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No. 10



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

8 May, 2015

18 Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**RAJYA SABHA**

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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## RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 8th May, 2015/18th Vaisakha, 1937 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : सर, मैं एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ  
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please.  
...*(Interruptions)*... No, let me do this. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will come back to you. Let  
me do this.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### I. Notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice

#### II. Accounts (2012-13) of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) Notification No. G.S.R. 297 (E), dated the 17th April, 2015, publishing the National Judicial Appointments Commission (Fees and Allowances Payable to Eminent Persons) Rules, 2015, under Section 13 of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2548/16/15]

- II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (5) of Section 18 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:—

(a) Annual Accounts of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, for the year 2012-13, and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the Report.

- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2455/16/15]

#### I. Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**II. Report and Accounts (2013-14) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), New Delhi and related papers**

**III. MoU (2015-16) between the Government of India and the Food Corporation of India**

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :—

- I (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), Notification No. G.S.R. 89 (E), dated the 17th February, 2014, publishing the Consumer Protection (Procedure for regulation of allowing appearance of Agents or representatives or Non-Advocates or Voluntary Organisations before the Consumer Forum), Regulations, 2014, under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1870/16/15]
- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 127 (E), dated the 27th February, 2015, publishing the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2015, under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2368/16/15]
- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), Notification No. G.S.R. 213 (E), dated the 20th March, 2015, publishing the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2368/16/15]
- II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of Section 35 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964:—
  - (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), New Delhi, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2472/16/15]

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution) and the Food Corporation of India, for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2471/16/15]

**I. Notification of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**

**II. Report and Accounts (2013-14) of the Hemisphere Properties India Limited (HPIL), New Delhi and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), New Delhi and related papers**

**III. Outcome Budget (2015-16) of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology**

संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ : —

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts) Notification No. G.S.R. 207 (E), dated the 19th March, 2015, publishing the Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Rules, 2015, under sub-section (4) of Section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2506/16/15]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) First Annual Report and Accounts of the Hemisphere Properties India Limited (HPIL), New Delhi, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Performance Review of the Hemisphere Properties India Limited (HPIL), for the year 2013-14.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2509/16/15]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), New Delhi, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2508/16/15]

III. Outcome Budget, for the year 2015-16, in respect of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2507/16/15]

**I. Report and Accounts (2013-14) of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited (BJEL), Kolkata and National Jute Board (NJB), Kolkata and related papers**

**II. MoU (2015-16) between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) Limited/ Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Limited**

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ : —

I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited (BJEL), Kolkata, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2551/16/15]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Jute Board (NJB), Kolkata, for the year 2013-14, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2550/16/15]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) Limited, for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2552/16/15]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India

(Ministry of Textiles) and the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Limited, for the year 2015-16.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2556/16/15]

**I. Notification of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**

**II. Report and Accounts (2011-12) of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Kolkata/Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurgaon and related papers**

**III. Accounts of various National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)**

**IV. MoU between the Government of India and various institutes**

**V. Outcome Budget (2015-16) of the Department of Pharmaceuticals**

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज गंगाराम अहीर) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals) Notification No. S.O. 686 (E), dated the 9th March, 2015, amending Notification No. S.O. 1221 (E), dated the 15th May, 2013 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2479/16/15]

- II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

- (i) (a) Thirty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Kolkata, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2477/16/15]

- (ii) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurgaon for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2620/16/15]

III.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998:—

- (i) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (v) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (vi) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, for the year 2012-13, and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2375/16/15]
- (vii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Kolkata, for the year 2013-14, and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2376/16/15]
- (viii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (ix) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (x) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (xi) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2476/16/15]
- (xii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Raebareli, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (xiii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Raebareli, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report hereon.
- (xiv) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Raebareli, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (xv) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Raebareli, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2619/16/15]

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2618/16/15]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2617/16/15]
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), for the year 2015-16. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2615/16/15]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), for the year 2015-16.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2616/16/15]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), for the year 2015-16.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2378/16/15]

- V. Outcome Budget, for the year 2015-16, in respect of the Department of Pharmaceuticals. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2478/16/15]

**Outcome Budget (2015-16) of the Department of Agricultural  
Research and Education**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2015-16, in respect of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2493/16/15]

**Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure  
in relation to the Budget**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the third quarter of the financial year 2014-15.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2640/16/15]

**Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

1. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Dual Freight Policy for Transportation of Iron Ore Traffic in Indian Railways for the year ended March 2014 - Union Government (Railways), Report No.14 of 2015 (Performance Audit);  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 2643/16/15]



2. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2014 - Union Government (Railways) - Railways Finance, Report No.15 of 2015; [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2644/16/15]
3. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy for Decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic Fertilizers for the year ended 31 March 2014 - Union Government (Department of Fertilizers) - Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Report No.16 of 2015, (Performance Audit); [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2645/16/15]
4. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Design, Development, Manufacture and Induction of Light Combat Aircraft for the year ended March 2014 - Union Government - Defence Services (Air Force), Report No.17 of 2015, (Performance Audit); [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2646/16/15]
5. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Ammunition Management in Army for the year ended March 2013 on Performance of 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme - Union Government (Defence Services), Army and Ordnance Factories, Report No.19 of 2015, (Performance Audit); and [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2647/16/15]
6. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2013 - Union Government (Communication and IT Sector), Report No. 20 of 2015. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2648/16/15]

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**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा (उत्तराखंड) : महोदय, मैं ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (भू-संसाधन विभाग) से संबंधित "पजीयन (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2013" के संबंध में विभाग-संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (2014-15) के नौवें प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिंदी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

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**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN  
THE SECOND REPORT OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री रामविलास पासवान) : महोदय, मैं उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग की अनुदान मांगों (2014-15) के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित खाद्य, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के दूसरे प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

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**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of  
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second  
Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth  
Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture**

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति) : महोदय, मैं खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2014-15) के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित कृषि संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के चौथे प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखती हूँ।

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**DEMAND TO RAISE A DISCUSSION ON VYAPAM CASE**

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश में व्यापम प्रकरण के अंतर्गत 2000 लोग से ज्यादा गिरफ्तार हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... वहां पर आठवें व्यक्ति ने आत्म-हत्या की है, उसका मर्डर हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... महोदय मैं इस बारे में अनेक बार निवेदन कर चुका हूँ। माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, 2,000 लोग गिरफ्तार हो चुके हैं और 8 लोगों की हत्या हो चुकी है, suicide हो चुका है, मैं आपसे अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given the notice? ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :** इतनी बड़ी घटना किसी और प्रदेश में नहीं हुई है। वहां के राज्यपाल के खिलाफ, मुख्य मंत्री ...(व्यवधान)... मेरा यह आरोप है कि प्रदेश भारतीय जनता पार्टी इस में शामिल है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given the notice? ...(Interruptions)... Digvijaya Singhji, have you given the notice? ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :** मुझे यह विषय सदन में उठाने की अनुमति दी जाए। Sir, it is very important. How can I leave? This is very important. ...(Interruptions)... Zero Hour is reserved for matters of urgency.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Digvijaya Singhji ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, this is a matter of urgency.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given the notice? ...(Interruptions)... You reply to me.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Innocent people are dying. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, there was no time today, but if you say, Sir, I will give the notice. But I would urge upon you to accept it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, you can give a notice. ...(Interruptions)... Then, you can give a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Would you allow me to raise it on Monday, Sir? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not given a notice. If you want to raise this issue, you can give a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, this happened only today. There was no time to give a notice. ...(Interruptions)... सर, इसमें कोई समय निश्चित नहीं था, इसलिए मुझे अपनी बात कहनी पड़ रही है। आपकी बात सही है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am only asking you to give a notice, if you want. ...(Interruptions)... No; no. Shri Salim Ansari. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Mr. Salim, I am calling you. ...(Interruptions)... Before that, I am having a notice under rule 267. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): सर, एक मिनट सुन लीजिए, हमने 168 में नोटिस दिया है।  
...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you Mr. Salim Ansari?

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: No, Sir, I am Ali Anwar Ansari.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Oh! I am sorry. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी: सर, 168 में हमने नोटिस दिया है। एक मिनट हमें मेशन कर लेने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance. ...(Interruptions)... थोड़ा बैठिए। There is a notice under rule 267. Let me deal with that first. ...(Interruptions)... He has given a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

#### RE. REPORTED SUICIDE BY SPORTSWOMAN AT S.A.I. HOSTEL IN KERALA

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, this is a very serious issue. भारतीय खेल मंत्रालय के अधीन SAI, जो एक खेल प्राधिकरण है, उसके होस्टल में, चार लड़कियों ने सामूहिक रूप से आत्महत्या का प्रयास किया, जिसमें एक प्रतिभाशाली प्लेयर भी है और जिसे एशिया में मेडल मिला हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान)... उन चार लड़कियों ने यंत्रणा की वजह से, जो उनके सीनियर कोच, सीनियर्स हैं उनकी वजह से, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण की दुर्दशा की वजह से आत्महत्या करने का प्रयास किया, जिसमें एक लड़की अपर्णा की मौत हो गई।...(व्यवधान)... तीन वेंटिलेटर पर रखी हुई हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... खेल मंत्रालय में जो भाई-भतीजावाद, भ्रष्टाचार, अपने लोगों को आगे बढ़ाना हो रहा है, उसी के कारण ऐसा हो रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me listen to him, please. ...(Interruptions)... What are you doing? ...(Interruptions)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी: सर, मेरा एक अनुरोध है। ...(व्यवधान)... इससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्या बात हो सकती है? ...(व्यवधान)... कल महिलाओं के खिलाफ इस सरकार ने लाठीचार्ज किया, जो कैडल-मार्च कर रही थीं। ...(व्यवधान)... अगर आप इस केस को देखें, तो एक प्रतिभाशाली खिलाड़ी को आत्महत्या करनी पड़ी, चार-चार खिलाड़ियों ने आत्महत्या करने का प्रयास किया। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Rajeev Shuklaji, what is your point?  
...(Interruptions)... Are you on the same point? ...(Interruptions)... Okay; okay.  
...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): जी सर। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी:** सर, सारी कार्यवाही को रोक कर आप इस पर चर्चा कराइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got your point. ...**(Interruptions)**... I have got your point. ...**(Interruptions)**... You please take your seat. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल:** सर, यह जो SAI का, स्पोर्ट्स अथोरिटी ऑफ इंडिया का मैटर है, इस पर मैंने भी नोटिस दिया था। लगता है, जीरो ऑवर में आपने इनका नोटिस एक्सेप्ट किया है, तो मेरी आपसे रिक्वेस्ट है कि इस पर मुझे भी बोलने का मौका दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: बोलिए। I have allowed you. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल:** सर, यह एक ऐसा इंसीडेंट हुआ है, जिसमें गोल्ड मैडलिस्ट लड़की तक ने सुसाइड कमिट करने की कोशिश की है। यह बहुत सीरियस मैटर है। SAI, स्पोर्ट्स अथोरिटी ऑफ इंडिया का बुरा हाल है। उसके अधिकृत जितनी भी चीजें हैं, उनमें लगातार शिकायतें आती रहती हैं। गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया से इतना फंड रिलीज होता है, लेकिन स्पोर्ट्स अथोरिटी ऑफ इंडिया इस तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं देती है और जितने खेलों के लिए फंड्स जाते हैं, ग्रांट्स जाती हैं, उनके भी बुरे हाल हैं। वहां के खिलाड़ी ऐसी दुर्दशा से पीड़ित हैं। उनको वहां बुरी कंडीशन में रखते हैं, उनको न सही खाना मिलता है, न उनके लिए कोई एक्सरसाइज की सुविधा होती है। तो SAI पर निश्चित रूप से जांच बैठानी चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is all. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री राजीव शुक्ल:** और वहां के लिए इन्क्वायरी कमीशन लगाना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; okay. Now, you take your seat. ...**(Interruptions)**... What is this? ...**(Interruptions)**... Let me deal with this. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**एक माननीय सदस्य:** डायरेक्टर जनरल को हटाना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is a very serious issue. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Tiwariji, this is not fair. I have already allowed you once. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will allow you. Please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let me deal with the notice under rule 267. ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Pramod Tiwari has given a notice under rule 267, asking for suspension of the scheduled business. He has raised a very important issue. I also personally feel that it is a very important issue. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Four girls have together consumed poison in order to commit suicide. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Out of those four girls, one has died. It happened in Kerala. The condition of two other girls is very critical. It may sometime happen that a single

individual is committing suicide. But if four girls are attempting suicide together, it means there is something very serious. Therefore, even though I am not allowing the 267 notice — I am ruling out the 267 notice — I observe that this matter is very important. I want the Government to enquire into it and come back with a statement. After the statement comes, we may even further discuss that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: There should be a structured debate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri A. K. Antony. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Let the Government reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes; after Shri A. K. Antony.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY (Kerala): Sir, this tragic incident took place in Alleppey near my home. So, everybody in that area is shocked; the entire people of Kerala are shocked. Especially, the people of the locality are even now in a State of shock. So, it is a very serious issue. The Government of India must enquire into it with all seriousness and assure the country, assure Kerala, assure the sports people that they would take very, very strong action on whatever happened there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Mr. Minister, an enquiry should be held and DG should be removed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी):** उपसभापति जी, माननीय सदस्यों ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, वह निश्चित तौर से गम्भीर है और उनकी भावनाओं से हम अपने को सम्बद्ध करते हैं। खेल मंत्रालय और खेल मंत्री को हम इस पूरे के पूरे प्रकरण की और माननीय सदस्यों की जो भावना है, उसकी जानकारी देंगे और इस संबंध में जो भी कार्रवाई होगी उससे हम सदन को और आपको अवगत कराएंगे।

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद):** सर, कार्रवाई is not enough. I think, now the Lok Sabha is being extended and Rajya Sabha is even otherwise going to work in the next week also. So, I think, maybe, in the next week, the coming week, the Minister concerned should come and make the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the concerned Minister should come back to the House with a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... If the Sports Minister is not available, the Home Minister may come. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Sir, I will definitely convey the feeling of the House to the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... He will come and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: On Action Taken also, not just on what all has happened. He or she should tell us what action has been taken on it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes; certainly.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Thank you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी** (ओडिशा): उपसभापति जी, केरल में जो घटना घटी है, मैंने नोटिस किया है कि अधिकतर गरीब बच्चे स्पोर्ट्स में आते हैं और जिस तरह से एक बच्चा नहीं, बल्कि चार-चार बच्चों ने सुसाइड करने की कोशिश की है, उससे अंदाजा हो रहा है कि वहां SAI के कोचेज़ या सीनियर प्लेयर्स किस तरह से बच्चों के ऊपर अत्याचार कर रहे हैं। मैंने इस बारे में आलरेडी नोटिस दे दिया है। इसलिए स्पोर्ट्स के ऊपर शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन होना चाहिए। मैं इस बारे में आलरेडी नोटिस दे चुका हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि नैक्स्ट सेशन में इस पर एक शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन होना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Statement come. Let the Minister's statement come. After that, we will decide about it. Now, Mr. Ali Anwar Ansari, what is your problem?

**श्री अली अनवर अंसारी** (बिहार): सर, मैंने इस बारे में नोटिस यह दिया है कि PMO ने ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डिपार्टमेंट से कहा है अब बड़े सरकारी अधिकारी स्कूलों में जाएंगे और बच्चों से सम्वाद स्थापित करेंगे। यदि वे सम्वाद स्थापित करेंगे, तो क्या जो वहां टीचर हैं, वे बेकार हो गए हैं, क्या टीचर संवाद नहीं करेंगे? अब ये जाएंगे और उन्हें लैक्चर देंगे और संस्कृति तथा नैतिक शिक्षा के नाम पर भगवाकरण करने की इनकी योजना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That's all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री अली अनवर अंसारी**: सर, इसलिए हम मांग करते हैं कि इस पर डिबेट होनी चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Salim Ansari. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Salim Ansari. ...*(Interruptions)*... That's all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री अली अनवर अंसारी**: सर, बच्चों के भविष्य को खराब करने की योजना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति**: आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... श्री सालिम अन्सारी...*(व्यवधान)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए। श्री सालिम अन्सारी...*(व्यवधान)*...

