

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on*

*Friday, March 9, 2018/Phalguna 18, 1939 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 160

#### Drawbacks in e-NAM scheme

1601. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:  
SHRI DHARMAPURI  
SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that  
e-NAM scheme is suffering from ground  
level problems like, storage facilities,  
distress sale, transportation, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government has  
evolved any method to overcome these  
problems, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by  
Government in this regard?

#### Special package for farmers

1602. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to  
provide some special package apart from  
crops insurance, etc. to the farmers of the  
country, particularly in Maharashtra, in view  
of their continuing suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Allocation of funds for fisheries sector

†1603. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the names of various heads/schemes  
under which funds were allocated in last  
five years to promote the fisheries and  
amount released and due (arrears) against  
the said allocation along with the details  
thereof, year-wise and head-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that consecutively  
allocated amount to promote the fisheries  
has not been satisfactory for these years

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

thereby impacting the development of this sector for want of desired amount in this sector, the details thereof?

**Compensation to farmers for crop losses due to hailstorm**

†1604. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) the details of the loss of agricultural crops due to untimely hailstorm in the month of February, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided to farmers by Central and State Governments for loss to their crops after hailstorm under the Crop Insurance Scheme to bear the loss resulting from this untimely hailstorm; and

(c) how old is the rule to assess the compensation for loss due to various natural calamities, including hailstorm and whether the insurance companies and Government get away from paying compensation to the farmer under the guise of these rules?

**Damage to orange crops in Maharashtra**

1605. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unseasonal rain and hailstorm in February, 2018 have damaged Rabi crops and led to orange fruits dropping on a massive scale across Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered by farmers in 11 districts of the State;

(c) whether village level information has

been provided to the insurance companies for faster claims;

(d) whether Orange Growers Association of India has requested the Centre for releasing some assistance from the disaster relief funds; and

(e) if so, the response of the Ministry to the pleas of farmers and fruit growers of Maharashtra?

**Farming of remunerative crops in place of traditional crops**

1606. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state the assistance given by Government to such farmers who shift from growing of their traditional crops to other crops to get more benefits of their produce?

**Use of harmful pesticides in the country**

1607. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that banned pesticides are used for production and artificial ripening of fruits, vegetables and other crops, which have an adverse impact on human health, soil and livestock;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to identify the level of pesticide residues in the fruits, vegetables and other crops;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to ban the use of harmful pesticides in the country?

**Drought in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**

†1608. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received any request from Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding situation of drought in some districts of the State since 2015 to till date;

(b) whether the Ministry has sent any team to assess the loss to various crops, including paddy and cotton, in the drought affected districts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to give financial package to the drought affected farmers of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Policy to intervene during crop prices falling below MSP**

1609. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to frame a policy in consultation with State Governments to intervene in agriculture markets whenever prices of farm produces plunge below federally fixed Minimum Support Prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Promoting ecological agriculture**

1610. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking up special measures to promote ecological agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any specific interventions to conserve and revive traditional crop diversity and traditional landraces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Policy to promote horticulture farming**

1611. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a policy to promote interests of horticulture farmers by ensuring inputs at a reasonable cost and reasonable prices for horticulture produces;

(b) if so, in what manner the import policy of Government impinge on them; and

(c) whether Government would review its gaunt of policies in this regard in the background of suicides by lakhs of farmers in the past?

**Fixation of MSP for agricultural produces**

1612. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the costs of farmers, both in cash and kind, will be taken into account

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

while Government would set MSP at 1.5 times of the cost of agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **MSP for Rabi crops**

1613. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH  
VERMA:

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

(a) the details of increase in MSP for Rabi crops for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18, crop-wise; and

(b) the details of components of cost of production taken into consideration by CACP for determining MSP for Rabi crops for current year, crop-wise, with particular reference to wheat and paddy?

#### **Implementation of PMFBY in Bihar**

†1614. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing cheap and easy insurance services to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers living in remote rural areas get the benefits of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the number of farmers in Bihar who got benefited by this scheme along with the details thereof?

#### **Procurement of red grams in Telangana**

1615. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to lackadaisical procurement of red grams at MSP in the districts of Medak, Khammam and Bhadradi of Telangana State which has put farmers at the mercy of local merchants; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Central Government to redress farmers' grievances?

#### **Production of Tur dal in Karnataka**

1616. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the MSP of Tur dal and its production in the HK region of Karnataka, which comes under Article 371 (J);

(b) the quantum of Tur dal purchased on MSP in Karnataka;

(c) the demand of agriculturists in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is going to purchase it further to prevent farmers from getting low prices therefor?

#### **Registration of farmers under e-NAM portal**

1617. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers registered under the e-NAM portal since its launch, State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of farmers, out of those registered, making use of the platform for everyday transactions?

#### **Compensation for crop loss**

†1618. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the unit earmarked to establish crop insurance;

(b) to what extent insurance companies compensate farmers in case of damage and destruction caused to crops due to natural calamities;

(c) whether farmers have been compensated under various crop insurance schemes due to damage to their crops by hailstorm, excessive rains and storm during the last one year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Excessive use of pesticides**

1619. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States where excessive use of dangerous pesticides for agricultural purposes were made, have shown considerable increase in cases of cancer amongst the agricultural workers and those using their produces;

(b) if so, the measures the Ministry would deploy to restrict the excessive use of pesticides on the agricultural crops by the farmers; and

(c) the schemes Government has introduced to promote organic farming in

order to minimize the bad effects of pesticides on human?

#### **Doubling the income of farmers**

1620. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has announced to double the income of farmers by the year 2022;

(b) the schemes that would enable the farmers to double their income by 2022; and

(c) whether Government has made provision for allocating funds for fulfilling such schemes, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Growth rate in agriculture sector**

1621. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth rate of Agriculture in the country has come down to 2.1 per cent in the financial year 2017-18;

(b) if so, the growth rate of Agriculture in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17; and

(c) the reasons for low growth rate in the financial year 2017-18?

