**Sanction of ESI Health Centres in Jharkhand**

574. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to sanction health centres to the State of Jharkhand along with upgrading the presently working Employees' State Insurance (ESI) dispensaries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any proposals from the State of Jharkhand in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**Filling two million vacancies in various departments**

575. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has initiated to fill in two million vacancies in various departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc., at the State and Central level;

(b) whether the Ministry has written in this regard to various Ministries, PSUs, States, etc., to share list of vacancies; and

(c) if so, the details of vacancies that the Ministry has received from Central Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations, Institutions, etc.?

**Loss of jobs due to retrenchment or closure of concerns**

576. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many labourers left their jobs in 2016-17 and this year so far;

(b) what is the number of man days lost due to closure of concerns or retrenchment of workers or employees; and

(c) whether demonetisation or such measures introduced by Government has been a reason for such a development?

**Implementation of National Child Labour Project**

577. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of child labour rehabilitation-cum-welfare centres in operation across all the States, the details thereof, State-wise:

(b) the number of children who have got enrolled in the existing centres/special schools in past three fiscal years, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) the total amount of funds allocated under the Union budget for 'awareness generation programmes' under national child labour project since 2014-15 and the amount of funds dispersed to West Bengal; and

(d) the total number of awareness generation programmes conducted in the past three years, State-wise?

**Minimum pension for ex-labourers or employees**

578. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of ex-labourers or employees receiving pensions from public or private concerns during last three years;

(b) whether there is any minimum pension made available to them, if so, what is the range of such pensions; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to ensure a minimum pension to all ex-labourers or employees which will be proportional to current cost of living index?

**Special Scheme for welfare of women workers in the country**

†579. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any special plan for development and welfare of women workers in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any important steps have been taken for development and welfare of women workers under this scheme during last three years, if so, the major achievements thereof and State-wise details of achievements and steps taken, including the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether any facilities are being provided to women workers after retirement under any scheme, if so, the details thereof?

**Rehabilitation of bonded labourers**

†580. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of number of bonded labourers set free in the country during last three years and current year;

(b) whether Government has any plan for rehabilitation of these bonded labourers, if so, the salient features of the plan and its current status; and

(c) the details of sanctioned, allocated and utilized amount under this plan during last three years and current year?

**Performance of MSMEs**

581. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of MSMEs in financial distress (restructured or defaulted on loan facilities or in losses) since January, 2016, month-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of individuals employed by MSMEs each month since January, 2016;

(d) the share of MSMEs in exports each month since January, 2016; and

(e) the number of MSMEs which have been wound up since January, 2016, month-wise?

**Decline in revenue of MSME industries post-demonetisation**

582. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the level of decline in revenue of key MSME industries post-demonetisation;

(b) what steps Government is planning to take to reinvigorate those industries including manufacturing industries like textile industry in Tirupur, leather industry in West Bengal and Kanpur and diamond cutting industry in Gujarat; and

(c) whether Government is planning any compensation to protect the interest of the labourers who have lost their jobs due to demonetisation in MSME sector, if so, the details thereof?

**Proposal to set up new showrooms of coir products**

583. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new showrooms of coir products through Coir Board in the State of Maharashtra; and

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

**Support to States for development of MSME Sector**

584. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided adequate support and facilities to States for development of MSME sector;

(b) if so, details thereof and funds allocated to various States in last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken effective measures to provide adequate training and support to young entrepreneurs in MSME sector in the country particularly women;

(d) if so, details thereof and total amount spent during years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, till date and amount to be spent in next two years; and

(e) list of young entrepreneurs and women getting financial support and training facilities during last three years in Tamil Nadu?

**Encouraging development of MSME projects**

585. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to encourage development of MSME projects in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Schemes being undertaken in the States in this direction;



(c) whether it is a fact that Government has convened a meeting with State representatives in Delhi recently to discuss Cluster development programmes, if so, the details of the proposals received and considered for implementation under this programme;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose and released so far to each State, particularly to Jharkhand; and

(e) the details of ideas exchanged by the States in this regard?

**ONGC's request to fix higher gas price for KG Block**

586. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has asked Government to fix higher gas price for KG-OSN-2004/1 block and if Government refused to accede to its request, it has threatened to quit the above gas block;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and whether it is also a fact that US dollar 2.89 per unit is too minimum an amount and unviable;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC is also asking for higher price for its blocks in Kutch region; and

(d) if so, how Government is planning to move ahead in this regard?