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, सदन में मंत्री जी को आना चाहिए और समझाना चाहिए कि कैसे आई.ए.एस. संवाद करेगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...क्या टीचर्स बेकार हो गए? ...*(व्यवधान)*...आई.ए.एस. और आई.पी.एस. अफसर कैसे संवाद करेंगे? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... He can give a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री नीरज शेखर** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, नोटिस दिया हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, अंसारी साहब ने नोटिस दिया हुआ है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will be examined. ...*(Interruptions)*... मैं नोटिस को एग्जामिन करूंगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... नोटिस एग्जामिन करूंगा। श्री सालिम अन्सारी।

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

#### Situation arising out of acquittal of accused persons in Hashimpura mass killing case in U.P.

**श्री सालिम अन्सारी** (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं देश के सबसे बड़े सदन में एक ऐसे दिल दहलाने वाले मामले को उठाना चाहता हूँ, जो आज़ाद हिन्दुस्तान में अखिलयतों के साथ होने वाली सबसे बड़ा घटना है, जिसमें लोकतंत्र के चारों स्तम्भ हिल गए। आज़ाद हिन्दुस्तान में पुलिस हिरासत में कत्ल के सबसे बड़े जघन्य अपराध, हाशिमपुरा हत्याकांड में PAC द्वारा 42 मुस्लिम नौजवानों की हत्या के बाद उनके शव मुरादनगर के नजदीक गंगनहर में, यू.पी. दिल्ली के बॉर्डर पर हिंडन नदी में फेंक देने के मामले में 28 साल बाद, PAC के 16 मुल्लिज्मों को दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने सबूतों के अभाव में छोड़ दिया। 28 साल चले इस मुकदमे पर समूचे देश की निगाहें टिकी हुई थीं और नरसंहार में मारे गए लोगों के परिवार वालों को इंसाफ की उम्मीदें लगी हुई थीं, परंतु उन्हें निराशा हुई। हालांकि इस कत्लेआम में शामिल पुलिस वालों को, पीएसी को सज़ा मिलनी चाहिए थी, ताकि भविष्य में फिर कोई खाकी वर्दी शैतान ऐसा न कर सके। महोदय, यह बहुत ही अहम मामला है और इस मामले में बड़े-बड़े लोग शामिल रहे हैं।

उपसभापति महोदय, मेरठ में फसाद का सिलसिला 14 अप्रैल, 1987 में शुरू हुआ था, जो लगभग तीन माह चला था। इस दौरान 22 मई को हाशिमपुरा और 23 मई को मलियाना में एक बड़े कत्लेआम को अंजाम दिया गया था, जिसमें सौ बेगुनाह लोग मारे गए थे। महोदय, हाशिमपुरा कत्लेआम के मामले में सीनियर पत्रकार निखिल चक्रवर्ती, कुलदीप नैयर, आई.के. गुजराल, जो बाद में देश के प्रधान मंत्री बन गए, की अगुवाई में पीयूसीएल की एक टीम बनाई गई थी, जिसकी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि यह कत्लेआम ठीक वैसा ही है, जैसे नाज़ियों ने यहूदियों का कत्ल किया था। महोदय, 1994 और 2000 के बीच पीएसी के जवानों के खिलाफ, जिन्होंने वारदात को अंजाम दिया था, 23 वॉरंट जारी हुए। इसके साथ ही 1997 से लेकर 2000 तक 17 बार गैर-ज़मानती वॉरंट भी जारी किए गए, लेकिन अभियुक्त के ...*(व्यवधान)*... सन् 2000 में 16 मुल्लिज्मों ने सरेंडर कर दिया और जल्द ही उन्हें ज़मानत पर छोड़ दिया गया। ...*(व्यवधान)*... उनको बरी कर दिया गया, जिसने पूरे देश को हिला कर रख दिया है। 7 मई को विभिन्न दलों के सांसदों ने संसद के बाहर गांधी जी की मूर्ति के सामने धरना दिया ताकि जघन्य अपराध करने वालों को सज़ा मिल सके। अतः मेरी मांग है कि ...*(समय की घंटी)*...



MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over; time over.

श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री वीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार) : सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करती हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ एसोसिएट करती हूँ।

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा (उत्तराखंड) : महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR (Assam): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we too associate ourselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. The names of all the Members who are associating may be noted. ...*(Interruptions)*... All your names will be recorded. Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

**Request to Withdraw Home Ministry's order dated  
23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014, Restricting Jurisdiction of  
Anti-Corruption Bureau**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of Delhi is a notified Police Station for the purpose of registration of FIR and investigation of offences covered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The Branch has been in existence for almost half-a-century, and the officers of the Branch were authorized to investigate the offences under the erstwhile Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 *vide* notification dated 21st March, 1968. They were authorized to make arrests and the Branch was declared as a Police Station for offences recorded for illegal gratification in 1975. The Anti-Corruption Branch functions under the overall supervision and control of the Director of Vigilance of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

During the 49 days of Aam Admi Party Government, the Anti-Corruption Branch of Delhi Government was revitalized and an Anti-Corruption helpline was launched to facilitate the citizens who wanted to report incidents of corruption in public life. The citizens of Delhi responded enthusiastically to this initiative and complaints poured in against different authorities including officials of the Delhi Police, DDA, Municipal Corporations and the Central Government besides various Departments of the Government of the NCT of Delhi and also a few former Ministers and corporate honchos. Thereafter, a notification dated 23rd July, 2014 was issued, surprisingly, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, restricting the jurisdiction of the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of the NCT of Delhi over the officers and employees of the Government of NCT of Delhi. Now, Sir, this has created problems for the administration of Delhi Government to go against the corrupt officials. Now, Sir, this notification, apart from being against the constitutional provisions of Article 239AA, is also attempting to limit the powers of a popularly-elected Government. This is highly unconstitutional and against the principles of federalism. If the Central Government is serious about introducing reforms in administration and wants to bring about a positive and forward

change towards transparency in governance to facilitate the business environment and image of the country, it should immediately withdraw the notification forthwith and maintain the principles of federalism.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All those who associate may be added.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी (ओडिशा) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री के.सी.त्यागी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

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### **WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make. We have with us seated in the special box Members of a parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Korea currently on a visit to our country under distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take the pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other Members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system,

our country and our people, and that their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and the Republic of Korea.

Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Korea.

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**MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION – Contd.**

**Irregularities found by C&AG in Audit Report of Purti Sakhar Karkhana Ltd.**

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its Report No.12 of 2015 has found that Purti Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. has violated terms and conditions for subsidy schemes availed by the company.

The family of a senior Minister of the Government of India is associated with this company. The company did not comply with the conditions for subsidy, that is, the renewable energy project was to operate for a minimum of ten years after its completion. The project, which was subsequently converted into usage of 100 per cent fossil fuels, was given the benefit of subsidy. Audit also found instances where the Ministry of Renewable Energy agreed with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency not to recover the subsidy even in case of non-continuance of renewable energy project up to the prescribed period of operation. This diluted the purpose for which the scheme was framed. Audit observed that the borrower didn't comply with the conditions for interest subsidy. Project switched over to 100 per cent coal based as against allowance of only 25 per cent. Now, the management stated that in April 2014 the borrower settled the account with IREDA and paid the entire loan outstanding as per OTS sanction. As per CAG's observations, IREDA cannot change or interpret specific conditions for grant of subsidy of Government of India. Since, in the past, the then Opposition Party always demanded resignations of our Ministers from time to time, now \* has to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*... \*whose family is involved in the subsidy scheme, has to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to take the responsibility and has to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have demanded resignation of our Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: He should explain and resign. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Sir, I think the hon. Member had given a

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\* Expunged, as ordered by the Chair.

notice. This is a serious matter. We know that when the present ruling party was in opposition, even if there was just a brief shadow anywhere, they would raise it and stall the House until the action was taken. So, I am supporting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can associate.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am saying, on behalf of the Opposition and my Party, that this issue cannot be confined just to Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, this is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: There has to be accountability. There will be accountability. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Minister is a sitting Minister, a Cabinet Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Veer Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have called Shri Veer Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, Sir. This is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... They always used to say that unless the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Veer Singh...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: How can they have somebody accused of a scam in the Cabinet? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Veer Singh...*(Interruptions)*... The Zero Hour mention that you made is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Veer Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anand Sharma, take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. Shri Veer Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... It is Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't obstruct others from raising matters in the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Now, in the Government, they are behaving in a manner...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no scope for a discussion in the Zero Hour. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is only a Zero Hour notice. So, I allowed that. That's all. Now, Shri Veer Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Veer Singh ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing else will go on record. Shri Veer Singh. Nothing else will go on record.

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**DEMAND TO RAISE A DISCUSSION ON CAG REPORT**

**श्री वीर सिंह** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से देश में श्रमिकों के सामने जो एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या है, उसको सदन में रखना चाहता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभापति महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): \*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only what Shri Veer Singh says will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Only what Shri Veer Singh says will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. Go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, during Zero Hour, the hon. Members should know...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back. Mr. Hanumantha Rao, please go back. Don't speak from there. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, hon. Members should know that during Zero Hour, you cannot make an allegation against any Member or any Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot mention the name. For making an allegation, there is a rule. ...*(Interruptions)*...

For making an allegation, there is a rule. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... If any name was mentioned by Mr. Shantaram Naik, I am expunging that name. It cannot be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी)**: सर, इस तरह के allegations लगाकर, किसी मिनिस्टर का नाम लिया जाए, इसको expunge किया जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For making an allegation, there is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anand Sharma, you are a senior Member. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we are not making any allegation; it is the CAG Report. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go back. ...*(Interruptions)*... For making

\*Not recorded.

an allegation against a Member or a Minister, there is a rule. There is a procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do that. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you obstruct Shri Veer Singh? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing this. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not know what these people want? ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Anand Sharma, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, it is CAG Report. ...*(Interruptions)*... Where is the Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*... Where is the Prime Minister?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Zero Hour. You had your Zero Hour mention and you are obstructing others. Is it fair? ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it fair? After you had it, you are obstructing others. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not fair.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, it is CAG report. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am requesting the Congress Party Members to go back to their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, after you had your Zero Hour, you are obstructing others. It is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: For the Prime Minister and this Government and the BJP... ...*(Interruptions)*... The CAG Report is a holy book... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can raise it as per rules but not in the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can raise it as per rules but not during Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them raise it as per rules but not during Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can advise them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: What are you going to do about it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I request you to go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Mr. Anand Sharma. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is CAG report. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Veer Singh, Mr. Narendra Kumar Kashyap, Shrimati Gundu Sudharani, Prof. Jogen Choudhury, Dr. T.N. Seema, Shri P. Bhattacharya and Shri K.T.S. Tulsi have all given Zero Hour notices, which have been permitted. You are obstructing them. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are obstructing them. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is indiscipline. ...*(Interruptions)*... This behaviour is unbecoming of Members of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is unbecoming of you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : यह बहुत गैर जिम्मेदारी की बात है, ...*(व्यवधान)*... बिल्कुल असत्य और बेबुनियाद आरोप लगाना। ...*(व्यवधान)*... कांग्रेस पार्टी कई जगह कंप्यूज्ड पार्टी बन गई है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... कांग्रेस पार्टी में यह क्या हो रहा है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hanumantha Rao, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned for ten minutes.

*The House then adjourned at thirty-three minutes past eleven of the clock.*

*The House reassembled at forty-three minutes past eleven of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Chairman that this is not a question of allegation against an individual or a Member of Parliament or a Minister. This is a CAG Report, and on CAG Report, on earlier occasions, a number of heads have rolled. The BJP Government, day in and day out, inside this House and outside the House, has been talking about transparency and corruption, and is also, at the same breath, talking about the scams during the UPA Government. Now, here is a proved case against a Minister who had to resign for the same reason from the post of President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, I think. He may not have resigned. That is your internal matter. But the question is, this is a CAG Report against a person who has been heading this Company as Chairman. He may not be Chairman today because after becoming a Minister, you cannot continue your business and you cannot be Chairman. But he is the person for whose Company this loan was taken and this is the Company against whom the CAG has taken the cognizance. He has been indicted by it. Having been indicted by it, he cannot continue as a Minister even for a minute.

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** उपसभापति जी, नेता विरोधी दल ने जो भी कहा है, उससे हम पूरी तरह से असहमत हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, I should have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*... I allowed you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** और मुझे लगता है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी करप्शन की बात करे, वह अपने आप में हास्यास्पद है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I should have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*... I allowed you to make a submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी :** वे नियम मानने को तैयार नहीं हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I should have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*... You ask them to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them listen to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them listen to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit



down. ...(Interruptions)... I am only saying that you have made an allegation. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, we have not. ...(Interruptions)... It is the CAG Report. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, there is a difference between making an allegation and quoting the CAG Report. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, जब कभी बहुत गम्भीर मामला होता है, तो ये सारी चीजें अलग कर दी जाती हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed. Let me come back to that. जयराम जी, आप बैठिए। ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sit, it is the CAG Report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Whether it is an allegation or something else...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is not an allegation. ...(Interruptions)... It is the CAG Report. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I did not say allegation. ...(Interruptions)... I said like this. I will repeat that. I said whether it is an allegation or something else...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it is a CAG Report. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... Allow me to say it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is the CAG Report. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Please go back. ...(Interruptions)... Even if it is the CAG Report...(Interruptions)... Allow me to say. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... If it is the CAG Report, it is the CAG Report. Whatever it is, I am only saying that Zero Hour is not the time to raise...(Interruptions)... Let me complete it. ...(Interruptions)... Why don't you allow me to say it? ...(Interruptions)... You should allow me to complete it. ...(Interruptions)... I should be allowed to complete what I want to say. ...(Interruptions)... I heard the Leader of the Opposition. I am only reacting to what the Leader of the Opposition has said. ...(Interruptions)... I would request the hon.

Members to take their seats. Mr. Seelam, please take your seat. I am only saying this much. Whatever you want to raise, whether this subject or any other subject, the Rule Book provides enough provisions for that. You find out the concerned rule and resort to that. It is not Zero Hour to raise it. ...(Interruptions)... Due to persistent demand made by some hon. Members, hon. Chairman has allowed some subjects. Let me go by that. There are provisions in the Rule Book. You take them up according to the Rules. I have no problem. But let me have the Zero Hour now. ...(Interruptions)... It is my duty to protect the right of the Members who want to raise issues in Zero Hour. You should know that. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. It is my duty to protect the right of the Members who want to raise issues in Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Why are you obstructing that? ...(Interruptions)... You give a notice. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, you give a notice. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, there are exceptional cases. कुछ अपवाद होते हैं। जब गम्भीर मामला होता है, तो ये सारी चीजें साइड में कर दी जाती हैं और उसको priority दी जाती है। ...(व्यवधान)... जो मामला उठाया गया है, वह इतना गम्भीर है कि it should be given priority. आप सारी चीजों को बाद में कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप इसके लिए नोटिस दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Not in Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)... Zero Hour notice is over. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, only one comment. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी : सर, एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात है कि जिस तरह से गैर-जिम्मेदारी के साथ आरोप लगाया गया है और एक मंत्री का नाम लिया गया है, सबसे पहले मेरी माँग होगी कि वह नाम एक्सपेंज किया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have expunged that.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी : दूसरी चीज़ यह है कि अगर आप जिम्मेदारी के साथ करप्शन पर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, तो हम करप्शन पर चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार हैं। हम कांग्रेस पार्टी को यह बताना चाहते हैं कि वह करप्शन पर हमेशा भागती रही है, हम करप्शन पर चर्चा करने के लिए भी तैयार हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... हम करप्शन पर ...(व्यवधान)... खत्म करने के लिए तैयार हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... चाहे कहीं पर भी हो ...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन आप करप्शन के बारे में बात करें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा : हम तो आपको चेहरा दिखाएँगे। ...(व्यवधान)... सारी याददाश्त ताजा करेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी : इसलिए आप इस पर नोटिस दीजिए, फिर इस पर चर्चा कीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)... करप्शन पर जो भी चर्चा करनी चाहिए, हम उसका जवाब ...(व्यवधान)... हम तैयार हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... हमें क्या प्रॉब्लम है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप नोटिस दीजिए, आप चर्चा कीजिए। आप चर्चा नहीं करेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... स्वीपिंग स्टेटमेंट नहीं चल सकता है। ...(व्यवधान)... जीरो ऑवर में और मेम्बर्स के नाम भी हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already expunged. ...(Interruptions)...Name is expunged. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We will expose this Government. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yechury, please help me in finding a solution. ...(Interruptions)... Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I always do that, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री वी.पी. सिंह बदनौर (राजस्थान) : आप अपनी बात भूल गए क्या?... (व्यवधान)... आप कहते थे कि सीएजी कुछ भी कह देती है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सीताराम येचुरी : सर, ये क्या कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 12:00 hours.

*The House then adjourned at fifty-one minutes past eleven of the clock.*

*The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No.136. ...(Interruptions)... This is Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)... This is Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)...This is Question Hour.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised the matter in the previous hour. ...(Interruptions)... Only questions will be discussed here. ...(Interruptions)... This is Question Hour. I am sorry. You have raised this matter a few minutes back. I am sorry, this is Question Hour, only questions will be discussed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sorry, Sir, no Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. ...(Interruptions)... Q.No.136. Dr. Sanjay Sinh, are you raising the question? ..(Interruptions).. He is not raising the question. ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

*The House then adjourned at two minutes past twelve of the clock.*

*The House re-assembled at Seventeen minutes past twelve of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us have the Question Hour, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sharma saheb, no. Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid, I cannot allow it at this time. You have to raise it at some other time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. कृपया आप लोग वापस जाइए, वापस जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, this will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the time. ...*(Interruptions)*... कृपया आप लोग बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please. This is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शरद यादव: चेयरमैन सर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: नहीं, नहीं, शरद जी, Question Hour है। Please. Nothing else will be taken up in Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can't allow you and refuse him. So, please do not make the request. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शरद यादव: चेयरमैन सर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, अगर आप बोलेंगे, तो दूसरे भी बोलेंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please, Sharadji. Understand the position of the Chair. I cannot permit you and refuse somebody else. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Question Hour. I will take up nothing other than Questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, that may be so. I am not questioning your judgment. ...*(Interruptions)*... नहीं, नहीं, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, हम तैयार हैं, आप भ्रष्टाचार पर चर्चा कर लीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

*The House then adjourned at Nineteen minutes past twelve of the clock.*

*The House re-assembled at thirty-four minutes past twelve of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 136. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, this is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... शरद जी,

ऐसा मत कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Sharadji, everybody will start speaking. ...**(Interruptions)**... Nobody will speak except those whose questions are listed. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री शरद यादव :** श्रीमन्, मैं आपकी मदद के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति :** मैं समझ रहा हूँ शरद जी, मगर मैं मजबूर हूँ, इसलिए कि अगर मैं आपको बोलने की इजाजत दूँगा तो मुझे पाँच और आदमियों को बोलने की इजाजत देनी होगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा :** एक-एक मिनट सुन लीजिए.....**(व्यवधान)**

**श्री सीताराम येचुरी :** हम सभी इसमें मदद करेंगे।.....**(व्यवधान)**

**श्री सभापति :** नहीं-नहीं, देखिए, आप लोग.....**(व्यवधान)** एक मिनट मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। The hon. Members had full 60 minutes before 12 o' clock to raise various subjects. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We raised it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether it was raised, why it was raised, how it was raised, is not a matter into which I am going at the moment. This is listed as the Question Hour. Now we want to go ahead only with the questions because if I depart from the practice of having Question Hour intruded into by whatever other business may be, then, I am afraid, the position of the Chair will become untenable. If I permit one person, I will have to permit four other persons, and that will be the end of the Question Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: My only request is...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: How many precedents are there? ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... Sharma Saheb, please,... **(Interruptions)**... Raise it at any other time, not now. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am sorry, if a section of the House does not wish the Question Hour to run, then, I have no choice but to adjourn the House till 2.30 p.m.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Reconstitution of FCI

†\*136. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Government proposes to reconstitute the Food Corporation of India (FCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has constituted a High Powered Committee for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, by when the Committee's recommendations are expected to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government had constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) on restructuring of FCI in August, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, which has submitted its report on 21.1.2015.