#### **Setting up of KVKs in Chhattisgarh**

†1622. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open eight Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Chhattisgarh although there are already eight KVKs under agriculture colleges over there; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether additional grant has been sought from the Central Government for useful machinery for crop residue management so that requirement of zero till seed drill, happy machine seeder racks, straw-chopper, bale straw reaper can be fulfilled?

#### **Impact of Neem Coated Urea**

1623. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neem Coated Urea (NCU) has been made mandatory for all urea manufacturers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all urea imported by Government is also neem-coated;

(c) whether any urea is imported by Private sector or imported by Government on private account;

(d) if so, whether such urea is also mandatorily neem-coated;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government has conducted a study to find out the impact of NCU; and

(g) if so, the outcome of the study?

#### **Fishery resources in Indian EEZs**

1624. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of potential yearly yield of fishery resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs); and

(b) the statistics of yearly extraction of fishery resources of the last five years from Indian EEZs?

#### **Deep sea fishing by foreign vessels**

1625. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extraction of fisheries stock by the foreign deep sea fishing vessels from Indian EEZs is reported; and

(b) if so, the details about intrusion of such foreign deep sea vessels into Indian EEZs during the last four years?

#### **Benefits of soil card**

1626. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is implementing a scheme to provide soil cards to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agencies involved in issuance and distribution of these cards; and

(d) the details of the benefits of this card?

#### **Subsidy component under the schemes for farmers**

1627. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to help the farmers and the subsidy component of the said schemes;

(b) whether Government has initiated any appropriate awareness campaign among the farmers regarding the availability of those schemes so that the rural farmers can be benefitted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Cold storage facility in Maharashtra**

1628. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of cold storage facilities in comparison to their requirement in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

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

(c) the reasons for huge gap in availability and requirement of cold storage facilities; and

(d) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

**Development of alkaline and acidic soil for agricultural purposes**

1629. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether salinity and alkalinity have adversely affected soil health and agricultural productivity in coastal/delta areas in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard to protect the soils; and

(d) the programme launched for development of alkaline and acidic soils for agricultural purposes in the country?

**Strengthening of agriculture marketing infrastructure**

1630. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that rural India is still facing poor market infrastructure leading to wastage of nutritious fruits, vegetables and raw materials due to lack of proper facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing adequate facilities of marketing or agricultural support services for preserving the fruits, vegetables or raw materials from the rural India; and

(c) whether Government plans to strengthen facilities for marketing and agricultural support services, if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of irradiation centres**

1631. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has signed a bilateral agreement for cooperation in the development of a network of integrated infrastructure irradiation centres between the Indian Agricultural Association, Hindustan Agro Co-Op Ltd. (HACL) and United Innovation Corporation (UIC);

(b) if so, the list of irradiation centres, State/Union Territory-wise, along with per annum capacity of each plant; and

(c) the details of budget allocated for setting up of irradiation centres, phase-wise?

**Suicides by farmers in Maharashtra**

1632. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides by farmers in Maharashtra during the last two years due to crop failure, drought, unseasonal rains, untimely rains and imbalanced loan waiver scheme along with the details thereof;

(b) whether farmers are agitating in the State, particularly in Akola; and

(c) the concrete measures Government is taking to check suicide by farmers on account of the above-mentioned issues?

#### **Setting up of new research centres**

†1633. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open new research centres for facility and training of farmers;

(b) the details of action plan being formulated and targets fixed by Government to double the income of farmers;

(c) whether Government is formulating any action plan for continuous new research for allround development and progress in Agriculture sector, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to use new research and cutting edge technology for protection of farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Steps to increase productivity**

†1634. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent arable land is single crop land in Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is a fact that cultivation of Rabi crop is done on less than 20 per cent of agriculture land; and

(c) if response to 'a' and 'b' above is in affirmative, the steps being taken by Government to check the migration, to achieve self-sufficiency, and to increase the multi-dimensional productivity in

agriculture in this poor State, if no steps are being taken, the reasons therefor?

#### **Farm input scheme of Telangana**

1635. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to replicate the scheme of farm input introduced by Government of Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria being adopted by Government of Telangana to disburse the farm input to the farmers and total estimated budget; and

(d) what will be the requirement of budget, if the same is replicated throughout the country?

#### **Production of paddy**

1636. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has produced sufficient foodgrains for its population;

(b) the production of paddy in the country; and

(c) the name of State that produces highest amount of paddy in the country?

#### **Agreement with UN for drought-proof Andhra Pradesh**

1637. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed any agreement with the United Nations (UN)

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



to make districts in Andhra Pradesh drought-proof;

(b) if so, the names of districts which have been selected for the project and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of project, including expenditure planned by various bodies over the next few years;

(d) whether any mechanism has been set up to monitor the progress of the said project; and

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

**Compensation to persons convicted wrongly**

1638. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to seek recourse to justice or demand compensation for those wrongly incarcerated;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to codify specific law for providing compensation to persons accused of or convicted wrongly?

**Medicinal value of cow urine and dung**

1639. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken any research pertaining to medicinal value

of cow urine and cow dung and completed the same in last five years, if so, the major findings of these research projects;

(b) whether Government has sought patents and IPRs for these inventions and research findings; and

(c) if so, whether these findings have been recognised by relevant international research journals, if so, the details thereof?

**Diversification of high value crops**

†1640. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diversification towards high value crops is an authentic measure to increase the income of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken several policy measures during the last three years with the aim of promoting the diversification of high value crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Agriculture growth in Gujarat**

1641. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that agriculture GDP registered an unprecedented growth of 8 per cent per annum in Gujarat during the period from 2001 to 2014;

(b) whether it is also a fact that agriculture growth in Gujarat was even higher than that achieved by Punjab during the Green Revolution heyday; and

(c) if so, whether Gujarat model was

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

not adopted in any other State and as a result thereof, the agriculture production declined during the last three years?