**Agreement with Japan for cargo-swapping arrangement**

587. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which India has

signed broader bilateral pact to create a gas exchange;

(b) which are the areas of operations explained in the broader bilateral pact;

(c) whether any agreement is existing between Japan and India for cargo-swapping arrangement, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what will be the additional logistical cost expenses for the cargo-swapping arrangement?

**Increase in prices of petroleum products**

588. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene, Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas since 2014 till date, item-wise;

(b) the reasons for increasing prices of petrol and other petroleum products during the said period, item-wise;

(c) whether the increase in prices of petrol and other petroleum products are likely to aggravate inflation, increase transportation costs and increase the prices of essential commodities, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Organisation of Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayats**

†589. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to organise Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayats throughout the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(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?

**Withdrawal of LPG connections from PNG areas**

590. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national LPG coverage is 78.7 per cent and also that PSU Oil Marketing Companies are catering to 21.7 crore LPG customers in the country;

(b) if so, how can these figures be correlated/explained;

(c) whether there is any policy to withdraw LPG connection from PNG areas; and

(d) what has been the effort to bring PNG in rural areas so far?

**Reduction in import of crude oil**

591. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had resolved to reduce the import of crude oil by 10 per cent by the year 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has achieved any result in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh**

592. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has entered into an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) for establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal was cleared by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for pendency and by when establishment of this plant will be completed?

**Cost incurred on production of petrol/diesel**

†593. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that the prices of diesel-petrol would be fixed by the companies on day-to-day basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of diesel and petrol are on incessant rise ever since the decision has been taken whereas the prices of crude oil is much less in the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the total cost incurred on the petrol-diesel production and on the delivery thereof to the market?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Acquisition of GAIL India Limited**

594. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited are both keen to acquire gas utility GAIL India Limited to become fully integrated energy companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that GAIL feels that a merger with oil and gas producer ONGC would be more appropriate; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

**Splitting of GAIL into two units**

595. SHRI N. GOKULA-KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to split GAIL into two units with the marketing operations spun off into a separate company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the performance of GAIL, as far as building a pipeline network in addition to a possible conflict of interest in its role as the infrastructure provider as well as a carrier, was discussed in the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Restricting import of Petcoke**

596. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to

restrict import of Petroleum Coke into the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Petroleum Coke is highly polluting and is being imported and used after being dumped in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action, other than curbing its import, being taken by Government to restrict its usage also?

**Pipe supply orders under PMUG gas pipeline project**

597. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL India Ltd. had placed orders for another 400 km. of pipeline for the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga (PMUG) natural gas pipeline project that will take the fuel to eastern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with these, pipe supply orders for 2,100 km. of the Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro Dharma natural gas pipeline projects have been placed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in taxes on petroleum products**

†598. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in Central excise and VAT on petrol, diesel and gas since the year 2014 along with the dates

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

on which they have been increased the extent to which this rate has been high or low as compared to the one which prevailed in May, 2014;

(b) the revenue earned by Government due to increase in rate of central excise and VAT on petrol, diesel and gas during above said period, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to bring petrol, diesel and gas under the GST, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Progress of Barmer refinery project**

599. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total amount spent and released by Government or the agencies concerned for the Barmer refinery project till September, 2013;

(b) the progress achieved by the Barmer refinery including construction, land acquisition, design, etc. till the above said period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the foundation stone of the said refinery was laid earlier on 22nd September, 2013; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Action against use of illegal chips at petrol dispensing machines**

600. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government against petrol pump dealers who have been found installing modified electronic chips in machines;

(b) the action taken against the software

persons who have installed modified electronic chips in the machines;

(c) whether Government is planning a campaign to review rules/regulations by vigilance body established in each district to suddenly check the petrol pumps once in a month sincerely;

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

(e) whether Government is strictly monitoring all petrol pumps for quality and measurement of petrol in each district to avoid fraud and cheating?

**LPG connections under PMUY**

601. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections given out under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) till December, 2017, year-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries of PMUY returning for second refills of LPG, year-wise; and

(c) the average number of cylinders used by beneficiaries of PMUY till November, 2017, year-wise and State-wise?