#### **Train services in Kangra valley**

\*137. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have failed to improve railway services in Kangra valley, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that obsolete railway engines are plying on this route, which fail to reach destination daily, and a few weeks ago, train services on this section came to a halt following the failure of engines; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by Government for improvement of train services in Kangra valley?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir. All the scheduled trains on the Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section are operational, at present.

(b) No, Sir. The locomotives plying on this route are not obsolete in design. In the last 6 months, there was one incident where train services came to a halt following an engine failure.

(c) On 28.01.15, transmission of Loco No. 167 working train no. 52473 failed between Baijnath (BJPL) and Palampur (PLMX). This failure occurred due to bearing

failure of transmission. In repercussion to this failure, train services between Palampur (PLMX) and Baijnath (BJPL) were affected from 28.01.15 (19 hrs) to 29.01.15 (09:00 hrs). The train operations, however, continued between Pathankot (PTK) and Palampur (PLMX).

For improving the reliability of locomotives, technical support and guidance is now being given by senior officers posted at Ludhiana diesel shed. Thrust has been given for improving the maintenance. Spare parts have been provided to Pathankot shed for improving the availability of locomotives.

#### **Increasing sugarcane production**

\*138. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of reduction in sugarcane production in Tamil Nadu and resulting problems of agriculturists due to non-payment of MSP to them;

(b) if so, whether talks have been initiated with Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra to increase sugarcane production and for benefitting farmers in fair market mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The production of sugarcane has declined in Tamil Nadu from 32.45 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 30.55 million tonnes during 2014-15 (2nd Advance Estimate). The reduction in sugarcane production is attributed to less rainfall, higher cost of cultivation compared to realization, decreasing price of sugar in market etc. The sugar mills have been paying Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) to sugarcane growers. In 2014-15 also mills are paying FRP to growers. There are arrears with regard to payment of State Advisory Price (SAP) from 2012-13.

(b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is promoting sugarcane cultivation through National Food Security Mission in major sugarcane growing states including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Maharashtra. The FRP for sugarcane which was Rs.220/quintal in sugar season 2014-15 has been increased to Rs.230/quintal for sugar season 2015-16.

#### **Damage to crops and orchards due to unseasonal rains in Maharashtra**

\*139. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rains in the month of March have damaged crops and orchards in Maharashtra causing a huge loss;

(b) if so, the estimated loss caused to the farmers;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has sought financial help from the Ministry to compensate the farmers for the loss; and

(d) if so, the details of funds released to the State, till the end of March, 2015?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information received from State Government of Maharashtra, crop area of 2.46 lakh ha was affected due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms. The crop wise affected area is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) State Government is empowered to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities like drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them, State Government has been requested to take immediate steps to address the notified calamities by utilizing available fund under SDRF. State Government was also advised to submit memorandum as per extant procedure/norms, if additional financial assistance is required from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and in the mean time utilize contingency fund of the State, if SDRF is exhausted. No memorandum has been received from State Government of Maharashtra in respect of crop loss due to unseasonal rains.

The allocation of SDRF for Maharashtra for 2014-15 is ₹ 538.08 crore including Central Share of ₹ 403.56 crore. Central Share of ₹ 403.56 crore for 2014-15 has been released to Maharashtra. In addition, ₹ 1426.95 crore from NDRF has been released to Maharashtra in March, 2015.

### ***Statement***

*Crop-wise area affected due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms  
in Maharashtra during February-March, 2015*

		(Area: In hectare)
Sl.No.	Crops	Estimated affected area
1.	Gram	25047
2.	Jowar	9831
3.	Summer paddy	22
4.	Bajra	243
5.	Tur	140



Sl.No.	Crops	Estimated affected area
6.	Lakholi (Lathyrus)	3047
7.	Soybean	3
8.	Wheat	62788
9.	Vegetables	4739
10.	Onion	31445
11.	Maize	5645
12.	Groundnut	11
13.	Watermelon	94
14.	Flowers	12
15.	Fodder	308
16.	Other crops	11099
17.	Banana	491
18.	Pomegranate	11836
19.	Grapes	13201
20.	Orange	2501
21.	Papaya	434
22.	Mango	41525
23.	Mosambi	202
24.	Lemon	443
25.	Chiku	150
26.	Guava	20
27.	Cashewnut	20152
28.	Other fruit crops	827
TOTAL CROPS AFFECTED AREA		246256

Source: Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra.

### Selling of wheat by farmers below the MSP

†\* 140 DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat per quintal during the last three years and this year, year-wise;

(b) whether Government has discontinued giving bonus on wheat, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether farmers are compelled to sell their wheat in the agricultural produce markets of Madhya Pradesh at the price lower than the MSP; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat per quintal during the last three years and current year is as under:-

Rabi Marketing Seasons	MSP (in ₹ Per quintal)
2012-13	1285
2013-14	1350
2014-15	1400
2015-16	1450

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), Government gives additional incentive bonus for procurement of food grains over and above MSP and last such bonus @ ₹ 50 per quintal for wheat was given in Rabi Marketing Season 2011-12. Besides this, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have given bonus to farmers over and above MSP last year. Such a bonus given by a particular State distorts wheat market, raises floor price of the surplus wheat in the market causing inflation and leads to over procurement by Government Agencies in concerned State as private buyers are distracted from purchase to high prices. The announcement of bonus also distorts the cultivation pattern and farmers actively engage in cultivation of the crop for which bonus has been announced ignoring cash crops, high value horticulture crops etc. Looking at the disadvantages of State-specific bonus given for wheat, Central Government has asked surplus foodgrains procuring States to stop

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

giving bonus for procurement of foodgrains for Central Pool and, accordingly, State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have decided not to give such bonus for wheat in current season.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Improving communication system**

†\*141. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is determined to improve the communication system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the communication system is being badly affected due to running of BSNL and MTNL in losses;
- (d) whether the mobile phone services provided to the Members of Parliament are erratic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether this situation is due to non-deployment of employees on time, if so, the steps taken by Government to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government is committed to improve the communication system in the country. With this objective Government is taking several steps to strengthen the communication system and focus on service delivery to improve quality of services.

The following projects are undertaken by Government for improving telecom services in rural and commercially unviable areas in the country :

- (i) **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** : NOFN project is planned to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 Lakh) in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of PSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks, for providing broadband connectivity. NOFN project will enable access providers and service providers

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers to launch various services in rural areas. Various applications for e-health, e-education, e-governance etc. can be provided through the network.

- (ii) **Optical Fibre Network in North Eastern Region:** Scheme has been launched to provide sufficient back-haul capacity to integrate the voice and data traffic from the access network in the rural areas to their core network by strengthening the Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network. The scheme involves OFC Network augmentation between the Sub District HQ (SDHQ) and Districts' HQ. Under this scheme the number of nodes to be connected in Assam, NE-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura) & NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland) are 354, 188 & 407 respectively.
- (iii) **Scheme for Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Areas :** Government, on 20.08.2014, approved a project to provide Mobile Services in 2199 locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The scheme is being executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- (iv) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region:** Government has approved a proposal on 10.09.2014 to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region. The Project envisages provision of mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- (v) **Mobile services in uncovered villages:** A scheme to extend financial support from USO Fund for provisioning of mobile communication services in inhabited uncovered villages (including coastal villages) of the country not having mobile coverage is under consideration. It is estimated that there are about 55,669 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages is to be provided in a phased manner over five years with coverage in Hilly States & Western Border States being taken up in the first phase.

- (vi) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep:** Telecom Commission has given 'in principle' approval on 07.11.2014 for Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands with the total estimated investment of ₹ 21.05 crores.

In addition to the Government initiatives, the new projects undertaken by BSNL include:

- Augmentation of its mobile network as part of its Phase-VII Project to create additional capacity of 15 million lines at an estimated cost of ₹ 4804.77 crores. This will result in addition of 14421 2G sites and 10605 3G sites across the country.
- Replacement of the entire network of wireline local exchanges by Internet Protocol (IP) enabled exchanges and deployment of Next Generation Network (NGN) equipment based on the latest architecture gradually to replace entire legacy telephone exchanges at an estimated cost of ₹ 600 crores.
- Migration of entire C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) legacy telephone exchanges with technology solutions being developed by C-DOT at an estimated cost of ₹ 350 crores for which MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed between C-DOT and BSNL.

The new projects undertaken by MTNL are:

- Augmentation of mobile network to enhance coverage and capacity by adding 1080 3G sites and 800 2G sites in Delhi and 1080 3G sites and 566 2G sites in Mumbai.
- Augmentation of Microwave (M/W) backhaul network to support the enhanced speed.
- Migration of legacy telephone exchanges network to internet protocol (IP) based New Generation Network (NGN) exchanges in collaboration with C-DOT.

(c) Inadequate investment in the past on expansion and modernisation of their networks has led to network coverage issues affecting quality of service besides their inability to compete with private sector on customer services and marketing. Consequently, BSNL and MTNL are facing declining revenues from loss of market share and increasing

expenditure. Other reasons like power supply problem, disruptions due to cable cuts arising from road development works, breakdown of cables due to old legacy network of basic service, cable theft etc. are also affecting the services of BSNL and MTNL.

(d) MTNL has informed that they are facing the issue of poor network coverage in the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) area. MTNL has planned new BTS (Base Transceiver Station) sites in the NDMC area to improve coverage.

MTNL has also initiated a project for providing high speed broadband connection with wi-fi facility using FTTH (Fibre To The Home) technology at the official residences of Members of Parliament. This would facilitate high speed, stable data connection suitable for high bandwidth applications.

(e) No Sir.

#### **Double tracking of Konkan Railway**

\*142.SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to convert single track train route of Konkan Railway into double track;

(b) if so, the total kilometers of train route required to be converted, expenditure involved, mode of finance and approximate date of completion;

(c) whether the route is going to be electrified; and

(d) if so, the details of expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) The doubling of Konkan Railway line is under active consideration.

(b) Total length of Konkan Railway route to be converted to double line route is 740 Kilometre. The estimated cost of work is about ₹ 10450 cr. Mode of funding and completion dates are not finalized.

(c) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) has been asked to submit updated Detailed Project Report (DPR) for electrification.

(d) The proposed cost of electrification of entire Konkan Railway route is about ₹ 720 crore.

#### **Fire accidents in Rajdhani trains**

\*143.SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been accidents of fire in Rajdhani trains recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No consequential accident of fire in Rajdhani trains took place during 2014-15 and the current year till date. However, one incident of fire took place in maintenance yard of New Delhi station on 21.04.2015 damaging six unoccupied coaches of Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express and Bhubneswar -New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

(b) On 21.04.2015 at 10.25 hrs., Train No. 12313 Sealdah Rajdhani arrived at New Delhi station and after de-boarding of passengers, the empty coaches were placed in New Delhi maintenance yard at about 11.00 hrs. Train No. 22823 Bhubneswar Rajdhani arrived at New Delhi station at 10.50 hrs and after de-boarding of passengers, the empty coaches were placed in the adjacent line at New Delhi maintenance yard at about 11.20 hrs. At about 11.40 hrs, fire was observed in two AC coaches of Bhubneswar Rajdhani and three AC coaches and Pantry Car of Sealdah Rajdhani. Fire brigade was immediately called and the fire tenders arrived at about 12.00 hrs. In order to stop the spread of fire, the other unaffected coaches of the two trains were segregated and the Over Head Equipment (OHE) was switched off. About 22 fire brigades arrived at the site to control the fire and the fire was finally controlled at 15.35 hrs. In this incident, six coaches got partially or completely burnt down. However, no casualty or injury took place in this incident of fire in empty coaches. General Manager/Northern Railway along with Chief Safety Officer, Chief Mechanical Engineer and Additional Divisional Railway Manager/Delhi Division along with Branch Officers of Delhi Division, immediately rushed to the site. Departmental Inquiry (Junior Administrative Grade level officers) has been ordered to inquire into the above incident. *Prima-facie* cause of the incident is stated to be miscreant activity.

#### **Compensation for loss of crops due to variance in weather pattern**

†\*144. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise estimate of loss of crops due to variance in weather pattern in the country along with the details of grants approved as a relief therefor; and

(b) the measures taken for providing compensation to the farmers affected by adverse weather or natural disaster in proportion to the actual estimate of losses and the manner in which the policy of adequate compensation would be implemented?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) In the month of February- March 2015 many States like Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala were hit by hailstorm followed by untimely rainfall. As per inputs received from States, State-wise crop area affected due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains in country on the basis of preliminary assessment is given in the Statement (*See below*).

As State Government is empowered to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities like, drought, hailstorm, pest attack & cold wave/frost from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them, State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to address the notified calamities by utilizing the funds available under SDRF. They were also advised to submit memorandum as per extant procedure/norms, if additional financial assistance is required from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and in the mean time utilize contingency fund of the State, if SDRF is exhausted. Memoranda have been received from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Bihar demanding ₹ 6677.65 crores, ₹ 11886 crores, ₹ 1135.91 crores, ₹ 83.58 crore and ₹ 1764.71 crore from NDRF, respectively for the crop loss due to hailstorms. Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) had visited the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana to assess the ground situation. Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) of Bihar has been constituted to visit the affected areas for assessing the crop loss due to hailstorms.

The norms of assistance, are reviewed comprehensively after the award of successive Finance Commission. Taking into account various factors, the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) on 8th April, 2015. In addition, norms are revised from time to time, depending upon requirement.

The extant norms *inter-alia* provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of Agriculture Input Subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above) for damage caused to all types agriculture and horticulture cropped areas due to the notified natural calamities. There are ₹ 6,800/- per ha. for rainfed crops, ₹ 13,500/- per ha. for assured irrigated crops, subject to minimum assistance being not less than ₹ 1000 and restricted to sown areas and ₹ 18,000/- per ha. for all type of perennial crops. Minimum assistance, however will not be less than ₹ 2000/- and is restricted to sown areas, where crop loss is more than 33% and above. Financial assistance under SDRF/NDRF in the wake of natural calamities is by way of relief and is not for compensation of loss as suffered. However,



in addition to the assistance available under the regular schemes of crops damage, the calamity affected farmers are entitled for claims under various crop insurance schemes under implementation in the country.

In order to provide relief to the farmers, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for relief measure by banks in area affected by natural calamities. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has already requested State Governments to organize meeting of State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC). RBI guidelines provide for conversion of short term loan in to term loan.

**Statement**

*State-wise crop area affected due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains in the country*

(Area in lakh ha.)

Sl.No.	States	Total Area (as on 5.5.2015)
1.	Gujarat	1.82
2.	Madhya Pradesh	5.70
3.	Maharashtra	2.46
4.	Rajasthan	30.57
5.	Haryana	22.24
6.	Punjab	2.94
7.	Uttar Pradesh	95.17
8.	Uttarakhand	2.83
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.67
10.	Bihar	14.58
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.33
12.	Telangana	0.68
13.	Andhra Pradesh	0.09
14.	Kerala	0.01
15.	West Bengal	1.29
	TOTAL	182.38

**Monitoring and blocking of offensive online content**

\* 145. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee, in its meeting held on 5th September, 2014, has delegated the task of preparing a list of pornographic sites for blocking, to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an industry organization;

(b) if so, the reasons for entrusting a private entity with a function that ought to be discharged by Government agencies in public interest; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to enhance and strengthen the capacity and technical expertise of Government agencies for monitoring and blocking of offensive online content?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) In Writ Petition in the matter of Kamlesh Vaswani vs. Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 29.8.2014 directed that it would be appropriate if the Government places the copy of the writ petition and interlocutory applications before the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee (CRAC), which has members from all sections of the Society including Government, Industry, Civil Society and Academy, for its consideration. The constitution of the Committee (CRAC) was revised and notified in Oct. 2010. The last CRAC meeting was held on 5th September 2014 to discuss issues relating to availability of pornography material on the Internet and filtering of the same by the service providers in the country. CRAC requested Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an association of members from content providers to lead the effort as part of Social responsibility, to collect and maintain the repository of blacklisted pornography sites from various sources including list of child pornography sites maintained by other countries. Further, IAMAI was requested to set up help lines and web portal for reporting of such sites through Crowd sourcing mechanism. IAMAI would regularly provide the list of such sites to Government for further appropriate action. Similar approach is adopted by other countries like Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America, where the Governments are working with Non - Government Organizations (NGOs) to filter pornography sites.