**Agricultural growth**

1642. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of Agriculture sector of the country is estimated as only 2.1 per cent in 2017-18;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the growth rate of Agriculture and Farming sector of the country?

**Promoting floriculture exports**

1643. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any scheme for promoting floriculture exports from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial assistance that Government has provided to Himachal Pradesh under the scheme during the last three years and the current year?

**Compassionate appointments in ICAR**

1644. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of appointment to the dependents of the employees who died in harness, are pending in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, (ICAR), Karnal, Haryana for years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by ICAR to appoint the dependents of the employees of ICAR, Karnal on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the details of the persons appointed on compassionate grounds by ICAR during the last five years?

**Rehabilitation of children and families of farmers who committed suicide**

1645. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the children of the farmers, who committed suicide, do not receive support both—financial and physical through mental counselling;

(b) if so, the details of rehabilitation and support extended during the last five years to the families and children of farmers who have killed themselves, to cope with the acute trauma; and

(c) the details of time-bound proposal of Government to overcome the struggle of minors to get their lives back on main track?

**Allocation of funds for RKVY**

1646. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and the expenditure incurred during last five years, year-wise;

(b) the quantum of funds released to the States under RKVY during the said period, year-wise and the funding pattern between States and Centre for the same;

(c) whether Government has undertaken an assessment of demands from States under the scheme;

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

(e) the reasons for reducing the allocation from Revised Estimates of 2017-18 to Budget Estimates of 2018-19?

#### **Central support to agrarian sector**

1647. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Ministry and the allocations for each of these schemes during the last five years, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the sharing pattern for each scheme between States and the Centre during the said period;

(c) whether there has been a decline in Central contribution to these schemes; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **New investment policy for Fertilizer sector**

1648. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH  
YADAV:  
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

(a) whether the new investment policy for the Fertilizer sector has been implemented in the country, particularly in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether Fertilizer sector has responded positively towards the new policy; and

(c) if so, the names of the fertilizer units which have been revamped in these States?

#### **Banning double pricing of drugs**

1649. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private hospitals are making manifold profits on drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed against the violators;

(c) whether it is a fact that drug manufacturers are engaging in double pricing policy on drugs supplied in bulk to private hospital and the open market; and

(d) if so, the action taken to ban double pricing of drugs?

#### **Demand and supply of urea**

1650. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall of urea in the country;

(b) if so, the details of gap between demand and supply of urea in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that huge quantity of natural gas is available in Assam at cheap rate; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a new fertilizer plant at Namrup under Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. to narrow the gap between demand and supply of urea in the country?

**Medicines for patients at inflated prices**

1651. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of reputed pharmaceutical companies have been selling life-saving medicines to hospitals and stockist way below MRP while the patients have to pay as high as nine times of the price;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per statements of All India Drug Action Network which appeared in a leading newspaper dated 14 July, 2017, 25 per cent increase in the price of medicines is earmarked for doctors, bureaucrats and politicians; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

**Cap on prices of medical devices**

1652. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after cardiac stents and knee implants, around 14 more medical devices that are rampantly sold at inflated rates in hospitals could see a price regulation in the coming months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has begun scrutiny of such devices and consultation with stakeholders over capping of prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Demands and supply of fertilizers**

1653. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable time lag between indented demand and actual supply of fertilizers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of fertilizers demanded and supplied to the States during the last three years and projected for the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the quantity of fertilizers supplied is not adequate to meet the requirement of the States and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Inflated prices of consumables by private hospitals**

1654. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed that, in spite of keeping cap on stents, private hospitals are inflating consumables used in angioplasty like catheters, balloons, guide wires, etc., since there is no price regulation or control on such things;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that private hospitals have increased the cost charged on these to make up the 'lost' margins on stents; and

(c) if so, in what manner the Ministry is planning to regulate such processes?

**Revival of Brahmaputra Valley Corporation Ltd.**

1655. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to revive Asia's oldest gas-based fertilizer plant at Namrup in Upper Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has assured Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL) to release ₹ 100 crore for revamping its two existing plants;
- (d) if so, whether Government has released the promised amount and by when the revamping work is likely to commence; and
- (e) by when the revamping work is expected to be completed?

**Revival of closed units controlled by the Ministry**

1656. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any unit under the administrative control of the Ministry, is closed down or running into heavy losses, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the names of such units and the steps taken to revive them for regular production?

**Setting up of NIPER at Chennai**

1657. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to open more National Institutes of Pharmaceutical

Education and Research (NIPERs), besides the existing 7 NIPERs, preferably one of them in Chennai;

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

**Import of fertilizers**

1658. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is importing fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the policy of Government for import of fertilizers;
- (c) the quantum and value of fertilizers imported along with the names of importing companies and the countries from which these fertilizers were imported during each of the last three years and the current year, fertilizer-wise;
- (d) the monitoring mechanism put in place to check quality of fertilizers being imported by the said companies; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

**Bidding system for coal mines**

1659. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of current bidding system for coal mines;
- (b) to what extent the present system is successful;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has formed a panel to examine challenges facing current bidding system for coal mines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Compensation to coal mine workers**

1660. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India has taken steps to redeploy/provide compensation to coal mine workers which are proposed to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor along with corrective measures taken/being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the number of families residing in unsafe areas along coal mines, till date;

(d) the number of families rehabilitated along with expenditure incurred on the rehabilitation during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure that rehabilitation process is not effected due to paucity of funds?