**Investigation into crash of ONGC helicopter**

†602. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the facts which have emerged in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

investigation of accident of helicopter, being operated for ONGC, in last month of January at Mumbai High;

(b) whether without taking lessons from such incidents which had taken place earlier, precautionary aspects have been ignored;

(c) the steps being taken to avoid repetition of such incidents; and

(d) the steps taken by the Department for providing assistance to the members of families of those killed in the incident?

**Bringing petrol, diesel and petro-products under GST**

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

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on bringing petrol, diesel and petro-products under the GST net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken the views of the State Governments in this regard, if so, the suggestions made by the State Governments; and

(d) the stand of the Central Government in this regard?

**Illegal installations of chips in fuel dispensers**

604. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a few petrol pumps in some States have illegally installed a chip in the dispensers to reduce

the quantity of out flow than the actual measurement while dispensing;

(b) if so, the States where such illegal practices by petrol pumps have been detected;

(c) what action Government is proposing to take to deal with such petrol pump owners who have been caught cheating the public; and

(d) what measures Government is proposing to take to ensure that such malpractices and cheating acts are kept under check?

**Setting up of LPG bottling plant at tehsil Bairia in Uttar Pradesh**

605. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOCL had surveyed the land at NH 31 at Chanddiar, tehsil Bairia, district Ballia, Uttar Pradesh for setting up of LPG bottling plant and had found it suitable for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in setting up the said bottling plant so far at the surveyed location;

(d) whether due to some vested interests, said plant is being set up at some other location; and

(e) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

**Increase in price of diesel**

606. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of diesel has reached

at a historically record highest level during the month of January, 2018 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would reduce the retail price of diesel in view of plight of suicide committing farmers who use diesel at a large scale in agricultural activity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for this attitude of Government?

#### **Increase in supply of LPG from the US**

607. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG supply from the US has increased from 50,000 tonnes at the start of year 2017 to 2,00,000 tonnes in December, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's largest supplier by a large margin is the Middle East, which has so far enjoyed a virtual supply monopoly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increase in import of LPG**

608. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is set to surpass China as the biggest importer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas as a drive to replace wood and animal dung fires for cooking boosts consumption;

(b) whether India's LPG purchases have

surged from just 1 million tonnes a month in early 2015 on the back of a Government programme to bring energy to millions of poor households relying on open fires;

(c) whether it is also a fact that LPG customers have grown from 140 million subsidised household connections in 2015 to 181 million now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Strategic storage of crude oil**

609. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) had not recommended to set up strategic storage of crude oil project at Rajkot and Padur as proposed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has identified any other location for setting up of strategic storage of crude oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Action against under weighing of LPG cylinders**

610. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3837 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 2013 and state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by Government to maintain the approved weight of LPG cylinders in view of widespread irregularities found in weight of LPG cylinders in the country; and

(b) the number of cases registered on this count during the last three years and till date, company-wise, State-wise and year-wise, along with the corrective action taken in this regard?

**Making wearing of helmets mandatory to get petrol**

611. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-wearing of helmet is resulting in a lot of accidents and deaths on two wheelers;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that Vijayawada Police Commissioner has made it mandatory to wear helmet to get petrol from petrol pumps; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the Ministry not replicating this and making it mandatory for all OMCs, petrol pumps which, to a great extent would help in reducing the accidents?

**Funds spent by oil companies under CSR**

612. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total amount spent under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by ONGC, GAIL, BPCL and IOCL since August, 2014 till date;

(b) the details of projects/programmes undertaken by ONGC, GAIL, BPCL and IOCL under CSR; and

(c) whether it is a fact that CSR funds of ONGC, GAIL, BPCL and IOCL were utilized in promoting the agenda of specific

political parties since August, 2014 till date and if so, the details thereof?

**Beneficiaries under PMUY**

613. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the data of district-wise beneficiaries covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY);

(b) the refilling rate for LPG cylinders under PMUY; and

(c) whether the Ministry is looking towards cleaner sources of fuel in the backdrop of India ratifying the Paris climate agreement and if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in gas prices**

614. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in October, 2014 evolved a new pricing formula using rates prevalent in gas surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia to determine rates of natural gas prices;

(b) if so, how many times gas prices have been revised so far along with details of revised prices;

(c) whether ONGC and several other companies have requested Government to double the prices of natural gas so as to help them produce gas without suffering any losses; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to the request of these gas producing companies?