(c) The filtering of web sites with obscene / objectionable content poses significant technical challenge. These websites keep on changing the names, domain addresses and hosting platforms from time to time making it difficult to filter or block such websites

using technical tools available in the market. Further, social networking sites with encrypted content are used to transmit the pornographic content which makes filtering difficult as the data is encrypted. Therefore, the tools provide filtering to a limited extent only. The tools, in the process may also filter genuine content and degrade the performance of systems.

To address the issues effectively, Government is in regular touch with Internet Service Providers to upgrade their infrastructure and technology to effectively address the shortcomings with regard to identifying and blocking encrypted websites / URLs. Further, Social Networking sites are monitored by the security agencies in order to check / remove objectionable contents from the web sites in consultation with Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-In) in accordance with the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000. Government is in regular touch with Social Networking sites, having their offices in India, to disable objectionable contents at the source from their websites. Government has also initiated Research and Development programmes to deal with technical issues relating to encrypted communications from the point of monitoring and blocking.

#### **Selling of impure gold jewellery**

\*146. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether jewellers, including licensed hallmarked gold jewellers, are selling impure gold jewellery at the rate of pure gold jewellery and fleecing consumers;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to safeguard the interests of consumers;
- (c) the details of jewellers booked for selling impure gold jewellery during the last three years and the action taken against each of them; and
- (d) the steps taken to check the sale of sub-standard gold jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The most recent survey (2006) conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in 16 cities indicated that 90% of the samples of non-hallmarked jewellery had failed showing 13.5% average shortage of declared purity.

Sampling of Hallmarked Jewellery, which is a small part of the total jewellery sold in India, was undertaken by BIS in the months of February and March, 2015. Results

from 193 samples indicate that 145 samples have passed the purity test while 48 samples have shown 0.2% average shortage of marked purity.

(b) BIS has notified a quality assurance standard (IS:1417) for gold jewellery. This standard is only a voluntary standard. Therefore, it is not incumbent on jewellers to sell gold jewellery that adheres to this standard.

To encourage jewellers to sell gold jewellery that adheres to IS:1417, BIS introduced the hallmarking scheme in 2000 under which gold jewellers are encouraged to take license from BIS. This license allows jewellers to use the hallmark which is a certificate of the purity of the gold. As on 31/3/2015, 14,031 jewellers have obtained license to sell hallmarked jewellery. However, a gold jeweller who is a licensee under the scheme can display and sell both hallmarked as well as non-hallmarked jewellery as this is only a voluntary scheme. Under the scheme, a licensed jeweller is required to get his jewellery duly tested and certified in the approved Hallmarking and Assaying Centre before marking the hallmark on the jewellery. As on 31/3/2015, BIS has approved 331 Hallmarking and Assaying Centres across the country. Under the Hallmarking Scheme there is a provision for imposition of penalty on the Hallmarking and Assaying Centre and payment of compensation to the consumer by the jeweller, in case the purity of hallmarked jewellery sold is found less than the marked purity.

(c) and (d) Under the Hallmarking Scheme, no jeweller has been booked for selling impure gold hallmarked jewellery during the last three years. Both the Department of Consumer Affairs, under its “Jago Grahak Jago” campaign, as well as the BIS undertake publicity campaign including advertisements in print and electronic media to create awareness amongst consumers on the importance of buying hallmarked jewellery.

#### **Effect of electromagnetic radiation from cellphone towers**

\*147. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its approval to conduct research on effects of electromagnetic radiation from cellphone towers in the country on human and animal health, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that similar researches were conducted by Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); and

(c) if so, whether it is not duplicity, if so, the reasons for such a study?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology has called proposals for scientific investigations of radiation hazards and risk potentials from Mobile Towers and Handsets on Life (humans, living organisms, flora & fauna and environment) and related Research & Development (R&D) initiatives. The SERB has constituted an Expert Committee/Task Force comprising of various experts from Medical & Engineering Institutes which has short listed 19 research proposals for further consideration of support and funding jointly by SERB and Department of Telecommunications (DoT). These include proposals from All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

World Health Organization (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 articles published around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation". However, Government is conscious about the public concern related to the possible potential health effect of electromagnetic radiation from cell phone towers in the country and has decided to conduct India specific studies/research in this field.

(b) and (c) No such research has been conducted by Tata Memorial Center. The Expert Committee constituted by SERB for evaluating and short listing the research proposals, comprise of members from various scientific organizations that are sponsoring research in this area, including Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Therefore during the evaluation/selection process of these proposals, efforts have been made to avoid duplication with ongoing research in this area in the country.

#### **Unhygienic condition of railway stations**

\*148. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unhygienic condition of railway stations in the country;

(b) whether any surprise checks have been conducted to improve the condition of these stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government to maintain hygiene and cleanliness at the said stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Indian Railways accord a very high priority for ensuring cleanliness and hygiene at stations. However, owing to the high density of usage of the stations and the trains, this is a very challenging area. Based on the inspection reports and references received, cases on inadequate cleanliness come to notice from time to time.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To ensure proper cleanliness at stations, alongwith regular checks/inspections, surprise checks at various levels are carried out and deficiencies are made good whenever noticed. Service Improvement Groups(SIGs) at the zonal/divisional headquarters and station levels have been activated to inspect amenities including cleanliness at stations and to take remedial measures as and when required. These measures are reviewed on a monthly basis by Additional General Managers(AGMs) at zonal level and by Additional Divisional Railway Managers(ADRM)s at divisional level.

(d) Indian Railways has adopted several measures which include introduction of mechanized cleaning process, award of rag picking/garbage disposal contracts, introduction of 'pay & use' toilet scheme, etc. to improve the cleanliness condition at stations. Health Inspectors are deployed at major stations of Indian Railways to monitor hygiene and sanitation at stations. Rules have been notified to penalize persons affecting cleanliness and hygiene at railway premises. Instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways to use Close Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) to monitor cleanliness at railway premises.

Under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission', regular events on cleanliness are planned and organized at railway premises. The focus of Indian Railways under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' is to ensure clean and hygienic toilets, maintenance of cleanliness at railway premises, tree plantation, removal of encroachments, improving drainage, public awareness campaign and periodic monitoring of the mission.

#### **Manning unmanned level crossings**

†\*149 SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around sixty-six per cent of train accidents occur on unmanned level crossings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the total number of train accidents that had occurred on unmanned level crossings during the last five years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action plan to go ahead for manning of all unmanned railway level crossings; and

(d) the time-frame within which the above people-friendly project would cover all the railway network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Year-wise number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users during the last five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15 and the percentage of these accidents in relation to total number of consequential train accidents in each year, is given below:

Year	Number of accidents at unmanned level crossings	As percentage of total number of consequential train accidents
2010-11	48	34.04 %
2011-12	54	41.22 %
2012-13	53	43.44 %
2013-14	47	39.83 %
2014-15	50	37.04 %

Zone-wise number of such consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings during the last five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15, is given below :

Railway	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Central	2	1	2	1	0
Eastern	0	1	0	0	0
East Central	5	5	2	5	5
East Coast	0	2	5	3	2
North Central	0	1	1	2	1
North Eastern	7	4	3	5	6
Northeast Frontier	2	4	3	3	0
North Western	5	6	8	10	8
Northern	7	13	13	6	9
South Central	5	6	3	1	2

Railway	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
South Eastern	5	0	2	4	2
Southeast Central	0	2	4	1	1
South Western	1	4	0	2	5
Southern	3	4	5	1	2
West Central	0	0	0	1	1
Western	6	1	2	2	6
TOTAL	48	54	53	47	50

(c) and (d) It is the endeavour of Indian Railways to eliminate all unmanned level crossings by Manning/ Closure/ Merger and provision of Subways/ Road Under Bridges subject to availability of funds.

During the last three years, *i.e.*, from 2012-13 to 2014-15, 3,413 unmanned level crossings have been eliminated from the Indian Railways which include 1,215 by manning. At present, Indian Railways has 10,440 unmanned level crossings, which require approximately ₹ 20,400 crores for their elimination. Funding for these works comes from the Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of the cess collected on petrol and diesel. The average annual allocation to Railways has been ₹ 1,100-1,300 crore only, which is very meager. To address the issue of constraint of funds, Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for enhanced allotment of funds by suitably amending the Central Road Fund Act.

#### **Tie-up with e-commerce companies**

\* 150. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are working on a special scheme to tie-up with emerging e-commerce companies for transportation of their parcels;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether initial deliberations have been held and suggestions sought from all major online retailers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the suggestions received and by when the scheme is likely to be operational?



THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However for transportation of parcel, the space is provided in the brakevan (SLR) and in the parcel vehicle (VPU). These can be used for transporting parcel traffic by any individual/ parcel operators. The parcel space are either booked by Railway itself on receiving the demand/ indent at stations nominated for this purpose or the parcel space is leased out to private operators/ parties by respective Zonal Railway/ Divisions by inviting bids through open tenders. Any person or private operators including E-commerce companies may directly book their parcel through railway or after registering itself may participate in the tenders for transportation of their parcels using brakevan/ parcelvan.

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### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

#### Damage to crops due to rains and hailstorms in Madhya Pradesh

†1385. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has carried any assessment for the crops damaged in Madhya Pradesh recently due to the untimely rains and hailstorms or the Central Government has received any report from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has received any demand proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh to pay compensation to the farmers for the damaged crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of financial assistance given to Madhya Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh reported the crop damage in 5.70 lakh hectare due to unseasonal rains & hailstorms. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation had deputed its officials to visit the State. The details of crop area damage based on preliminary report are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Area in lakh ha)

Sl.No.	Name of Crop	Damaged Area
1.	Wheat	2.40
2.	Pulses	2.00
3.	Horticulture	0.50
4.	Isabgol	0.10
5.	Coriander	0.70
TOTAL AREA		5.70

(c) and (d) State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to address the notified calamities by utilizing the funds under State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF). State have also been advised to submit memorandum as per extant procedure/norms, if additional financial assistance is required from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and in the mean time utilize contingency fund of the State, if SDRF is exhausted. Allocation to the State of Madhya Pradesh under SDRF during 2014-15 & 2015-16 is as under:

(₹ in crore)

State	Central Share		State Share		Total	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Madhya Pradesh	358.04	657.75	119.35	219.25	477.39	877

#### Judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

1386. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI RAJ BABBAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 75 per cent of the cultivable land in the country has been adversely affected by excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and has high level of toxins;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government for safer and judicious use of crop protection chemicals and application of green chemistry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence that about 75 percent of the cultivable land in the country has been adversely affected by excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and has high level of toxins. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result into multinutrient removal is greater than the addition.

(c) Government is promoting and recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrient management to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity.

Under soil health management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), financial assistance for training to farmers including field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers is provided @ ₹ 10,000 per training for 20 or more participants. Financial assistance for frontline field demonstrations is also provided @ ₹ 20,000 for frontline field demonstrations.

Under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture, there is a provision of financial assistance under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CISS) through NABARD for establishment of bio-fertilizer/biopesticides production units (200 TPA) in which 100 percent assistance is provided to State Government up to a maximum limit of ₹ 160 lakh per unit and @ 25 percent cost limited to ₹ 40 lakh to individuals/private agencies.

Government is promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres situated in different parts of the country. Farmers field Schools are conducted to create awareness on Integrated Pest Management strategies. State Governments and stakeholders are being exhorted to support a 'Grow Safe Food' campaign centred around five essential principles of judicious use-application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application through training and media campaigns in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers to educate them on judicious use of pesticides in accordance with label instructions.

**Harmful effects of pesticides**

1387. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that regular use of pesticides is harmful for the health of farmers since it damages the DNA and may cause diseases such as cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether toxins in pesticides have caused deaths of farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for protection of farmers from these harmful chemical pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Government registers pesticides after evaluating the safety of the product with respect to human health. Pesticides used in accordance with instructions on labels and leaflets, are unlikely to cause any bodily harm.

(c) and (d) Toxic substances in pesticides can cause bodily harm if precautions related to application and handling are not taken. States / Union Territories governments provide data on pesticides poisoning and deaths to the Ministry of Agriculture during Zonal Conferences held during Kharif and Rabi seasons.

(e) The Central Government has been promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres situated in different parts of the country. Farmers Field Schools are conducted to create awareness on Integrated Pest Management strategies. State Governments and stakeholders are being exhorted to support a 'Grow Safe Food' campaign centred around the five essential principles of judicious pesticides use - application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application through training and media campaigns in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers to educate them on judicious use of pesticides in accordance with label instructions.

Insecticides Rules 1971 have been amended to bring in improvements in Labels / Leaflets of pesticides containers making them more informative to farmers.

**MSP of paddy**

1388. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced to increase only ₹ 50 in MSP for paddy 2015 kharif season;
- (b) if so, the basis on which increase in MSP for paddy has been declared;
- (c) whether Government is aware that increase in MSP of paddy is not in accordance with increase in its cost of production; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would review the declared MSP for paddy, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**MSP for potato and onion**

1389. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would bring agriculture produces like potato and onion under Minimum Support Price, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the reasons that farmers are compelled to sell their produces at lower price than their production cost and for committing suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Government has no proposal to bring agriculture produces like Potato and Onion under Minimum Support Price as they are already covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). MIS is implemented for various horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

(b) Prices of agricultural commodities, including Potato and Onion, by and large are governed by the market forces of demand and supply. In addition to this, they also

depend on prevailing weather conditions, cost of transportation, cost of cold storage, etc.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is being implemented to prevent distress sale by farmers in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period and to arrest price fall below economic levels and cost of production. The MIS is implemented at the request of a State/UT government which is ready to bear 50 percent of the loss (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.

#### **National Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme**

1390. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch National Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme for the benefit of farmers to cover the loss of crops due to natural calamities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has discussed this scheme with the States concerned; and

(c) if so, the quantum of money allocated under the scheme and whether this scheme is likely to be launched on priority basis in Vidarbha region, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to better serve the interest of farmers, Government is desirous to develop a new crop insurance scheme to protect them against both yield and price fluctuations. Several meetings in the matter with the stakeholders including State Governments were held to evolve an acceptable insurance instrument. At present, Government is in the process of its finalization in consultation with various stakeholders for implementing it as pilot, in a few districts to be identified by the scheme implementing States.

#### **Development of animal husbandary, dairy and poultry farming**

1391. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Central schemes being implemented for development of animal husbandry, dairy and poultry farming in various States, including Maharashtra;

(b) the targets fixed and achievements made under these schemes during the last two years; and

(c) the funds allocated by Government to various States under the said schemes during the last two years alongwith the amount released to various States, State-wise including Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) The schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for development of animal husbandry, dairy and poultry farming in the Country including Maharashtra are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) No specific physical targets were fixed with respect to the States/UTs. However, overall physical targets fixed and the achievements made during last two years under the above schemes are given in the Statement-II (A to D) (See below).

(c) There were no specific State-wise allocation of funds for the schemes being demand driven. However, during 2014-15 tentative allocations were made against certain schemes of the Department. The funds released to the States/UTs including Maharashtra under different schemes of the Department during the last two years are given in the Statement-III (A to I) (See below).

***Statement-I***

*Schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for development of animal husbandry, dairy and poultry farming*

- (i) National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBB&DD) is being implemented with following two components:
  - a. National Programme for Bovine Breeding
  - b. National Programme for Dairy Development
- (ii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)
- (iii) National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I)
- (iv) Indigenous Breeds
- (v) Livestock Health and Disease Control Scheme (LH&DC) is being implemented for effectively tackling the issue of livestock health with the following components:
  - a. Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)
  - b. Foot and Mouth Disease-Control Programme(FMD-CP)

- c. Professional Efficiency Development (PED)
- d. National Project for Rinderpest Surveillance and Monitoring (NPRSM)
- e. National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS)
- f. Peste des Petits Ruminants Control Programme (PPR-CP)
- g. Brucellosis Control Programme
- h. Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD)
- i. Classical Swine Fever Control Programme

All the components except Classical Swine Fever are being implemented in Maharashtra.