**Supply of coal to power stations**

1661. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal supply to power stations from Coal India Limited's (CIL) mines has risen 17 per cent in September to 32 MT from 27.4 MT in the year ago period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the coal shortage had returned to haunt power plants across the country after a gap of three years due to a combination of several factors involving CIL;

(c) whether the unprecedented rains badly hit coal production in coal mines of CIL during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Steps to reduce cost of production and import of coal**

1662. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate steps have been taken to reduce production cost and also import of coal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether steps have also been taken for rationalization of coal linkages and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent these steps have been successful?

**Supply of coal to power plants in Andhra Pradesh**

1663. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn towards shortage of coal and generation of power in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that power generation in Andhra Pradesh is seriously affected by shortage of supply of coal to the power plants, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment on availability and supply of coal to the power plants in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to make availability of sufficient coal to the power plants in the country for uninterrupted power generation?

**Supply of coal to power and non-power sectors**

1664. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that truck

transportation is one of several steps taken to increase coal supplies to power stations which has risen 6.8 per cent to 372 MT in the April-January period from 348 MT in the previous corresponding period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that supplies to non-power industry has also risen 9 per cent to 103 MT during this period from 95 MT in the same period of 2016-17; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Closure of coal mines**

1665. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines closed/abandoned during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, company-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor and the norms for closing the coal mines;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the loss/profit occurred as a result of the closure of coal mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by Government for rehabilitation of unemployed labourers of the said closed mines; and

(e) whether Government proposes to revive these closed coal mines and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Verification of mobile phone subscribers**

1666. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 5 crore unverified mobile phone subscribers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has plans to verify all the mobile phone subscribers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the timeline by which all the mobile phone subscribers will be verified;

(d) whether Government plans to control sale of Sim cards without verification; and

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

#### **Pre-paid balance owed by TSPs**

1667. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA-SEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the amount of pre-paid balance owed to the consumers by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) that are shutting down the operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to ensure that consumer receives the unused balance back from the TSPs which are shutting down their operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Internet and mobile connectivity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1668. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the internet and mobile connectivity and bandwidth in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar are of

poor speed as compared to other parts of the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that this causes great inconvenience to the local residents as well as the visiting tourists; and

(c) the long time permanent solutions Government proposes to take to ensure that all the inhabited islands of Andaman and Nicobar get proper internet connectivity as made available to other parts of the country?

**Implementation of BharatNet in naxal-affected areas**

†1669. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has monitored the status of implementation of BharatNet project in all Gram Panchayats of naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh for effectively initiating the various initiatives under the Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any independent body for ensuring mobile and broadband connectivity for all Gram Panchayats of naxal-affected areas of other States, including Chhattisgarh, and for monitoring the status of implementation thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Ease of doing business in Telecom sector**

1670. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is contemplating on facilitating ease of doing business in the Telecom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of Base Transceiver Stations**

1671. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed a target of setting up 25 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in order to enhance mobile connectivity across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Call drops in the North-eastern region**

1672. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether call dropping is rampant in the North-eastern region, especially Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the details of action Government proposes to take thereon; and

(c) whether digital connectivity through mobile networks is very poor in the region, if so, the details thereof and the steps Government intends to take in that regard?

**Raising of deposits under Monthly Income Scheme**

1673. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



raise the deposits under Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) from 4.5 lakh for individuals and 9 lakh for joint deposits;

(b) the return from MIS at the present rate;

(c) whether the return complies with per capita income on monthly purchasing power parity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the immediate action plan to raise the deposit amount upto ₹ 25 lakh with maturity bonus thereof?

#### **Revival plan for MTNL and BSNL**

1674. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any revival plan for MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to stop unfair competition among various telecom companies so that the employees and workers of these companies are not retrenched?

#### **Completion of first phase of Bharat-Net project**

1675. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first phase of BharatNet project, to provide broadband connectivity to one lakh Gram Panchayats, has been completed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is expecting to pre-empt its original target of March, 2019 for the second phase, by concluding it ahead of schedule by December this year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the

second phase of the project has been initiated for connecting the remaining 1.5 lakh Gram Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Steps for 5G test bed**

1676. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for 5G test bed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budget allocation made for the purpose in the budget for 2018-19;

(c) whether Government is planning to roll out 5G services in the near future; and

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

#### **Delay in supply of ration due to lack of Aadhaar number**

1677. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:  
SHRI MD. NADIMUL  
HAQUE:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of any instance where foodgrain benefits to citizens is denied because of lack of Aadhaar card, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the linking of Aadhaar number has caused delay in supply of ration to people, if so, the details of such delay, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has recorded the number of starvation deaths which are linked to delay in ration supply because of lack of Aadhaar number, if so, the details thereof?

**Service charge in restaurant bills**

1678. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people who did not pay or refused to pay the service charge at restaurants has increased to 37 per cent in January, 2018 from 35 per cent in November, 2017;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether despite the fact that the Ministry had called it an unethical business practice, restaurants still continue to charge this component in their bills; and

(d) if so, whether Government has taken steps to penalise such restaurant establishments, if so, the details thereof?

**Distribution of foodgrains**

1679. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount/type of foodgrains provided by Centre to States under NFSA for distribution *via* ration shops during the last five years including current year, year-wise;

(b) the names of States/UTs that are providing doorstep delivery of foodgrains along with the details thereof;

(c) whether all State Governments have displayed foodgrain subsidy borne by the Centre and States for public awareness, if not, whether any time-lines have been fixed therefor; and

(d) whether Government has cancelled licences of ration shops involved in unfair trade practices, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise in the last five years?

**Availability of good quality jaggery**

1680. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Ministry in ensuring availability of good quality jaggery (gud) in the country;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that there is no proper policy for jaggery production and the common man is forced to use chemically adulterated jaggery which is adversely impacting precious human health, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Ministry, in coordination/consultation with the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the State Governments to ensure availability of good quality jaggery in the country?