**Companies registered for skill development**

†615. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies/agencies registered throughout the country for skill development, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether these companies/agencies are performing well and whether any institution has been created or is proposed to be set up to regulate/monitor the same, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is a plan to black list the companies or companies have already been black listed for not performing well, the State-wise details thereof?

**Stipend paid to trainees under PMKVY**

†616. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of trainees enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) so far in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) the details of total amount of stipend paid under this programme so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the payment of prescribed stipend to the trainees?

**Functioning of NSDC**

617. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT

AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the functioning of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the budget allocated to it since its inception;

(b) the quantum of funds disbursed and the number of persons trained, during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) the number of persons trained under Domestic Workers Sector Skill Council (DWSSC) during the last two years and the current year, State-wise?

**Achievements under skill development programme**

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

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by Government for providing jobs to the youth of the country under skill development programme;

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

(c) the new steps that Government is going to take/proposed to be taken for removing unemployment throughout the country among educated/skilled and unskilled youths in various States, the State-wise details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Indigenous production of high-quality steel**

619. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is still dependent on import of high-quality steel for use in several high-end sectors like defence, space, nuclear, etc. despite being third largest producer of iron and steel;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government and private sectors spend negligible funds towards Research and Development (R&D) in the field of iron and steel technology; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to fund R&D generously and even encourage private sector to put in funds for R&D to the tune of one per cent of the cost of products as is the practice in USA, China and Japan?

**Compensation for establishment of Bokaro Steel Plant**

620. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decades after establishment of Bokaro Steel Plant, the issue of compensation and provision of job to land losers has still not been settled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that descendants of land losers continue to agitate on this count; and

(c) total number of persons arrested and prosecuted in the last three years, on account of the above?

**Amount spent on CSR by SAIL**

621. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total amount spent in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) since August, 2014 till date;

(b) the details of projects/programmes undertaken by SAIL under CSR; and

(c) whether it is a fact that CSR funds of SAIL were utilized in promoting agenda of specific political parties since August, 2014, till date, if so, the details thereof?

**Rise in country's crude steel production**

622. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's crude steel production rose nearly 6 per cent to hit an all time high of 101.28 million tonnes last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is taking various measures to promote the domestic steel sector and raise capacity;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government gave nod to a new policy that aims to achieve steel making capacity of 300 million tonnes by 2030 with an additional investment of ₹ 10 lakh crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Separate coal mine for RINL**

623. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Visakhapatnam has been suffering for want of own coal block, which is the main cause for the problems of the plant;

(b) whether Government has any plan of allocating a separate coal mine for supply of coal to the plant;

(c) whether any proposal has been received in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision to allot a separate coal mine to RINL, Visakhapatnam, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Establishment of IHM in Tamil Nadu**

624. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to establish another Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) in the State of Tamil Nadu preferably in Tuticorin district, which is a major tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Exclusive tourism zones in the country**

625. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes exclusive tourism zones in the country;

(b) if so, draft action plan and the potential areas therein;

(c) whether Government proposes for 'cruise tourism' in the country to attract more tourists thereof; and

(d) if so, the details of the planning and the infrastructure development for attractive tourism network in the islands of the country thereof?

#### **National Tourism Policy**

626. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how and in what manner will the revised National Tourism Policy be approved, whether Government has formulated a draft of the National Tourism Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would table the policy in Parliament for further deliberations and consensus; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Development of tourism circuits in Maharashtra**

627. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to develop tourism circuits connecting places of immense tourist interest comprising rock-cut caves other than Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta and forts of Marathas also in Maharashtra; and

(b) if not, the reasons for lack of initiative for promotion of rock-cut caves at Junnar, Pitalkhora, Karle, Bhaja, Bedsa, Lenyadri, etc. and a number of major Maratha forts including Raigad from tourism point of view which may generate employment for large number of unemployed youth locally?

#### **Adopt a Heritage Scheme**

628. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of historical

monuments in the country are being adopted by private companies in the country under 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme' of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the monuments identified for adoption, State-wise;

(c) whether the historical monuments in Karnataka have also been identified for such adoption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government for identification and adoption of such monuments in Karnataka?