- (vi) National Livestock Mission (NLM) is being implemented from the year 2014-15. The following schemes have been subsumed under National Livestock Mission:
  - a. Poultry Development Schemes was implemented in all States and UTs having 3 components *viz.*, Assistance to State Poultry Farms, Rural Backyard Poultry Development and Poultry Estates. Poultry Estates was on pilot basis and implemented in two States only.
  - b. Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Rabbits
  - c. Conservation of Threatened Breeds
  - d. Pig Development
  - e. Salvaging and Rearing of Male Buffalo Calves
  - f. Establishment / Modernization of Rural Slaughter Houses
  - g. Utilization of Fallen Animals
  - h. Centrally Sponsored Fodder and Feed Development Scheme
  - i. Livestock Insurance
- (vii) Livestock Census
- (viii) Integrated Sample Survey



**Statement-II-A**

*Year-wise Targets and Achievements made under the different schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries during last two years.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Unit	2013-14		2014-15	
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	(a) National Programme for Bovine Breeding (from 2014-15) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (under implementation till 2013-14)	(i) Establishment of mobile AI units	i. 7,000	i. 7,493	i. 11,000	i. 11,532
		(ii) Strengthening of semen stations	ii. 8	ii. 15	ii. -	-
		(iii) Establishment of Frozen Semen Banks	iii. 50	iii. 54	iii. 50	52
		(iv) Establishment/strengthening of Training Centres	iv. 30	iv. 36	iv. 50	49
		(v) No. of semen doses produced (in million)	v. 65	v. 81	v. -	-
		(vi) No. of artificial inseminations carried out (in million)	vi. 61	vi. 62	vi. 65	65.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(vii.) Nos animals brought under conservation programme	vii. 1,00,00	vii. 1,15,000	vii. 1,00,000	vii. 1,22,000
		(viii) No. of improved calves born through AI (in million)	viii. 19	viii. 19.4	viii. 19	viii. 19.47
	(b) National Programme for Dairy Development		Target and achievement is given at Annexure-II-B			
2.	National Daily Plan Phase-I (NDP-I)		Target and achievement is given at Annexure-II-B			
3.	Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)		Target and achievement is given at Annexure-II-B			
4.	Indigenous Breeds (Scheme was started in December, 2014)	(i) Establishment of national Kamdhenu Breeding Centre	Started from 2014-15	(i) 2	(i) -	
		(ii) Development of Indigenous.		(ii) -	(ii) -	
5.	Livestock Health and Disease Control	Unit	2013-14 Target	2013-14 Achievement	2014-15 Target	2014-15 Achievement
		No. of vaccinations carried out (millions)	350.00	552.65	425	558.04
		No. of veterinarians trained (Batches)	500	2450	500	2724
		No. of samples collected	1,20,000	1,66,429	1,85,000	1,90,000
6.	National Livestock Mission		Started from 2014-15 Targets and achievements under NLM in 2014-15 inclosed at Annexure-II-C			
a.	Poultry Development		2013-14 Target	2013-14 Achievement		
	Assistance to State Poultry farms	Number of farms assisted	8	19 (6 first time)		

Rural Backyard poultry Development	Number of beneficiaries covered	0.82 lakh	1.66 lakh	Subsumed under National Livestock Mission.
Poultry Estate	No. of estates covered	2 estates on pilot basis	Already covered 2 estates	
b. Poultry Venture Capital Fund	No. of Units assisted	Demand driven	1729	
c. Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds	i. No. of Breed's/Farmer's Association/Cooperative/NGO assisted	i. 4	i. 1	Subsumed under National Livestock Mission.
	ii. No. of animals under different threatened breeds selected and maintained in the respective breeding tract	ii. 500	ii. 530	
d. Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Rabbits	i. Revival of Goat breeding farm	i. 4	i.4	Subsumed under National Livestock Mission.
	1q2			
	ii. Establishment of Sheep and goat farms	ii. 1800	ii. 1159 sheep and goat unit had been sanctioned by NABARD in various States	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	e. Pig Development	Unit assisted	Pig breeding and rearing units 3200	1097		
	f. Salvaging and rearing of male buffalo calves					Subsumed under National Livestock Mission.
	g. Establishment/modernization of Rural Slaughter Houses					
	h. Utilization of Fallen Animals					
	i. Livestock Insurance					Targets and achievements of the number of animals insured is given Annexure-II-D
	j. Fodder and Feed Development Scheme	Fodder seed production (including support to states) in quintals	65000	89192	65000	40573.43
		Trainings imparted by Regional Fodder Stations (Nos)	176	170	176	186

**Statement-II-B***Scheme-wise Targets and Achievements during last two years*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ Project/Programme	Unit	2013-14		2014-15	
			Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	National Programme for Dairy Development component of NPBB&DD	(1) Organization of Dairy Cooperative (no.)	1. Organization of Dairy Cooperative (no.)=750	(1) 3,436	(1) Organization of Dairy Cooperative (no.)=1000	(1) 2531
		(2) Farmer members (000)	2. Farmer members (000)=37.5	(2) 235.97	(2) Farmer members (000)=45	(2) 52.68
		(3) Average Procurement per DCS (LTD)	(3) Average Procurement per DCS (LTD)=80	(3) 96.37	(3) Average Procurement per DCS (LTD)=100	(3) 91.71
		(4) Liquid milk marketed per union/project (LPD)	(4) Liquid milk marketed per union/project (LPD)=20,000	(4) 24,701	(4) Liquid milk marketed per union/project (LPD)=25,000	(4) 25547
		(5) Additional milk processing capacity created (TLPD)	(5) Additional milk processing capacity created (TLPD)=100	(5) 492	(5) Additional milk processing capacity created (TLPD)=225	(5) 465
		(6) No. of Milk Union to be assisted during the year	(6) No. of Milk Union to be assisted during the year=7	(6) 5	(6) No. of Milk Union to be assisted during the year=6	(6) 0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	62
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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

1A	Intensive Dairy Development Programme	(7) No. of rehabilitated milk unions earning profit	(7) No. of rehabilitated milk unions earning profit=17	(7) 14	(7) No. of rehabilitated milk unions earning profit=17	(7) 26
1B	Strengthening infrastructure for quality & clean milk Production					
1C	Assistance to Cooperatives					
2.	National Dairy Plan-I	(1) No of genetically improved bulls produced through PT produced (No.)	(1) 100 bulls	(1) 93 bulls	(1) 220 bulls	(1) 161
		(2) No of genetically improved bulls produced through PS programme (No)	(2) 15 bulls	(2) 12 bulls	(2) 45 bulls	(2) 16
		(3) No of Semen doses produced (No)	(3) 7 million Semen doses	(3) 7 million Semen doses	(3) 9 million Semen doses	(3) -
		(4) Villages and	(4) 5,600 Villages	(4) 1,314 Villages	(4) 6,900 Villages	(4) 4468

	Animals covered under Ration Balancing Programme (No)	and 0.40 million Animals	and 0.06 million Animals	and 0.45 million Animals	village/0.27 million animals
	(5) percent increase in proportion of area under green fodder with certified/truthfully labelled seeds. (per cent)	5. 10 per cent	(5) Study in progress	(5) 10 percent	(5) Study in progress
	(6) No of additional milk producers organised into dairy cooperative societies (No)	(6) 0.10 million	(6) 0.05 million	(6) 0.10 million	(6) 0.11
	(7) Additional number of villages covered for milk collection (No)	(7) 1,700 villages	(7) 2,241 villages	(7) 2,000 villages	(7) 3970
3. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Fund	No. of dairy units assisted (Demand Driven)	Nil	Credit assistance of ₹. 417.15 crore has been provided for setting up 1,22,284 dairy units by NABARD.	Scheme is demand driven, hence no physical targets are fixed	Subsidy of ₹146.23 crore has been provided by NABARD for setting up of 38,031 dairy units

**Statement-II-C***Targets and Achievements under NLM in 2014-15*

Action	Success Indicator	NLM 2014-15	
		Target	Achievement
Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG)	Number of units/women & marginalized beneficiaries to be covered under this program under Sub-Mission on Livestock Development	842	2144
Ram distribution by Central Sheep Breeding Farm	Number of Ram distributed (in number)	891	783
Buck distribution by Central Sheep Breeding Farm	Number of Bucks distributed (in number)	248	131
Conservation of Indigenous breeds	indigenous breeds to be brought under conservation program (in numbers)	6	2
Parent stock of low-input technology variety supplied by Central Poultry Development Organizations all over the country mainly for backyard poultry development	No. of low-input technology variety parent chicks supplied (In Thousand numbers)	110	135
Provision of insurance cover for Milch animals, Pack animals and small animals	Animals provided with insurance cover (No. in thousands)	1650	1650
Production of high yielding fodder varieties	Fodder Seed Production ( in quintals)	65000	40573.43
Conduct Training Programme	Programmes conducted (In numbers)	176	186



**Statement-II-D**

*The Target and Achievement of the number of animals insured under  
Livestock Insurance Scheme in 2013-14*

Sl. No.	State	Target	Achievement
1.	Andhra Pradesh	286900	250000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1000	707
3.	Assam	50000	25000
4.	Bihar	1000	797
5.	Chhattisgarh	6000	6609
6.	Gujarat	100000	100000
7.	Haryana	150000	57711
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15000	8542
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	22000	0
10.	Jharkhand	1000	726
11.	Karnataka	100000	95000
12.	Kerala	120000	120000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	30000	33111
14.	Maharashtra	36000	16973
15.	Manipur	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	300	233
17.	Mizoram	2000	722
18.	Nagaland	7000	4923
19.	Orissa	30000	30000
20.	Punjab	10000	10000
21.	Rajasthan	54000	20671
22.	Sikkim	2000	1674
23.	Tamil Nadu	186000	150000
24.	Tripura	0	0
25.	Uttarakhand	21500	5000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	67000	50000
27.	West Bengal	120000	100000
TOTAL		1418700	1088399

**Statement-III-A**

*Fund released under National Programme for Bovine Breeding component of National Project for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBB&DD)*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding*	National Programme for Bovine Breeding
		2013-14	2014-15
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1411.53	600.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	1080.00
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	500.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	469.20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	941.00	571.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	500.00	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	500.00
10.	Karnataka	808.26	0.00
11.	Kerala	469.85	1000.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1728.00	2400.40
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	100.00
14.	Odisha	700.00	1106.00
15.	Punjab	0.00	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	500.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	2376.40
18.	Telangana	55.70	500.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1000.00	1000.00
20.	Uttarakhand	0.00	500.00

1	2	3	4
21.	West Bengal	1171.36	400.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	438.38	0.00
23.	Assam	875.10	200.00
24.	Manipur	424.00	650.00
25.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
26.	Mizoram	206.32	250.00
27.	Nagaland	451.10	648.30
28.	Sikkim	149.40	500.00
29.	Tripura	0.00	551.00
TOTAL		12830.00	15902.30

\* Subsumed under National Programme for Bovine Breeding component of NPBB&DD scheme from the year 2014-15.

### Statement-III-B

*State-wise Budget Allocation and Expenditure Statement of National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)( as on 31.03.2015)*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Released in 2013-14 (IDDP+CMP+ AtoC)	Allocation in 2014-15 (BE) (under NPDD)	Released in 2014-15 (under NPDD)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.59	137.00	0.00
2.	Bihar	4.53	727.00	300.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	6.49	481.00	149.95
4.	Gujarat	0.00	187.00	119.16
5.	Haryana	1.57	168.00	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.52	197.00	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	157.00	365.27
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	240.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Karnataka	0.00	326.00	199.87
10.	Kerala	13.09	644.00	2523.49
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11.93	161.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	0.00	422.00	138.09
13.	Odisha	3.07	584.00	306.99
14.	Punjab	6.93	596.00	760.31
15.	Rajasthan	5.26	352.00	115.97
16.	Tamil Nadu	1.15	373.00	1500.75
17.	Telangana	0.00	136.00	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	3.03	434.00	263.19
19.	Uttarakhand	0.00	479.00	800.00
20.	West Bengal	0.00	263.00	51.96
21.	Assam	2.00	445.00	0.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	255.00	94.00
23.	Manipur	3.21	396.00	257.60
24.	Meghalaya	0.00	160.00	0.00
25.	Mizoram	3.85	147.00	17.42
26.	Nagaland	0.60	159.00	189.56
27.	Tripura	0.00	368.00	642.17
28.	Sikkim	4.97	307.00	199.43
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	150.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	150.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	150.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	0.00	150.00	0.00
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	150.00	0.00
34.	Goa	0.00	150.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	150.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.00	150.00	0.00
TOTAL		74.79	10500.00	8995.18

**Statement-III-C**  
*Year-wise and State-wise sub projects approved, funds allocated and released under NDP -I*

State	Nos. of Approved Sub Projects		Total Approved Outlay in the Sub Projects approved during the period (Including EIA Contribution)		Fund Released (Advance to EIAs and Utilisation on Centralised Activities)	
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
	2	3	4	5	6	7
1						
Andhra Pradesh	-	2	-	2.41	2.53	4.04
Bihar	4	17	6.53	30.14	1.67	8.52
Gujarat	12	9	160.26	74.88	31.16	56.39
Haryana	5	12	33.61	38.90	3.72	4.22
Karnataka	6	7	31.02	51.20	21.97	23.35
Kerala	7	1	42.88	1.99	6.27	6.23
Madhya Pradesh	1	3	5.95	4.31	3.24	1.73
Maharashtra	13	8	73.91	25.93	11.44	14.42
Odisha	1	8	1.79	9.55	1.87	5.23
Punjab	2	8	6.99	45.42	2.33	11.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	16	5	190.46	19.97	20.70	31.66
Tamil Nadu	-	12	-	38.13	2.32	12.89
Telangana	3	2	6.35	7.78	4.77	2.83
Uttar Pradesh	6	10	22.95	11.36	4.21	19.00
Uttarakhand	2	1	20.81	4.02	3.03	0.76
West Bengal	3	2	6.03	4.96	2.53	7.57
Centralised	-	1	-	23.15	-	5.01
SUB TOTAL	81	108	609.55	394.07	123.76	215.29
Project Management & Learning (Centralised)	6	8	6.39	5.33	3.42	3.82
TOTAL	87	116	615.93	399.40	127.18	219.11

**Statement-III-D**

*The details of subsidy disbursed and number of beneficiaries/dairy unit established during 2013-14 and 2014-15 under DEDS*

Sl. No	State/UT	2013-14		2014-15	
		Beneficiaries/ Dairy Units ( ₹ in lakh) ( in No.)	Subsidy ( in No.)	Beneficiaries/ Dairy Units ( in No.)	Subsidy ( ₹ in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar island	11	6.04	9	2.93
2.	Andhra Pradesh	40679	11205.80	9108	2844.14
3.	Bihar	5842	2227.81	2790	1186.98
4.	Chhattisgarh	432	385.99	264	188.78
5.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Goa	1	4.29	6	15.26
7.	Gujarat	11324	4886.90	3970	2310.13
8.	Haryana	2706	1402.47	647	435.13
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1855	1007.25	270	187.64
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1423	660.54	572	281.03
11.	Jharkhand	31	27.67	22	20.55
12.	Karnataka	7160	2968.43	2459	1086.14
13.	Kerala	4965	1578.36	2583	954.56
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1367	1295.73	624	430.06
15.	Maharashtra	2753	1387.61	29	647.45
16.	Orissa	3273	938.47	524	192.15
17.	Punjab	1535	1236.84	1379	811.22
18.	Rajasthan	3907	2197.36	1165	690.08
19.	Tamil Nadu	25868	4187.76	11915	2076.65
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1267	782.00	567	314.11
21.	Uttaranchal	3226	1587.25	1432	655.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	West Bengal	858	330.73	277	131.93
	TOTAL	1,20,483	40305.30	40,612	15462.90
N E STATES					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	17.48	9	15.69
2.	Assam	1616	1257.91	911	782.09
3.	Manipur	0	0.00	19	19.00
4.	Meghalaya	8	5.42	18	9.73
5.	Mizoram	99	61.74	225	202.99
6.	Nagaland	24	8.97	14	5.40
7.	Sikkim	29	11.42	64	64.69
8.	Tripura	60	32.31	103	39.16
	TOTAL	1847	1395.238	1363	1138.75
	G. TOTAL (TOTAL A+B)	1,22,330	41700.54	41,975	16601.65

***Statement-III-E***

*State-wise releases made under Livestock Health and Disease Control  
(LH&DC) Scheme during last two years*

				(₹ in lakh)
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2013-14	2014-15	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1159.62	143.86	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	462.00	497.23	
3.	Assam	1502.15	0.00	
4.	Bihar	9.00	1509.52	
5.	Chhattisgarh	696.35	815.00	
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	
7.	Gujarat	1368.74	2235.00	
8.	Haryana	297.52	10.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	319.26	990.79	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1003.15	745.47	



Sl. No.	States/UTs	2013-14	2014-15
11.	Jharkhand	530.49	104
12.	Karnataka	1562.70	1667.14
13.	Kerala	625.05	293.93
14.	Madhya Pradesh	926.36	1059.5
15.	Maharashtra	2209.14	1184.06
16.	Manipur	303.20	312.00
17.	Meghalaya	121.88	188.73
18.	Mizoram	324.11	25.00
19.	Nagaland	205.48	268.97
20.	Odisha	427.36	509.79
21.	Punjab	637.10	94.9
22.	Rajasthan	1255.44	1326.69
23.	Sikkim	10.14	218.1
24.	Tamil Nadu	923.83	569.29
25.	Telangana	1.52	108.32
26.	Tripura	8.30	270.07
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1398.54	1602.08
28.	Uttarakhand	330.10	270.35
29.	West Bengal	1813.40	771.53
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.96	22.94
31.	Chandigarh	7.00	5.49
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
34.	Delhi	10.00	29.4
35.	Lakshadweep	1.00	1.00
36.	Puducherry	55.56	9.6
TOTAL		20508.7	17859.73

**Statement – III-F**

*State/UT wise and year-wise funds released during 2013-14 under Centrally Sponsored Schemes subsumed under National Livestock Mission*

Sl. No.	States	Fodder and Feed Development	Poultry Development	Small Ruminants	Livestock Insurance	Conservation of threatened breeds
(₹ in lakhs)						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1081.875	382.50	54.05	950.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	255.50	196.00	25.00		
3.	Assam	208.95	753.96		115.00	
4.	Bihar					
5.	Chhattisgarh	234.15	165.70		17.00	
6.	Goa	9.75				
7.	Gujarat	896.25		43.31		18.00
8.	Haryana	220.00			500.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	525.00			60.00	
10.	Jharkhand	864.66				
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	866.19		21.99		
12.	Karnataka		67.48		200.00	
13.	Kerala				400.00	10.00