**Restriction in distribution of sugar through PDS**

1681. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of rice, wheat, etc., sought by Karnataka and made it to in the last five years and the current year for distribution among BPL, APL and AAY, year-wise;

(b) the details of pulses sought by Karnataka and released by the Ministry during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for removal of distribution of sugar through PDS by paying a fixed subsidy; and

(d) the reasons for restricting distribution of sugar to only AAY families from June this year?

#### **Cancellation of fake ration cards**

1682. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a number of fake ration cards in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of fake ration cards cancelled during the last two years, State-wise, and the resultant benefit to the Department therefrom?

#### **Inclusion of nutrients in foodgrains supplied through PDS**

†1683. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiary families whose Aadhaar feeding has been done so far under Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) the efforts being made by Government to manage and prevent corruption in shops functioning in rural and urban areas; and

(c) whether Government proposes to include nutrients in foodgrains that are being distributed, if so, by when it will be initiated?

#### **Under-weighting of goods by retail shopkeepers**

†1684. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail shopkeepers are under-weighting goods sold by them to the consumers;

(b) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor them;

(c) if so, the number of shopkeepers against whom action has been taken for under-weighting goods from the financial year 2016-17 till date alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will issue guidelines to the State Governments for safeguarding the interests of the consumers, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Consumer protection schemes**

1685. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for more than 76 per cent decrease in total expenditure of Central Sector projects on consumer protection in agriculture-related output markets, in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17;

(b) the allocation of funds for consumer protection during the last four years, crop-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken to protect consumers from risks of price fluctuations in agricultural markets and funds spent thereon during the last four years?

#### **Coverage under NFSA in Odisha**

1686. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the upper

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ceiling limit for eligible population for the benefits under National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the case of Odisha is considerably less than the estimates of the State Government; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government proposes to cover the eligible population left out in Odisha under the NFSA fold?

#### **Rise in prices of vegetables**

1687. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of most vegetables have recently shot up sharply making it difficult even for the middle class families to manage their household budget in the National Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also aware that prices of vegetables in the wholesale market are not so high but the retailers, who are also trading in the same market, are selling them at a very high rate; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to curb the abnormal rise of prices by the retailers?

#### **Investment for increasing storage capacity**

†1688. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total agriculture produces stored annually in the country

and the percentage of agriculture produces that perish due to lack of storage facility;

(b) whether the storage capacity of agriculture produces has increased substantially during the last three years as compared to earlier capacity;

(c) whether agriculture production is expected to increase manifold in the coming three years; and

(d) whether adequate investment is being made to enhance the storage capacity in view of expected increase in agriculture production?

#### **Procurement of paddy in Odisha**

†1689. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to procure paddy from Odisha from the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that complete procurement of paddy from farmers in Odisha could not take place due to lack of adequate godowns for paddy procurement;

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

(d) whether Government has any proposal to give bonus to the farmers of Odisha to ensure the complete procurement of their paddy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Investigation into Aadhaar details leak case**

†1690. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question no. 5 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2 February, 2018 and state:

(a) the basis of FIR against unknown persons instead of the name of journalist and newspaper in the reply of the said question while the offence no. 09/2018, dated 5 January, 2018 registered with Cyber Cell, Crime Branch of Delhi Police has names of few persons rather than unknown persons;

(b) the reason for concealing the names recorded in FIR; and

(c) whether the details of Aadhaar have leaked on WhatsApp and social media actually and Government would take action after getting the same investigated?

**Banks and post offices to issue Aadhaar**

1691. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UIDAI has decided to join hands with banks and post offices to issue/carry out changes, etc., in Aadhaar cards very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fate of private service providers, who have been given licence to issue Aadhaar, carry out changes, ect., if banks and post offices are given this responsibility?

**Secure plan to control information and data**

1692. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Ministry has been

able to ensure security of information and data it handles;

(b) how the private concerns became real controllers of data; and

(c) whether Government has any secure plan to control this field, if so, the details thereof?

**Critical infrastructure to prevent cyber crimes**

1693. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cyber crimes like phishing, scanning or probing, site intrusions, defacements, virus or malicious code and ransomware reported during the last three years;

(b) whether, in view of online transactions, the Ministry has adequate mechanism and technology to deal with the rising cyber crimes; and

(c) the steps taken to put in place critical infrastructure to predict and prevent cyber crimes?

**Setting up of ITIR in Odisha**

1694. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from Government of Odisha regarding setting up of IT Investment Region (ITIR) in Odisha; and

(b) if so, the action being taken on the said proposal?

**Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee  
on data protection**

1695. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has already prepared a draft Bill on data protection which has been referred to the Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee;

(b) if so, whether the Committee is bound to work on the draft Bill so referred or is free to suggest its own Bill based on the consultations undertaken;

(c) if there is a draft Bill, the reasons why it has not been made public to invite comments from stakeholders; and

(d) whether the Ministry now intends to put it in the public domain to invite comments from stakeholders, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Aadhaar card for disabled persons**

†1696. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar cards of disabled persons, leprosy patients and few of the senior citizens of the country could not be made;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering upon taken any action for making Aadhaar cards of such people; and

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

**Misuse of social media**

1697. SHRI HARIVANSH : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that social media is increasingly being used to spread rumours and defame public personalities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that social media is being used to disturb peace and spread terror propaganda; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to address the problem and to have an effective monitoring of social media?

**Implementation of BharatNet in  
Gram Panchayats of Odisha**

1698. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would expedite the implementation of BharatNet project in all Gram Panchayats of Odisha for effective rollout of various initiatives under the Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, the details including time-lines for the same;

(c) whether Government would constitute a National Task Force to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in Odisha and similarly placed States; and

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

**Pact with countries for exchange of  
information on cyber crimes**

1699. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is currently working towards bilateral pact with around 15 countries for exchange of information on cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken several steps to check cyber crimes such as legal, policy and institutional; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Siphoning off subsidy funds of subscribers**

1700. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UIDAI has slapped a notice on a private telecom operator for misusing the Aadhaar encryption details to siphon off subsidy funds meant for its subscribers to its own account;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the telecom operator in collecting subsidy funds into its own bank account, outsmarting the UIDAI oversight/mointoring mechanism; and

(c) whether any legal action has been initiated by UIDAI against the errant telecom operator?