**Impressive rate of growth in tourism sector**

629. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism sector has managed to achieve an impressive rate of growth in the last three years and is recognized as a means of achieving higher economic growth;

(b) if so, the details of the vision document formulated for promoting the tourism industry as also the roadmap to be implemented for the fullest exploitation of the potential in this field/sector; and

(c) the measures taken and incentives offered to various States to boost the tourism industry particularly in Rajasthan?

**Development of Tourism Circuits in the country**

630. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is proposing to embark on development of Tourism Circuits in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such project is proposed to be taken up in the State of Telangana, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from Government of Telangana in this regard; and

(d) the quantum of amount to be released for such zones along with the details thereof?

**Foreign tourists benefited from pre-loaded sim cards on e-visa**

631. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists getting benefited from pre-loaded sim cards on e-visa;

(b) whether all the international airports having e-visa facility are providing pre-loaded sim cards to foreign tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether there is any timeline to cover all the international airports with this facility?

**National Playing Fields Association of India**

632. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism exists by which the National Playing Fields Association of India (NPF AI) keeps a check on the progress made by various States towards the implementation of the guidelines issued by it;

(b) if so, the details of the progress registered so far by each State; and

(c) whether the NPF AI has a timeline of broader goals that it seeks to achieve in the short/medium term, if so, the details thereof?

**Steps to improve sports in the country**

633. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sports Federations (NSFs) are solely responsible for the condition of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the absence of sports culture in the country is the main reason for the dismal state of sports in the country;

(d) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any concrete steps to bring about improvement in the level of sports in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**'Mission XI Million' to promote football**

634. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the monetary and infrastructural investment made by Government under the scheme 'Mission XI Million' to promote football among the youth of the country;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiatives for the improvement in training facilities for the youth who have shown their interest in football through this scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to promote other sports in a similar mission mode, if so, the details thereof?

**Proposal to bring national award winning sports personnel under CGHS**

635. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to bring national award winning sports personnel under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any requests have been received in this regard?

**Training of young athletes and sportspersons**

636. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any effective measures and preparations to train young athletes and sportspersons in the country to gear up for forthcoming Olympics and Asian Games;

(b) if so, details thereof and total amount spent during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 till date and amount to be spent in next two years;

(c) complete list of athletes and sportspersons getting financial support and foreign training facilities, event-wise;

(d) whether Government has provided adequate support and facilitation to States for better sports infrastructure facilities to match with international standards; and

(e) if so, details thereof and Government's stand in this regard?

**Participation of NSS volunteers in Rajiv Gandhi Adventure Scheme**

637. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers that have successfully participated in the Rajiv Gandhi Adventure Scheme since its launch;

(b) the details of funds disbursed during each of the last three years to various organisations/States towards the realization of the scheme; and

(c) the methods of monitoring the implementation of these programmes done at various levels?

**Discrimination in National Youth Festival 2018**

638. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) recently organised National Youth Festival 2018 at Gautam Budha University with participation by all State units;

(b) whether students from North-Eastern States boycotted the closing ceremony alleging discrimination by organisers and other participants from the mainstream States; and

(c) whether the team from Manipur, winners in volleyball, was given the runners-up medals and Assam coming second was not given any award at all?

**Allowing online betting and introducing regulations/ legislations**

639. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been demands from various quarters to allow online betting and introduce regulations/ legislations for legalising betting in various sports including cricket in the country, if so, details and present status thereof;

(b) whether All India Gaming Federation has submitted a white paper to the Law Commission in this regard, if so, details and present status thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to sign an agreement with United Kingdom in this regard, if so, details and present status thereof; and

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of possible social ramifications of legalising such betting and if so, details and outcome thereof?

**Steps taken by RGNIYD to empower youth in Jharkhand**

640. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) is taking to empower the youth especially in Jharkhand;

(b) the details of the skill development plan—Diploma in Mental Health for Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth in Jharkhand

under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development and Dr. Guislain Svastha Education Trust; and

(c) the number and details of Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth who got benefited till December, 2017 under the aforesaid programme in Jharkhand?

NEW DELHI;  
The 1st February, 2018  
*Magha 12, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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