14.	Madhya Pradesh	44.50	217.20		266.83	
15.	Maharashtra	2643.42	183.00		100.00	12.00
16.	Manipur					
17.	Meghalaya	12.12	160.50			
18.	Mizoram	213.00				
19.	Nagaland		57.64	25.00	150.00	
20.	Odisha		131.00		295.00	
21.	Puducherry		34.00			
22.	Punjab					
23.	Rajasthan					
24.	Sikkim	150.00	26.00			
25.	Tamil Nadu	77.00	416.28	77.24	1200.00	40.00
26.	Tripura	10.42	96.40	20.00		20.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	267.78	588.30			
28.	Uttarakhand	174.28		47.40	100.00	
29.	West Bengal		1530.00		400.00	
30.	Other(NABARD)	5.16		614.4		
TOTAL		7890.19	5005.96	928.39	4753.83	100.00

**Statement-III-G**

*The fund released to various States under National Livestock  
Mission (NLM) during 2014-15*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ NABARD	Amount (₹ in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.56
3.	Assam	4.52
4.	Bihar	6.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.12
6.	Gujarat	15.00
7.	Haryana	7.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.85
9.	Jharkhand	7.00
10.	Maharashtra	8.27
11.	Madhya Pradesh	16.64
12.	Mizoram	0.68
13.	Meghalaya	1.43
14.	Nagaland	6.19
15.	Odisha	5.25
16.	Punjab	3.93
17.	Puducherry	0.50
18.	Sikkim	0.51
19.	Tamil Nadu	12.43
20.	Telangana	2.76
21.	Tripura	4.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	8.13
23.	West Bengal	20.68
24.	Others(NABARD)	139.49
TOTAL		281.22

**Statement-III-H***State-wise release of funds under Integrated Sample Survey**(₹ in lakh)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	1.00
2.	Bihar	35.00	76.58
3.	Chhattisgarh	30.00	1.00
5.	Goa	10.00	20.00
4.	Gujarat	90.00	92.92
6.	Haryana	80.00	47.40
7.	Himachal Pradesh	56.47	50.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	98.37
9.	Jharkhand	2.00	1.30
10.	Karnataka	85.00	130.50
11.	Kerala	60.13	33.61
12.	Madhya Pradesh	130.00	100.00
13.	Maharashtra	99.00	102.92
14.	Odisha	100.00	1.00
15.	Punjab	15.00	0.80
16.	Rajasthan	100.00	142.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	60.00	70.00
18.	Telangana	0.00	0.50
19.	Uttar Pradesh	82.40	51.51
20.	Uttarakhand	40.00	50.00
21.	West Bengal	25.00	33.00
	SUB TOTAL-1	1150.00	1104.41
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00	95.12

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
23.	Assam	0.00	0.00
24.	Manipur	30.00	60.00
25.	Meghalaya	56.00	52.86
26.	Mizoram	58.00	75.00
27.	Nagaland	5.00	0.00
28.	Sikkim	17.00	0.00
29.	Tripura	4.00	0.00
	SUB TOTAL-2	250.00	282.98
30.	Andaman and Nicobar islands	18.00	24.50
31.	Chandigarh	18.00	23.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
34.	NCT Delhi	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	32.00	22.50
36.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00
	SUB TOTAL-3	68.00	70.00
	TOTAL	1468.00	1457.39

***Statement-III-I***

*State-wise release of funds under Livestock Census*

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.38	0.00
2.	Bihar	278.91	400.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	82.00	35.59
4.	Goa	5.25	0.00
5.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
6.	Haryana	73.48	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	41.63	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	99.36	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	90.65	0.00
10.	Karnataka	546.49	0.00
11.	Kerala	108.42	72.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	400.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	297.75	200.00
14.	Odisha	143.13	22.45
15.	Punjab	159.32	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	300.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	207.93	0.00
18.	Telangana	112.84	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2469.04	0.00
20.	Uttarakhand	55.40	9.57
21.	West Bengal	487.19	400.00
	SUB TOTAL-1	5812.17	1439.61
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.08	12.00
23.	Assam	0.00	0.00
24.	Manipur	60.02	0.00
25.	Meghalaya	130.80	0.00
26.	Mizoram	12.22	0.00
27.	Nagaland	25.74	0.00
28.	Sikkim	18.45	0.00
29.	Tripura	14.99	0.00
	SUB TOTAL-2	277.30	12.00

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.80	1.00
31.	Chandigarh	3.19	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.11	3.70
33.	Daman and Diu	0.93	0.00
34.	NCT Delhi	50.00	48.53
35.	Lakshadweep	0.34	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00
	SUB TOTAL-3	62.37	53.23
	TOTAL	6151.84	1504.84

#### Buffer Zone for fishing

1392. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government recognizes the fact that traditional fishermen and small motorised fishing craft in the ten coastal States have been using the waters between 200 m and 500 m depth as their fishing grounds;

(b) whether Government recognizes the fact that a recent Expert Committee's recommendation that water between 200 m and 500 m be kept as buffer zone, will hurt the livelihood of these fishermen;

(c) whether the recommendation to throw open off-shore regions for fishing by foreign and joint venture companies would also work against the interest of the local fishermen; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meenakumari for a comprehensive review of deep sea fishing Policy and Guidelines has *inter-alia* suggested that the waters between 200m to 500 m depth zone may be kept as a buffer zone to augment the resources in both the near-shore waters as well as in the off-shore areas. However, considering the concerns and apprehensions expressed by stakeholders, the Government has announced that the concept for creation of buffer zone will not be accepted.



(c) There is no recommendation to throw open off-shore regions for fishing by foreign and joint venture companies. Further, the Government has also announced that the foreign fishing vessels will not be allowed in Indian waters.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Plantation of GM crops**

1393. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has surpassed Canada and attained fourth position in terms of area planted under Genetically Modified (GM) crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the said crops constitute cotton alone; and

(c) the other GM crops that India is producing and how those can be compared with other GM crops producing countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is true that India occupies the fourth place globally in terms of area under GM crops.

(b) and (c) Cotton occupies only 14% of the global GM crop coverage in terms of area, after Soybean (50%) and Maize (30%); however Bt. Cotton is the only GM crop allowed for cultivation in India.

#### **Reclamation of land unsuitable for agriculture**

†1394. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.47 lakh hectares of land out of the total 3.29 lakh hectares in the country has become unsuitable for cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made for reclamation of such land, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per the latest report on Land Use Statistics for 2011-12 compiled by Directorate of Economics & Statistics,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ministry of Agriculture, out of total Geographical Area of 3287.3 lakh hectares in the country, 1467.5 lakh hectares is non-agricultural land/ area. Area under non-agricultural land consists of forests, area under non-agricultural uses, Barren and un-culturable land, permanent pastures and other grazing land.

(b) The reclamation of area under Non-Agricultural Land is generally not viable due to ecological and cost considerations. However, to improve fertility of soils in the country, the Government under the component of Soil Health Management of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost units, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc. Recently, a National Mission on Soil Health Card has been launched to provide soil tested based fertilizer recommendation to all the farmers in the country. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas.

#### **Grant-in-aid to youth to set up dairies**

†1395. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial Grant-in-aid is being provided through the Ministry to the youth in the country to set up dairies;

(b) if so, the details of the number of applications received from various States in this regard during Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 along with the number of youths provided with financial grant-in-aid; and

(c) whether Government would make provision for more funds under head keeping in view the increasing population of youths in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to the youth in the country to set up dairies.

However, this department is implementing “Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme” (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) across the country with an aim to generate self employment opportunities

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the dairy sector and enhancement of milk production, procurement, preservation, transportation, processing and marketing of milk by providing back ended capital subsidy @ 25% of the project cost to the General Category (@33.33% of the project cost to SC/ST, category subject to norms of the scheme. The beneficiaries include Farmers, Individual Entrepreneurs and Groups of Unorganized and Organized Sector including Self-Help Groups on behalf of their members, Dairy Cooperative Societies, Milk Unions on behalf of their members including youth Milk federation, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. The details of subsidy disbursed and beneficiaries/dairy units established, State-wise, during 2013-14 & 2014-15 under DEDS is given in the Statement (Refer to Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 13911 (Part -C).

#### **Soil testing labs in Karnataka**

1396. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of soil testing labs in Karnataka especially in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadagiri, Raichur and Koppal districts; and
- (b) what is the mass testing programme and how it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) There are 29 Soil Testing labs in the Department of Agriculture in Karnataka. The number of Soil Testing labs in Kalaburagi – 1, Bidar – 1, Yadagiri – 1, Raichur – 1, and Koppal – 1.

(b) Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has launched programme called Soil Health Mission. Implementation of Soil Health Mission (SHM) includes collection of soil samples, analysis of soil samples for macronutrients and micronutrients, distribution of soil health cards to all the farm holdings of Karnataka once in three years. It is also proposed to link the fertility status and crop specific nutrient recommendation of farmer to K-Kissan software in the form of farmer passbook which is to be issued to all the farmers of Karnataka. GIS based Digital soil fertility maps of state, district, taluks, hoblis and gram panchayats will also be prepared through Soil Health Mission.

#### **Analytic conclusion of Agricultural situation Since Independence**

†1397. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the policies and programmes for increasing the area of farming land, attain more productivity and making farming profitable in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the analytical conclusion of the situation prevailing in the country since the independence in the context of part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) Agriculture is a state subject under the Constitution and therefore, State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector and welfare of farmers.

Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Several steps have been undertaken to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on increase of farm income, creation of non- farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages.

(b) Various initiatives and reforms in the sector have resulted in record production of food-grains which is not only sufficient to meet domestic requirements but also provides surpluses for exports. Horticulture sector has also made rapid stride and grown 11 times in production from 25 million tons (1950-54) to 277 million tons (2014-15) and has surpassed food grain production.

#### **Subsidies provided to farmers of hilly States**

1398. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy to farmers of hilly States for electric pump sets and various seeds for farming due to hike in production cost of agriculture produces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the other subsidies provided by Government for agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Financial assistance for purchase of electrical pump-sets upto 10 Horsepower is provided to the farmers under National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) @ 50% of the cost limited to ₹ 15,000 per pump-set and under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) @50% of the cost limited to ₹ 10,000 per pump-set. The seed subsidy provided to the farmers by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under various schemes is as under:

Crops	Rate of Subsidy (₹ per Quintals) #
Rice Hybrid	5000
Rice High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)	1000
Wheat HYVs	1000
Coarse Cereals Hybrid	5000
Coarse Cereals HYVs	1500
Pulse HYVs	2500
Oilseeds HYVs	1200
Oilseeds Hybrid	2500

# Or 50% of cost whichever is less

Additional transport subsidy on movement of seeds of all crops excluding Potato is available to North – Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Hill areas of West Bengal as under:

- (i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is reimbursed to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from outside the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter.
- (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs.120/- per quintal whichever is less, is reimbursed for movement of seeds transported within the State from State Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets/sale counters.

With a view to increase investments in agriculture sector, accelerate agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, Government of India provides financial incentives, grants, concessions and subsidies on agricultural inputs under various programmes/schemes which have been recently restructured and grouped into following Mission/Schemes:

1. National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)
2. Krishonnati Yojana (Central Sector)
3. Krishonnati Yojana (State Plan)
4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
5. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana

**Setting up of Price Stabilization Fund**

1399. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs.500 crore, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this fund would be used to support market intervention for managing prices of perishable agri-horticultural commodities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) The Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), as a Central Sector Scheme, with a corpus of Rs.500 crores, to support market interventions for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities during 2014-15 to 2016-17. Initially the fund is proposed to be used for market interventions for onion and potato only.

PSF Scheme provides for advancing interest free loan to State Governments/Union Territories(UTs) and Central agencies to support their working capital and other expenses on procurement and distribution interventions for such commodities.

The Price Stabilization Fund will be managed centrally by a Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee (PSFMC) which will approve all proposals from State Governments and Central Agencies. The PSF will be maintained as a Central Corpus Fund by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), which will act as Fund Manager. Funds from this Central Corpus will be released in two streams, one to the State Governments/UTs as a onetime advance to each State/UT based on its first proposal and the other to the Central Agencies. The Central Corpus Fund has already been established by SFAC in 2014-15.

The one time advance to the States/UTs based on their first proposal along with matching funds from the State/UT will form a State/UT level revolving fund, which can then be used by them for all future market interventions to control prices of onions and potatoes based on approvals by State Level Committee set up explicitly for this purpose. In case of North Eastern States, the State level corpus will comprise of 75% funds from Centre and 25% from the State.

While the advance is returnable, the Central Government will share 50% of losses (75% in case of NE States), if any, at the time of settlement of the advance on 31st March, 2017. The Central Government likewise also intends to share the profits, if any, in the same ratio. The States could also request Central Agencies to undertake such operations on their behalf to be supported out of the State corpus. Additionally, the Centre can also requisition the Central Agencies like Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium (SFAC),

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), etc. to undertake price control operations for onion and potato.

Procurement of these commodities will be undertaken directly from farmers or farmers' organizations at farm gate/mandi and made available at a more reasonable price to the consumers to manage prices of perishable agri-horticultural commodities.

### Improving agricultural practices

1400. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the area under cultivation in different States, including sharing of area among different crops;
- (b) whether the areas under cultivation in different States have decreased over the years, if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the percentage of import dependence on different crops including pulses and vegetables by different States;
- (d) the steps taken by Central Government to improve agricultural practices in different States;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to improve mechanisation in agriculture and funds allotted for the same; and
- (f) the impact of climate change on agriculture and steps taken by Government to combat the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) As per latest Land Use Statistics for 2011-12, the details of total/gross cropped area in different States/UT's alongwith the share of area among different crops are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Depending upon the rainfall situation, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities etc., the total/gross cropped area in different States/UT's has been fluctuating. State-wise details of total cropped area in the country during 2007-08 to 2011-12 (latest available) are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) State-wise data on import dependence of agricultural commodities are not maintained. However, details of production and import of major crops including pulses in the country for 2014-15 are given in the table below:

Crop	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	
	Production *	Import**
Rice	1030.4	0.01
Wheat	957.6	0.29

Crop	Production *	Import**
Other Cereals	398.3	0.23
Pulses	184.3	45.84
Fruits & Nuts	912.9	8.58
Vegetables	1633.9	#

#Data on import of vegetables in quantity terms are not maintained.

\* Second Advance Estimates

\*\* Provisional

(d) Government of India implements several crop development schemes/programmes and provides financial assistance to States for better planning, cultivation and marketing of agricultural produce, etc. Better extension support, timely agricultural and market information, best agricultural practices, etc. are provided to farmers through State Govts./ Agencies. States are encouraged to modify their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts and other statutory provisions so as to make those more conducive and beneficial to farmers. Besides, the Government of India also facilitates availability of institutional loans/finances to farmers with provisions for interest subvention for timely payment.

(e) For promotion of mechanisation in agriculture in the country, the Govt. has launched a Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanisation (SMAM) under the National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) since 2014-15.

Further, Horticulture Mechanisation is being promoted under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to improve farm efficiency and reduce drudgery of farm workforce. Funds allocated under SMAM and MIDH are Rs.191.93 crore and Rs.2216.25 crore respectively during 2014-15.

(f) Increase in mean Kharif rainfall, occurrence of more frequent and heavy precipitation, rise in temperature, longer dry spells are some of the significant impacts of climate change which affect the production and productivity in the agriculture sector. Under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), the Govt. has embedded sustainable agriculture interventions and mainstreamed through restructuring and convergence of programmes/schemes/missions of Ministry of Agriculture. NMSA focuses on location specific integrated farming system; efficient soil health management, water use efficiency enhancement; varietal improvement with greater adaptation to drought, flood, salinity, high temperature; and conservation agriculture practices like System of Rice Intensification (SRI)/ Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), Zero tillage etc.