**Aadhaar enrolment centres in post offices**

1701. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many centres have been set up in post offices across the country till 31 January, 2018, out of the proposed 13,500 Aadhaar enrolment/update centres; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to make Aadhaar enrolment process safe, secure and hassle-free so that those who are coming for enrolment feel free while enrolling?

**Mega Food Parks in Jharkhand**

1702. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking steps to develop the infrastructure of Food Testing Laboratories in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the current status of the Mega Food Parks in Jharkhand?

**Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yajana**

1703. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding objectives of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana;

(b) the details regarding objective parameters set for the said Yojana;

(c) whether any State-wise objectives have been set; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the detailed objectives set for the State of Rajasthan?

**Operation Greens to boost farmers income**

1704. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government started 'Operation Greens' to prevent distress sale of tomato, potato and onion by farmers in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has identified the States which are the major producers



of these vegetables and have consultations with them;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such consultations, State-wise; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

**Setting up of Mini Food Parks across the country**

1705. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR  
BALMUCHU:  
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Mini Food Parks across the country to raise the processing level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the sops and concessions being provided under this Scheme to the farmers?

**Specialized and permanent cadre for court administration, etc.**

1706. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to create a separate permanent cadre of administrators officers for handling and streamlining administration, management and financing of courts in State services;

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

(c) whether the proposal includes

speeding up court hearing process to reduce pendency;

(d) whether views of all High Courts, the Supreme Court and other Stakeholders are obtained, the details thereof;

(e) if so, by when a separate cadre would be created; and

(f) the allocation of funds made in the current year's budget and proposed to be made in the next two years for the said cadre?

**Disposal of cases of death penalty**

1707. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of death penalty pending with the Supreme Court and various High Courts in which the accused have been confined to imprisonment for the last ten years;

(b) the number of mercy petitions filed under Article 72 of the Constitution on behalf of the convicts awarded death penalty which are pending for the last ten years; and

(c) whether Government proposes to amend the law to lay down a timeline for disposal of cases of death penalty?

**Steps to decriminalize elections**

†1708. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preventing the criminals from contesting elections can be an effective policy measure to prevent criminalization of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) whether the Election Commission has sent any proposal to the Central Government to prevent criminals from contesting elections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**

†1709. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its report about election reforms has suggested to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken initiative proposes to take initiative to fulfil the constitutional process required to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Laws made to nullify decisions of the Supreme Court**

†1710. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of laws made to nullify decisions of the Supreme Court; and

(b) the number of cases in which the Supreme Court decisions have been nullified because of such laws along with the details thereof?

#### **Shifting of courts from Patiala House**

1711. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the CBI courts and cases of Patiala House courts are likely to be shifted to a new building in Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether issues relating to logistics, security, traffic, congestion, etc. have been sorted out at the planning stage itself;

(c) whether the new building has been designed to meet the requirements of lawyers in terms of chambers and of all other staff assisting the Bench and the Bar; and

(d) what does the Government plan to do with the existing Patiala House building?

#### **Setting up of High Court of Andhra Pradesh**

1712. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the growing demand for setting up of High Court of Andhra Pradesh in the Rayalaseema region of the State instead of Amravati, the State capital;

(b) if so, whether the Centre would concede to the demand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Timely framing and publication of rules and regulations by Ministries/Departments**

1713. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the timelines prescribed for framing, publication, laying of rules, etc., and implementation of recommendations of the Committee on

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Subordinate Legislation are not being followed by the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's proposal for a more practical approach in this regard?

**Implementation of 'Access to Justice' and 'Tele-law' programmes**

†1714. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where 'Access to Justice' project is being implemented under the joint programme of the Ministry and United Nations Development Programme;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise, including Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government proposes to implement the above programme in all districts of the country by expanding the same, if so, by when;

(d) whether Government has started or proposes to start 'Tele Law' programme for providing free legal aid, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government proposes to implement the above programme in all States of the country, if so, by when?

**Filling up of judicial posts**

1715. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering filling up of judicial posts lying vacant, including in various High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise and court-wise;

(c) whether Government is considering setting up of Family Courts to ensure easy access to justice and speedy disposal of matrimonial disputes; and

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

**Extension of retirement age of High Court Judges**

†1716. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to extend the retirement age of the High Court Judges from 62 to 65 years as is the case with the Supreme Court Judges;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Law for framing rules and regulations under Acts by Central Ministries**

1717. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no law regulating the framing of rules/regulations under Acts passed by the Parliament, pre-legislative and post-legislative;

(b) if so, the existing guidelines/instructions being followed in this regard; and

(c) how far these have been effective; and

(d) whether Government proposes to bring in a law for this purpose as prevalent in other countries?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Judicial vacancies and infrastructure**

1718. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than six thousand posts of Judges are vacant in various courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of vacant posts and pendency of cases, State-wise;

(c) whether Government plans to improve the judicial infrastructure to provide quick justice to the common man; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Functioning of Parliament**

1719. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days for which the Parliament functioned from the year 2014 onwards, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for fall in number of days the Parliament functions every year;

(c) the reasons for delay in the Winter Session of Parliament in 2017; and

(d) whether Government plans to announce the dates of all the three Parliamentary Sessions in the beginning of each year, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Increase in train accidents**

1720. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train accidents have increased during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the major reasons for surge in the recent train accidents;

(c) the steps taken to avert the accidents and ensure safety of passengers;

(d) whether adequate and timely compensation has been paid to all the victims and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of pending cases, Zone-wise, and the action taken to expedite payment of compensation in such cases?