**Statement-I****State-wise area and share of area under different crop/crops group for 2011-12**

State/Union Territory/Year	Total Cereals & Millets	% share over Total	Total Pulses	% share over Total	Total Food grains	% share over Total	% share cane over Total	Sugar	% share over Total	Total Fruits & Vege-	% share over Total	Total Oil seeds	% share over Total	Total Fibres	% share over Total	Other Crops	% share over Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17
Andhra Pradesh	5359.0	38.9	1929.9	14.0	7288.9	53.0	367.2	2.7	1058.9	7.7	2099.0	15.3	2109.6	15.3	835.7	6.1	
Arunachal Pradesh	204.1	72.6	9.5	3.4	213.6	76.0	1.6	0.6	23.5	8.4	32.5	11.6			9.9	3.5	
Assam	2611.2	62.6	131.8	3.2	2743.0	65.7	28.4	0.7	453.4	10.9	302.3	7.2	86.7	2.1	560.2	13.4	
Bihar	6220.5	81.3	527.1	6.9	6747.6	88.2	218.3	2.9	307.8	4.0	139.4	1.8	151.5	2.0	82.2	1.1	
Chhattisgarh	4319.6	76.3	868.0	15.3	5187.6	91.6	17.5	0.3	132.0	2.3	306.9	5.4	3.7	0.1	16.0	0.3	
Gujarat	3790.3	28.9	957.0	7.3	4747.3	36.3	202.0	1.5	467.9	3.6	3163.8	24.2	2965.0	22.6	1546.7	11.8	
Haryana	4458.5	68.7	123.0	1.9	4581.5	70.6	94.9	1.5	69.1	1.1	545.8	8.4	605.4	9.3	592.3	9.1	
Himachal Pradesh	758.2	79.8	32.3	3.4	790.5	83.2	2.1	0.2	120.6	12.7	16.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	21.0	2.2	
Jammu and Kashmir	912.9	78.6	27.4	2.4	940.3	81.0	0.0	0.0	94.3	8.1	64.5	5.6	0.1	0.0	61.8	5.3	
Jharkhand	993.1	79.1	108.8	8.7	1101.9	87.8	6.6	0.5	93.3	7.4	42.4	3.4	3.9	0.3	6.8	0.5	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Karnataka	5069.3	42.0	2292.0	19.0	7361.3	61.0	646.9	5.4	648.7	5.4	1849.7	15.3	569.4	4.7	983.3	8.2
Kerala	208.9	7.8	3.7	0.1	212.5	8.0	2.6	0.1	479.8	18.0	824.2	31.0	1.1	0.0	1141.5	42.9
Madhya Pradesh	8675.0	38.5	4761.5	21.1	13436.5	59.7	90.1	0.4	341.6	1.5	7186.3	31.9	620.7	2.8	841.2	3.7
Maharashtra	7584.0	34.6	3273.0	14.9	10857.0	49.5	1022.0	4.7	948.3	4.3	3852.1	17.6	4147.0	18.9	1088.4	5.0
Manipur	250.8	68.7	28.6	7.8	279.4	76.5	5.8	1.6	32.6	8.9	35.9	9.8	-	-	11.6	3.2
Meghalaya	128.9	38.0	3.6	1.1	132.5	39.1	0.1	0.0	140.9	41.5	10.0	2.9	14.9	4.4	40.8	12.0
Nagaland	264.8	55.8	34.9	7.4	299.7	63.2	4.3	0.9	77.9	16.4	67.6	14.2	4.8	1.0	20.0	4.2
Odisha	4207.2	84.7	438.5	8.8	4645.6	93.6	14.5	0.3	5.8	0.1	141.5	2.9	3.9	0.1	153.1	3.1
Punjab	6488.7	82.1	21.7	0.3	6510.4	82.4	79.9	1.0	176.7	2.2	53.9	0.7	516.2	6.5	567.7	7.2
Rajasthan	9990.8	40.8	4449.2	18.2	14440.1	58.9	6.4	0.0	182.9	0.7	4626.4	18.9	586.5	2.4	4663.1	19.0
Tamil Nadu	2541.7	43.2	666.9	11.3	3208.7	54.5	346.4	5.9	609.6	10.3	874.8	14.9	135.8	2.3	714.4	12.1
Tripura	270.0	72.8	8.7	2.3	278.7	75.1	0.9	0.2	63.4	17.1	14.3	3.8	2.2	0.6	11.5	3.1
Uttarakhand	857.3	75.7	52.0	4.6	909.3	80.3	104.2	9.2	45.9	4.1	25.6	2.3	0.0	0.0	46.8	4.1
Uttar Pradesh	17736.2	68.7	2421.0	9.4	20157.2	78.1	2162.0	8.4	1134.1	4.4	1132.9	4.4	9.3	0.0	1213.6	4.7
West Bengal	5859.5	62.6	199.0	2.1	6058.5	64.8	16.1	0.2	1550.0	16.6	707.9	7.6	605.3	6.5	415.1	4.4
Other States/UTs	214.7	41.9	30.8	6.0	245.5	47.9	5.2	1.0	155.0	30.2	52.8	10.3	0.4	0.1	53.5	10.4
ALL INDIA	99975.2	51.2	23400.0	12.0	123375.2	63.2	5446.0	2.8	9413.8	4.8	28168.9	14.4	13143.4	6.7	15698.3	8.0

*Note 1:* Total Foodgrains include the area under Total Pulses and Total Cereals.

*Note 2:* Other States include Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Chandigarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry

**Statement-II***State-wise total cropped area*

States/UTs	(Thousand hectares)				
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Andhra Pradesh	13567	13830	12560	14512	13759
Arunachal Pradesh	272	276	276	278	281
Assam	3839	3999	4099	4160	4174
Bihar	7765	7671	7296	7194	7647
Chhattisgarh	5748	5683	5561	5671	5664
Goa	170	166	160	160	164
Gujarat	12211	11637	11085	12247	13093
Haryana	6458	6484	6351	6505	6489
Himachal Pradesh	954	946	941	955	951
Jammu and Kashmir	1134	1137	1145	1140	1161
Jharkhand	1675	1689	1399	1249	1255
Karnataka	12893	12368	12873	13062	12059
Kerala	2761	2695	2669	2647	2662
Madhya Pradesh	20416	20657	21411	22046	22516
Maharashtra	22655	22454	22612	23175	21915
Manipur	235	236	234	348	365
Meghalaya	283	337	336	338	339
Mizoram	96	95	123	121	97
Nagaland	400	402	486	452	474
Odisha	9016	9071	5510	5429	4964
Punjab	7870	7912	7875	7883	7905
Rajasthan	22208	22771	21745	26002	24505
Sikkim	118	118	144	152	137

States/UTs	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Tamil Nadu	5815	5824	5572	5753	5890
Tripura	276	263	267	350	371
Uttarakhand	1187	1193	1166	1170	1132
Uttar Pradesh	25320	25471	25440	25368	25809
West Bengal	9752	9802	9530	8832	9353
Other States/UTs	129	126	125	125	114
ALL INDIA	195223	195314	188992	197323	195246

#### Farming in rainfed areas

1401.SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of rainfed areas in foodgrain production in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has conducted studies in different rainfed agroecological zones to work out the yield gap between potential yield and yield in farmers' fields;

(c) if so, the result of such studies and the gaps between potential and actual yields; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to maximize yields per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) Data on production of foodgrains in rainfed areas of the country are not maintained separately. However, details of total foodgrains production in the country during the last three years and current year i.e. 2011-12 to 2014-15 are as under:

	(Million tonnes)			
Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
Foodgrains Production	259.29	257.13	265.57	257.07

\*As per 2nd Advance Estimates.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has conducted a study in different rainfed agro-ecological zones to work out the yield gap between research stations and farmers' field. The above Study shows that there are large yield gaps between the research stations and average yield realized by the farmers in different zones. Frontline Demonstrations conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also show yield gaps of about 25-30% between the ideal farm practices and farmers' fields in the major field crops.

(d) In order to bring down yield gaps and maximize per hectare yield and production of various agricultural crops in the country, Government of India is implementing through State Governments various Crop Development Schemes/ programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) as a sub scheme of RKVY, National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology Management and National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Besides, Continuous Development and Demonstration of improved crop production and protection technologies including high yielding varieties and hybrids by ICAR and State Agricultural Universities also help in dissemination of improved technologies for effective adoption by farmers, thereby reducing the yield gaps in different agro-climate regions of the country.

#### **Development of fish production in a planned way**

1402. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any plan to develop fish production in a planned way to achieve Blue Revolution in the country which can help in generating huge rural employment, cheapest and high quality nutrition, easy foreign exchange and healthy ecology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is providing assistance for establishment of Fish Seed Hatcheries, Fish Feed Mills, Cage Culture, Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems, Stocking of Fish Fingerlings in Beels, Wetland, Creation of New Ponds, One Time Inputs of Formulated Pelleted Fish Feed, Creation of Portal and Providing High Level Training on Improved Practices of Fish Culture etc.

under the Scheme “Blue Revolution-Inland Fisheries”. In addition, assistance is also provided under the Central Sector Schemes namely Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture” and “Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations” for inland fisheries, aquaculture promotion and establishment of fishing harbours, fish landing centres, fish processing, preservation storage infrastructure, fish marketing and transport infrastructure, etc respectively. The National Fisheries Development Board also provides financial assistance for development of fisheries in the country for intensive aquaculture in ponds, hygienic fish marketing, ornamental fisheries, training etc.

**Identification of districts with extreme weather conditions**

1403.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified one hundred districts in the country to help farmers who are grappling with extreme weather conditions such as drought and receding water table;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the districts identified from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the schemes devised for these districts and whether survey has been conducted about the damaged crops and vegetables in these States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government will conduct any study to assess the impact of climate on agriculture in these districts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified 100 climatically vulnerable districts spread across 28 States in the country to help farmers who are grappling with extreme weather conditions. Eleven districts (Chitrakut, Hamirpur, Bahraich, Jhansi, Bagpat, Gonda, Sonbhadra, Kushi Nagar, Maharajganj, Muzaffarnagar and Gorakhpur) in Uttar Pradesh and three districts (Dantewada, Bilaspur and Raipur) in Chhattisgarh have been identified.

- (c) The Government under National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) is demonstrating climate resilient agricultural practices/interventions adopting

one village each in 100 districts. Survey in these adopted villages of NICRA revealed that rabi crops like wheat, mustard, lentil, barley, vegetable pea, potato, pigeon pea and gram in Uttar Pradesh and vegetable crops in Chhattisgarh have been damaged due to unseasonal rains. The details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) The Government has already studied the impact of climate on agriculture in the country and developed an Atlas on Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change. This covers one hundred most vulnerable districts in the country and climatic vulnerability of identified districts of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

**Statement-I**

*Effect of un-seasonal rains on various crops in selected districts  
of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh*

State	Name of village (district)	Name of crops damaged	Nature of damage
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	Baundi (Baharaich)	Wheat	Lodging of wheat
	Jhangha (Gorakhpur)	Wheat, barley, Pigeon pea	Lodging of wheat and barley, flower drop in pigeon pea
	Tithara (Chitrakut)	Lentil	Lentil rotting
	Amwakhash (Kushi Nagar)	Wheat	Lodging of wheat
	Manikhurd (Hamirpur)	Onion	Affected by blotchy spots
	Shikhera (Bagpat)	Mustard	Lodging
	Gandhinagar (Jhansi)	Wheat, chick pea	Lodging of wheat and flower drop in chick pea
	Shahdabbar Muzaffarnagar)	Wheat	Lodging of wheat

1	2	3	4
	Gopala (Maharajganj)	Rice, wheat	Minor damage
	Sonauli Mohammadpur (Gonda)	Rice, wheat, mustard	Minor damage
	Bisrekhi (Sonbhadra)	Rice, wheat, mustard	Minor damage
Chhattisgarh	Khargahana (Bilaspur)	Paddy, wheat, Chick pea	Minor damage
	Bakulahi (Raipur)	Rice, Bengal gram	Minor damage
	Heeranar (Dantewara)	Rice, maize, gram	Minor damage

**Statement-II**

*Climatic vulnerability of selected districts in  
Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh*

State	Name of District	Climatic vulnerability
Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakut	Drought and heat wave
	Hamirpur	Drought and heat wave
	Bahraich	Flood
	Jhansi	Drought and heat wave
	Bagpat	Ground water depletion
	Gonda	Flood
	Sonbhadra	Drought and heat wave
	Kushi Nagar	Flood
	Maharajganj	Flood
	Muzaffarnagar	Ground water depletion
	Gorakhpur	Flood
Chhattisgarh	Dantewara	Soil erosion and heavy rainfall
	Bilaspur	Drought
	Raipur	Drought



**Cases of suicide and mental illness of farmers due to losses**

1404. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several farmers in Uttar Pradesh have died of shock, some committed suicide while many are passing through trauma and shock and getting treatment at mental hospitals;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government for the farmers and their families who have died and are passing through mental illness;

(c) whether Government has assessed the losses to farmers and mango growers in the State; and

(d) if so, the strategy devised in this regard and how regional rural banks and other financial institutions are helping them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, they have not received by any information relating to farmer suicide.

(b) Not applicable. However, Agriculture is a state subject under the Constitution and it is the State Governments that take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector and welfare of farmers, including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicide.

(c) As per inputs provided by Uttar Pradesh Government, 95.17 lakh hectare crop area is affected due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains on the basis of preliminary assessment.

(d) The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) on 8th April, 2015. The extant norms, *inter-alia*, provide for assistance to the farmers in the form of agriculture inputs subsidy (where crop loss is 33% and above) for damage caused to all types agriculture and horticulture cropped areas, as per the notified natural calamities. In addition, the calamity affected farmers are entitled to claims under various crop insurance schemes.

In the event of natural calamity, to provide relief to farmers whose crops have been damaged, refinance is extended by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks for conversion of short term agriculture loans into medium term loans, thereby enabling them to become eligible for fresh loans for the ensuring season. The conversion/ rephasing/ rescheduling of current short term loans (crops loans) is based on the intensity of calamity and extent of crop loss. Generally, conversion is allowed for a period of 5 years for small and marginal farmers and 3 years for other farmers.

**Financial assistance to farmers for crop loss**

1405. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has asked the State Governments to immediately disburse money from their disaster relief fund for the farmers who have lost their crops in the recent rains and hailstorm, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government has also asked the States to ensure financial assistance to all individual beneficiaries through their bank accounts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures to farmers in the wake of eligible/notified natural calamities from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them, State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to address the notified calamities by utilizing the funds available under SDRF. They were also advised to submit memorandum as per extant procedure/norms, if additional financial assistance is required from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and in the mean time utilize contingency fund of the State, if SDRF is exhausted.

Memoranda have been received from Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Bihar seeking financial assistance from NDRF for the crop loss due to hailstorms. Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) had visited the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana to assess the ground situation.

To provide financial compensation to farmers against their crop losses, Government has been implementing crop insurance schemes, namely, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Schemes (CPIS). Crop insurance is compulsory to loanee farmers whereas it is optional for non-loanees. Payment of claims to the farmers are made in the bank accounts only. State Governments/ insurance companies have been advised from time to time to follow the operational guidelines for implementation of various crop insurance schemes and also settle the claims of the beneficiaries, wherever due, as soon as possible.

**Damage to crops due to heavy rains, hailstorm and frost**

†1406. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of acreage of crops damaged due to heavy rains, frost and hailstorm, State-wise and crop-wise;
- (b) the procedure adopted for assessing the loss of crops; and
- (c) the amount allocated to State Governments for tackling this calamity, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) In the month of February, March and April 2015 many States like Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, were hit by hailstorms and untimely rainfall. As per information received from States, State-wise & crop-wise affected area due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains in country on the basis of preliminary assessment, is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The State Government make assessment of the damage to crops on the basis of survey by field functionaries.

(c) The State Wise allocation of funds under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) during 2015-16 to 2019-20 are given in the Statement –II (*See below*) .

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise, crop-wise area affected due to hailstorms and unseasonal rains in the country during February, March & April 2015*

States	Wheat	Coarse cereals (Barley/ Jowar/ Maize)	Pulses	Oilseeds (Mustard/ Safflower/(Vegetables/ Castor)	Horti- culture Fruits)	Cumin	Isabgol	Coriander	(Area in lakh hectare)	
									Other Crops	Total Area (as on 5.5.2015)
Gujarat	1.201	0.028	0.144	0.000	0.024	0.212	0.009	0.089	0.117	1.82
Madhya Pradesh	2.400	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.100	0.700	0.000	5.70
Maharashtra	0.628	0.157	0.282	0.000	1.281	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.114	2.46
Rajasthan	8.918	0.518	3.152	5.884	0.055	1.856	1.671	1.065	7.449	30.57
Haryana	19.478	0.029	0.006	2.136	0.589	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	22.24
Punjab	2.560	0.020	0.010	0.010	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.240	2.94
Uttar Pradesh	72.350	0.000	12.930	3.030	3.430	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.430	95.17
Uttarakhand	1.879	0.000	0.608	0.046	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.83

Himachal Pradesh	0.558	0.030	0.020	0.005	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.67
Bihar	11.386	1.396	1.002	0.000	0.319	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.477	14.58
Jammu and Kashmir	1.000	0.000	0.020	0.090	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.121	1.33
Telangana	0.000	0.208	0.002	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.375	0.68
Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.003	0.001	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.09
Kerala	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.01
West Bengal	0.237	0.025	0.043	0.088	0.199	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.694	1.29
TOTAL	122.596	2.413	20.222	11.388	6.958	2.068	1.780	1.855	13.102	182.38	

**Statement-II***Allocation of SDRF approved by the Government during 2015-16 to 2019-20*

Sl. No.	State	Central			Central Contribution			Total	2015-16	2016-17
		Contribution	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20			
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.75	330.00	346.50	363.75	381.75	400.50	1822.50	110.00	115.50
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.9	46.80	48.60	51.30	54.00	56.70	257.40	5.20	5.40
3	Assam	0.9	414.00	434.70	456.30	478.80	503.10	2286.90	46.00	48.30
4	Bihar	0.75	351.75	369.00	387.75	407.25	427.50	1943.25	117.25	123.00
5	Chattisgarh	0.75	180.75	189.75	198.75	208.50	219.00	996.75	60.25	63.25
6	Goa	0.75	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00	1.00	1.00
7	Gujarat	0.75	528.75	555.00	582.75	612.00	642.00	2920.50	176.25	185.00
8	Haryana	0.75	231.00	242.25	254.25	267.00	280.50	1275.00	77.00	80.75
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.9	212.40	223.20	234.00	245.70	258.30	1173.60	23.60	24.80
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0.9	229.50	241.20	252.90	265.50	279.00	1268.10	25.50	26.80
11	Jharkhand	0.75	273.00	286.50	300.75	315.75	331.50	1507.50	91.00	95.50
12	Karnataka	0.75	207.00	217.50	228.75	240.00	252.00	1145.25	69.00	72.50
13	Kerala	0.75	138.75	145.50	153.00	160.50	168.75	766.50	46.25	48.50
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.75	657.75	690.75	725.25	762.00	799.50	3635.25	219.25	230.25
15	Maharastra	0.75	1112.25	1167.75	1226.25	1287.75	1352.25	6146.25	370.75	389.25
16	Manipur	0.9	17.10	18.00	18.90	19.80	20.70	94.50	1.90	2.00
17	Meghalaya	0.9	21.60	22.50	24.30	25.20	26.10	119.70	2.40	2.50
18	Mizoram	0.9	15.30	16.20	17.10	18.00	18.00	84.60	1.70	1.80
19	Nagaland	0.9	9.00	9.00	9.90	9.90	10.80	48.60	1.00	1.00
20	Odisha	0.75	560.25	588.75	618.00	648.75	681.75	3097.50	186.75	196.25
21	Punjab	0.75	292.50	306.75	322.50	338.25	355.50	1615.50	97.50	102.25
22	Rajasthan	0.75	827.25	868.50	912.00	957.75	1005.00	4570.50	275.75	289.50
23	Sikkim	0.9	27.90	29.70	30.60	32.40	34.20	154.80	3.10	3.30
24	Tamilnadu	0.75	509.25	534.75	561.00	589.50	618.75	2813.25	169.75	178.25
25	Telangana	0.75	205.50	216.00	226.50	238.50	249.75	1136.25	68.50	72.00
26	Tripura	0.9	27.90	29.70	30.60	32.40	34.20	154.80	3.10	3.30
27	Uttar Pradesh	0.75	506.25	531.75	558.00	585.75	615.00	2796.75	168.75	177.25
28	Uttarakhand	0.9	189.00	198.00	207.90	218.70	229.50	1043.10	21.00	22.00
29	West Bengal	0.75	387.00	406.50	426.75	448.50	471.00	2139.75	129.00	135.50
TOTAL			8512.50	8937.30	9382.80	9852.90	10343.85	47029.35	2568.50	2696.70