**Rehabilitation of bridges**

1721. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges in all Zones of the country which are needed to be inspected and rehabilitated on a programmed basis;

(b) whether Railways have planned to work towards the rehabilitation of old bridges;

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

(d) the estimate and expected time to complete the rehabilitation work of bridges?

**Late running and reaching of trains**

1722. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry maintains data regarding trains running and reaching late, Class/Category/year/month-wise details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any steps to curb this problem along with the details thereof;

(c) the details of the losses incurred by Railways due to late running of trains; and

(d) the details of reasons for the delay as recorded by the Ministry?

**Termination of railway employees on account of unauthorized leave**

1723. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 13,500 employees of Railways are likely to face termination of services for unauthorized leave;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have launched a drive to identify long term absentees in various railway establishments falling under the categories of Group 'C' and 'D';

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the drive, it was found that 13,521, out of the 13 lakh workers, were absent from service for a long time without authorization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Replacement of old rail tracks**

1724. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy is in place in Railways to replace the old rail tracks of the railway network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether targets have been fixed under the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number and length of old rail tracks passing through Maharashtra replaced during the last three years, year-

wise, and the targets fixed for the State for the next three years?

**Upkeep of railway infrastructure**

1725. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents has increased in the recent past due to accumulated deficit in upkeep of railway infrastructure as a result of decades of neglect;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of such accidents occurred during the last three years, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to formulate an action plan for regular upkeep of railway infrastructure?

**Railway line from Tuni of Visakhapatnam**

1726. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long pending demand from the people and public representatives for a third railway line from Tuni to Visakhapatnam *via* Narsipatnam, Chodavaram, Madugula and Kothavalasa, as this is a safe route, particularly during monsoons, and the existing track is very near to seashore; and

(b) if so, the steps Ministry has taken on this proposal, so far?

**Criteria for selection of railway stations for redevelopment**

1727. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved

Railways' proposal for redevelopment of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations throughout the country;

(b) the criteria for selecting railway stations for redevelopment;

(c) whether it is a fact that no railway station has been selected in Himachal Pradesh for redevelopment under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Monitoring system to record delay of trains**

1728. SHRI JOYABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some trains are running as late as 24 hours or more, frequently;

(b) whether Railways have a monitoring system to record the delay of each train over the years so as to assess the quantum of loss in precious time and money of the passengers and Railways; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to improve the time management of the train schedules?

#### **Budgetary allocation and expenditure**

1729. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) reasons for expenditure in 2017-18 being around ₹ 14,000 crore less than budgetary outlay of ₹ 55,000 crore;

(b) reason for discontinuation of certain railway routes, when the total railway revenue receipts projections increased by 17 per cent compared to 2016-17, State-wise;

(c) reasons for reduction in the allocation on construction of new railway lines by more than 31 per cent in 2018-19 compared to 2016-17, State-wise;

(d) reasons for less funds spending than budgetary allocation in 2017-18 for construction of new lines, State-wise; and

(e) reasons for more than 70 per cent decrease in expenditure on rolling stock since 2016-17, State-wise?

#### **Crime against women in trains**

1730. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:  
SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crime committed against women in trains has gone up from 448 incidents in 2014 to 606 in 2017;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the status of such crimes against women in 2017; and

(c) the number of persons arrested since 2014, the number of cases filed and out of that, how many of them have been given punishment?

#### **Refund under Tatkal**

1731. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to fully refund the Tatkal tickets under some conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to increase quota under Tatkal?

**Installation of LED bulbs at all railway stations**

†1732. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has placed an order to a private company for the installation of LED bulbs of that company at all railway stations of the country without inviting tenders for the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the company to whom the contract for the installation of LED bulbs has been given and the expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon?

**Database of contractual workers**

1733. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are coming up with a database of contract workers in non-operational areas such as housekeeping, cleaning, consultancy, training and other such services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this new database would help to keep an eye out for any violation of labour rights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Project Saksham**

1734. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has launched "Project Saksham", a training programme for all railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made to raise efficiency and boost productivity in Railways; and

(d) whether employees will be sensitized about safe rail service and to cater to growing expectations of passengers and to provide better amenities and services, if so, the details thereof?

**Railway line from Kendri to Mandir Hasaud**

†1735. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway line from Mandir Hasaud to Kendri is being constructed in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether a railway line could be constructed from Kendri to Kankel *via* Abhanpur and Dhamtari as demanded by public; and

(c) whether a new railway line from Raipur to Jharsuguda *via* Baroda Bazar, Kasdol, Mehgaon and Sarangarh, which was proposed, has now been re-routed from Raipur to Baroda Bazar to Kharsia, is in public interest and whether it can not be made as per earlier route?

**Maintenance of railway stations by private companies**

†1736. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to entrust the work of sanitation and maintenance of railway stations of the country to Private sector;

(b) if so, the names of the stations selected to be entrusted to Private sector;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether proposals from private companies have been received in this regard, if so, the names of such companies; and

(d) the detailed reasons for taking such a decision?

#### **Delay in land acquisition**

1737. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to review further investments in new lines that have been stuck for a long period due to delay in land acquisition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways would start manual work and tendering of contracts only after the entire parcel of land needed for the projects has been acquired;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have requested the State Governments to initiate or expedite the land acquisition process so that project activities may continue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **ROB near Vidya Vihar railway station**

1738. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Road Over Bridge (ROB) is proposed near the Vidya Vihar railway station on the Central Railway Suburban network in Mumbai;

(b) the salient features of this ROB project; and

(c) by when this ROB is expected to be completed?

#### **Engagement of professional housekeeping agencies for cleaning of coaches**

1739. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have engaged professional housekeeping agencies through outsourcing for cleaning of coaches of trains, including toilets;

(b) the number of posts of Safai Karamcharis which are lying vacant in Railways;

(c) if so, the measure being taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts and by when these would be filled up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Speed of freight trains**

1740. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that freight traffic throughout the country is lower as compared to China;

(b) the measures undertaken to modernize the rolling stock, tracks and signalling system; and

(c) the specific steps being contemplated to increase the speed of freight trains for fast movement of freight traffic?

#### **Day train between Chennai and Nagercoil**

1741. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to run day train between Chennai and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu;

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

**Healthcare centres and Jan Aushadhi stores at railway stations**

1742. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to establish healthcare centres along with Jan Aushadhi Stores at various railway stations of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various facilities that would be available in such proposed healthcare centres?

**Railway projects in Chhattisgarh**

†1743. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on-going railway projects in Chhattisgarh, project-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) the details of the number of projects which are running behind schedule, Zone-wise;

(c) the details regarding the reasons for delay in completing such projects, project-wise and whether the cost of projects will increase due to this, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to complete these projects on time, if so, the details thereof?

**Introduction of colour-painted rail tracks**

1744. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce colour-painted rail tracks to avoid track fracture and erosion; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be implemented and sections selected for such rail painting work on priority?

**Allocation for Railway projects**

1745. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as far as the allocation for railway projects is concerned, the opposition ruled States have been ignored;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of allocation for the last three years, State-wise?

**Funds for completion of projects in West Bengal**

1746. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of Central funds from the Ministry is working as an hindrance for completion of major projects, including a wagon component factory at Jellingham, a factory at Budge Budge, a coach mid-life rehabilitation workshop at Anara, a 1420 MW super critical power plant with NTPC in Adra, and a wagon factory at Kulti, West Bengal;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) by when the projects would be completed?

**Free Wi-Fi service by RailTel**

1747. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway stations in the country providing RailTel free Wi-Fi facility, State-wise;  
 (b) the amount of data consumed per month, State-wise;  
 (c) the cost incurred by RailTel in providing free Wi-Fi services, till now; and  
 (d) whether Government plans to setup free Wi-Fi facilities at all railway stations of the country?

**Provision of tools to coolies to carry heavy baggages**

1748. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to recruit coolies from stations across the country with upgraded tools to carry heavy baggages of the passengers;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for non-availability of tools for carrying baggages; and  
 (c) the details of total number of platforms which do not have ramps to use trolleys and wheelchairs?

**Complaints regarding non-functional bio-toilets**

1749. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there were more than two lakh complaints reported regarding choking, foul smelling and non-functional bio-toilets in trains in 2016-17;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways decided to equip coaches with 10,000 bio-toilets without waiting for results of performance trials of different variants of bio-toilets;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision for large scale installation of bio-toilets in coaches had been taken in a hurry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Production of modern Train sets**

1750. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have fixed a target to have CCTV cameras and Wi-Fi in all trains, coaches and stations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways plan to create world class modern train sets, including Train-18 and Train-20;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways aim to produce 100 Train sets, which will replace Shatabdi and Rajdhani coaches in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Review of flexi fare system**

1751. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:  
 SHRI DHARMAPURI  
 SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is reviewing the matter of flexi fare system in the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this will be done?

**Electrification projects under North Eastern Railway**

†1752. SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway electrification project in the North Eastern Railway is lagging behind its schedule, which may increase its cost;

(b) the names of electrification projects being undertaken by the North Eastern Railway and the delayed projects out of them, along with the proposed electrification projects;

(c) the amount allocated and released for the same during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

**Railway officers on deputation**

†1753. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group 'A; and 'B' officers of various zonal Railways who went on deputation to other departments and returned to their posts after completion of tenure during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of them, there are several officers who again went

on deputation without returning to their parent department; and

(c) if so, the details of such employees and whether it is violation of cooling-off rules issued by Department of Personnel and Training?

**Late arrival of trains to Delhi**

†1754. SHRIMATI CHHAYA  
VERMA:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR  
PRASAD NISHAD:  
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons the superfast trains coming towards Delhi from Barauni of East Central Railway and from Gorakhpur of North Eastern Railway are delayed between Malhaur and Lucknow railway stations and the problems being faced for resolving the same;

(b) the department responsible to monitor the punctuality of these trains and whether the same is not functioning properly, resulting in the late arrival of trains; and

(c) the satisfactory steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure that the trains departing from Barauni station of East Central Railway and North Eastern Railway reach well in time?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Steps to ensure punctuality of passenger trains**

1755. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the regular delay in passenger trains, and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to revise the time-tables of passenger trains to ensure correct running time along with the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to ensure punctuality in operation of passenger trains with details of results achieved, till date; and

(d) whether Government plans to initiate a scheme to refund/compensate passengers for delay in trains owing to loss of time of passengers, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Extension of Gautami Express upto Lingampalli**

1756. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representations or any proposal from Government of Telangana requesting for extension of Gautami Express upto Lingampalli in Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any decision on the matter, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Computerized accounting system**

1757. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have set up a fully computerized accounting system to ensure conformity with internationally accepted accounting practices;

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

(c) the steps being taken to make the production units as profit centres;

(d) whether there is any plan for outsourcing of non-core activities in the Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Redevelopment of railway stations under AMRUT scheme**

1758. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has come out with a list of stations for the first phase of redevelopment under the AMRUT scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the expected date of completion of railway stations chosen under the scheme; and

(c) whether the pilot project of redevelopment of railway stations in/ around the smart cities is funded under AMRUT or by the Ministry of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

**Proposal for Railway Division at Gulbarga, Karnataka**

1759. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposal for Railway Division at Gulbarga, Karnataka;

(b) by when this 371(J) Region aspiration will be fulfilled; and

(c) the details of financial provision therefor?

**CCTV cameras and live footage in trains**

†1760. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to install CCTV cameras and provide live footage in trains;

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

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

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd March, 2018*  
*Phalgun 12, 1939 (Saka)*

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*

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**(Ministry-wise)**

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