**Statement-II***Allocation of SDRF approved by the Government during 2015-16 to 2019-20*

State Contribution				Total Allocation					
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
121.25	127.25	133.50	607.50	440.00	462.00	485.00	509.00	534.00	2430.00
5.70	6.00	6.30	28.60	52.00	54.00	57.00	60.00	63.00	286.00
50.70	53.20	55.90	254.10	460.00	483.00	507.00	532.00	559.00	2541.00
129.25	135.75	142.50	647.75	469.00	492.00	517.00	543.00	570.00	2591.00
66.25	69.50	73.00	332.25	241.00	253.00	265.00	278.00	292.00	1329.00
1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	20.00
194.25	204.00	214.00	973.50	705.00	740.00	777.00	816.00	856.00	3894.00
84.75	89.00	93.50	425.00	308.00	323.00	339.00	356.00	374.00	1700.00
26.00	27.30	28.70	130.40	236.00	248.00	260.00	273.00	287.00	1304.00
28.10	29.50	31.00	140.90	255.00	268.00	281.00	295.00	310.00	1409.00
100.25	105.25	110.50	502.50	364.00	382.00	401.00	421.00	442.00	2010.00
76.25	80.00	84.00	381.75	276.00	290.00	305.00	320.00	336.00	1527.00
51.00	53.50	56.25	255.50	185.00	194.00	204.00	214.00	225.00	1022.00
241.75	254.00	266.50	1211.75	877.00	921.00	967.00	1016.00	1066.00	4847.00
408.75	429.25	450.75	2048.75	1483.00	1557.00	1635.00	1717.00	1803.00	8195.00
2.10	2.20	2.30	10.50	19.00	20.00	21.00	22.00	23.00	105.00
2.70	2.80	2.90	13.30	24.00	25.00	27.00	28.00	29.00	133.00
1.90	2.00	2.00	9.40	17.00	18.00	19.00	20.00	20.00	94.00
1.10	1.10	1.20	5.40	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	54.00
206.00	216.25	227.25	1032.50	747.00	785.00	824.00	865.00	909.00	4130.00
107.50	112.75	118.50	538.50	390.00	409.00	430.00	451.00	474.00	2154.00
304.00	319.25	335.00	1523.50	1103.00	1158.00	1216.00	1277.00	1340.00	6094.00
3.40	3.60	3.80	17.20	31.00	33.00	34.00	36.00	38.00	172.00
187.00	196.50	206.25	937.75	679.00	713.00	748.00	786.00	825.00	3751.00
75.50	79.50	83.25	378.75	274.00	288.00	302.00	318.00	333.00	1515.00
3.40	3.60	3.80	17.20	31.00	33.00	34.00	36.00	38.00	172.00
186.00	195.25	205.00	932.25	675.00	709.00	744.00	781.00	820.00	3729.00
23.10	24.30	25.50	115.90	210.00	220.00	231.00	243.00	255.00	1159.00
142.25	149.50	157.00	713.25	516.00	542.00	569.00	598.00	628.00	2853.00
2831.20	2973.10	3121.15	14190.65	11081.00	11634.00	12214.00	12826.00	13465.00	61220.00

**Soil health and nutrient management**

1407. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to accord high priority to soil health and nutrient management for sustainable farm growth in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government so far to meet the sustainable farm growth in the country, State-wise, particularly in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new scheme “Soil Health Card” has been introduced in year 2014-15 to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Card to all farmers in the country, once in every three years. Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on soil nutrient status of their soil and recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrient to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Apart from above, Government is implementing Soil Health Management under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in all States including Odisha. Soil Health Management (SHM) aims at promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and biofertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity; strengthening of soil testing facilities to provide soil test based recommendations to farmers for improving soil fertility; upgradation of skill and knowledge of soil testing laboratory staff extension staff and farmers through training and demonstrations.

In addition, various other schemes namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Farms and Oilpalm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are implemented throughout the country for sustainable farm growth. In the State of Odisha, the financial expenditure incurred under various schemes is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Indian Council of Agricultural Research is advocating soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management, split application and placement of fertilizers, use of slow releasing N Fertilizers and Nitrification inhibitors, inclusion of legumes in cropping system, adoption of Resource Conservation Technologies and fertigation.



**Statement***Allocation, release and expenditure during 2014-15 to the State of Odisha*

As on 31.3.2015

(₹ in crore)

Sl.No.	Year Name of Schemes	2014-15		
		Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	86.46	53.97	31.35
2	National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP)	15.82	9.26	2.03
3	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)			
	(i) Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	13.00	13.00	0.00
	(ii) Soil Health Management*	#	1.51	0.00
	(iii) On Farm Water Management (OFWM)	10.65	10.14	3.32
4	National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET)			
	(i) Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension	30.98	44.48	36.53
5	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)			
	(i) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	93.50	71.75	46.75
	(ii) National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	5.64	3.88	3.88
6	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	504.13	482.07	178.50
7	Soil Health Card*	#	0.80	0.00
TOTAL:		760.18	690.86	302.36

# No State-wise allocation are made under the scheme.

\* The scheme is being implemented only from 2014-15.

**Financial assistance for establishment of storage facilities**

1408. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of storage/cold storage facilities in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government provides financial assistance to State Governments for establishment of storage/cold storage units; and
- (c) the availability of storage facilities in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) The XII Plan Working Group on 'Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Secondary Agriculture and Policy Required for Internal and External Trade' has estimated a requirement of 35 million Metric Tonnes (MT) storage capacity during XII Plan period.

The Committee on Encouraging Investments in Supply Chain constituted by Planning Commission estimated a shortage of about 37 million tonnes in cold storage capacity in 2010. An additional cold storage capacity of 7.37 million MT has been created since January 2010 till March 2014 under various schemes of the Government.

(b) Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), Central Government provides financial assistance for establishment of storage/ cold storage units to various categories of promoters, including State Governments @ 25% for General Category and 33.33% for special categories.

National Horticulture Mission (NHM) under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of Horticulture in the country provides assistance for post harvest management including setting up/ expansion/ modernization of cold storages for fruits and vegetables. Under post harvest component, assistance is provided to States/Union Territories (UTs) for such interventions based on their Annual Action Plans for development of entrepreneur driven commercial ventures. Assistance is by way of credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also through Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) provides finance to various stakeholders including State Governments for supporting creation of storage infrastructure including warehouses, silos and cold chain activities in the sector.

Department of Food and Public Distribution also provides financial assistance in form of grant-in-aid to State Governments of North Eastern Region and Jammu & Kashmir for construction of intermediate storage godowns for foodgrains under its Plan Scheme.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) through Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, also provides financial assistance to various stakeholders including Central/State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) @ 50% of the total cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern region and difficult areas subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 crore per project.

(c) Under Storage component (erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana) of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), since inception in April, 2001, till the end of March, 2015, a total of 583 godowns with a capacity of 34,96,782 MT have been sanctioned and a subsidy of Rs. 13501.99 lakhs has been released in the State of Telangana. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, a total of 1225 godowns with a capacity of 48,33,180 MT have been sanctioned and a subsidy of Rs. 17982.68 lakhs has been released.

The cold storage capacity created under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) up to 31.03.2015 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is 3.37 lakh MT and 2.54 lakh MT respectively.

The storage capacity with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies as on 31.3.2015 for Central Pool foodgrains in the States of Telangana is of 1.02 lakh MT and in Andhra Pradesh 17.96 lakh MT respectively.

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is also operating 28 Warehouses with a total storage capacity of 12.03 lakh MT in the State of Andhra Pradesh 18 warehouses with a total storage capacity of 16.08 lakh MT in the State of Telangana.

#### **Reduction in agricultural land**

1409. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the agricultural land in the country is shrinking constantly, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are leaving cultivation and migrating to urban areas in search of livelihood; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to resolve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) As per the latest report on Land Use Statistics for 2011-12 compiled by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, total agricultural land on the country has marginally declined to 182.0 million hectares in 2011-12 as compared to 182.4 million hectares in 2007-08. The decline in agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc.

(b) As per Population Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.0 million (118.7 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011.

(c) Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs. To increase production, productivity and profitability of agriculture profession various crop development programmes/schemes are being implemented through State Governments.

In order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, Govt. also announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural crops for kharif and rabi marketing seasons every year.

#### **Drought in Maharashtra**

1410. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought has adversely hit more than 90 lakh farmers in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the financial assistance and other relief measures provided by the Central Government and the State Government to the affected farmers and their livestock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures to farmers in the wake of eligible/notified natural calamities from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Additional financial assistance to State Government, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on receipt of relief memoranda from State Governments and in accordance with extant norms and procedures.

During Kharif 2014, Government of Maharashtra reported 26 districts in the State

as drought affected and submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance from NDRF. The Government of India has approved of Rs.1962.99 crore from NDRF in the wake of drought.

**Suicide by farmers due to damage to their crops**

†1411. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of farmers who committed suicide due to damage to their crops, as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the assistance provided or proposed to be provided by Central Government to the families of the victim farmers, State-wise; and
- (c) the plan of Government to provide employment or other assistance to such families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) The State Governments of Maharashtra and Punjab have reported 3 (three) and 5 (five) cases of farmers' suicide respectively, due to damage to their crops. State Government of Rajasthan has also reported 1 (one) case of farmer suicide in the year 2015.

(b) and (c) Agriculture is a state subject under the Constitution and therefore, State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture sector and welfare of farmers. Amount of compensation to the family of farmers who commit suicide is decided by the respective State Government including payment of compensation to the bereaved families of farmers affected by suicide.

Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Several steps have been taken to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on increase of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forgoing appropriate backward and forward linkages.

Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

enhancement of minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

#### **Amendment in APMC Act**

1412. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Governments have been advised to amend their APMC Act to exclude fruits and vegetables so that farmers have wider selling choice;
- (b) if so, how many States have amended their APMC Act; and
- (c) the reasons for not amending the act by other States, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has advised States/ Union Territories (UTs) to deregulate marketing of fruits and vegetables when traded outside the market-yard while continuing regulation on trade transaction taking place inside the market yard so as to provide farmers wider choices to sell their fruits and vegetables, wherever they get better prices.

(b) As per information available as on date two States (Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka) have made amendments in their Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts while Nine other States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal) and Delhi have issued notifications to either cease the regulation or de-list fruits and vegetables from the Schedule of APMC Act by amending it or exempt or reduce the market fee on fruits and vegetables by exercising the powers conferred in their respective APMC Acts.

(c) Agricultural marketing is administered by the State Governments/UTs as per their respective marketing regulations and the decision to amend the Act is of the State/ UT Governments.

#### **Reducing the number of people engaged in farming activities**

1413. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has plan to reduce the number of people engaged in farming activities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) Government has no specific plan to reduce the number of people engaged in farming activities.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Meeting with Ministers of coastal States and UTs**

1414. SHRI A.U.SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has held any interaction with the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers of the coastal States and Union Territories in the recent past, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the issues raised by various participants during the said meeting; and

(c) whether any corrective measures to resolve the issues/concerns of coastal States and UTs have been taken up, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was convened by Union Agriculture Minister with the Chief Ministers and Administrators of the coastal States and Union Territories (UTs) on 18th March, 2015. The meeting was attended by all coastal States and UTs representing the Fisheries Departments. Union Defence Minister also attended as special invitee besides, the Ministers of State for Agriculture.

(b) During the above said meeting, three main issues related to Marine Fisheries were discussed, namely (i) Report of the Technical Committee set up to review the fishing ban period imposed in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) during the monsoon season, (ii) Report of the Expert Committee constituted under the Chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meena Kumari on deep sea fishing and related matters, and (iii) The proposed Marine Fisheries (Regulation & Management) Bill, 2012.

(c) During the meeting, majority of the States agreed to extend the duration of ban period to 61 days. They also agreed with the proposal of the draft Marine Fisheries (Regulation & Management) Bill, 2012. Subsequently, an Order was issued on 10.4.2015 to implement uniform fishing ban of 61 days in the Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters. Accordingly, the Fishing Ban is imposed from 15th April till 14th June, 2015 (61 days) in the east coast and from 1st June to 31st July, 2015 (61 days) in the west coast, respectively. This Ban period is imposed in the EEZ, beyond territorial waters and the coastal State/UTs have been advised to follow the same duration of uniform ban within their territorial waters (0 to 12 nautical miles). The states who would prefer to have fishing ban of less than 61 days in their territorial waters have been advised to reach 61 days ban period in

their territorial waters gradually within a period of 05 years for the purpose of ensuring uniformity. During the meeting held on 18.3.2015, concerns of States/UTs on the Report of the Expert Committee on deep sea fishing have also been noted and it was decided that (i) Foreign vessels will not be allowed for fishing in the EEZ and (ii) Concept of creation of a buffer zone in the area between 200-500 m depth will not be accepted.

#### **Review of performance of KVKs**

1415.SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high level panel set up to examine and review the performance of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has recommended strict adherence norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of various KVKs functioning in Odisha;
- (c) the details of the recommendations made by the panel; and
- (d) the action taken or being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government in December, 2014 has recently reviewed the performance of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The Committee has recommended that while establishing KVK, the basic norms and criteria of quality sizable land and the potential of the host organization to effectively implement the KVK should be adhered to. The activity-wise performance status of various KVKs functioning in Odisha during 2014-15 is given in the **Statement** (See below).

(c) and (d) The major recommendations of the Committee to make the KVKs more relevant and progressive included strengthening and upgradation of vital facilities such as soil & water facilities, integrated farming system, technology information units, improved seed production and processing, water harvesting and micro irrigation, ensuring availability of electrical/solar power back up; Joint Action Plan with ATMA and synergy with line departments; linkages with major agricultural programs and stakeholders; focus on skill development and vocational training of rural youth; technological backstopping to agricultural development programs in villages adopted by Members of Parliament; and special thrust for setting up KVKs in North East, Tribal and Hilly areas; and regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation including third party evaluation. All these recommendations of the HLC have been fully taken into consideration for making provisions for strengthening and establishment of KVKs in the XII Five Year Plan.



**Statement**

*Activity-wise performance status of various KVKs functioning in Odisha during 2014-15.*

Name of KVKs	Assessment of Technologies (in number)	Frontline demonstrations (in number)	Farmers trained (in number)	Extension Personnel trained (in number)	Participants in extension activities (in number)	Production of seed (in qtl)	Planting material produced (in number)	Livestock strains and fingerlings (in number)	Soil and water samples tested (in number)	Farmers provided with Mobile agro-advisory (in number)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Angul	20	246	1615	70	2147	35	11000	0	20	950
Balasore	19	197	1900	60	47668	10.45	68549	1129	160	901
Bargarh	8	209	1322	76	9321	735.8	120000	0	0	1625
Bhadrak	15	234	1715	65	5510	67.6	24812	54970	1114	1980
Bolangir	14	101	1475	50	7043	309	130080	0	393	1000
Boudh	21	137	1547	28	23330	3	200000	600	0	846
Cuttack	18	262	1293	20	2449	5.6	0	0	173	183
Deogarh	15	208	1465	60	3391	3	31163	0	326	1206
Dhenkanal	33	139	1620	120	8214	135	8020	400000	660	1120
Gajapati	7	205	1093	50	415	0	0	0	150	891
Ganjam-I	15	260	1620	60	4479	302.1	55000	500200	628	1560
Ganjam-II	20	138	2270	111	1695	0	0	0		1007
Jagatsinghpur	20	225	1440	52	2688	247	0	0		1411
Jaipur	27	192	1027	90	8031	143.4	72500	8643	1003	1220

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Jharsuguda	4	50	735	70	3821	7	0	0	350	1399
Kalahandi	20	185	1600	100	4544	289.38	24560	402	700	140
Kandhamal	20	410	2450	10	18124	80	2350		168	177
Kendrapara	20	299	1425	55	5648	150	5560	120000	1055	1260
Keonjhar	15	150	1250	30	5348	52.7	57992	150	739	2032
Khordha	20	265	1345	64	10181	5	0	0	11	4036
Koraput	11	119	1135	34	8200	106.24	0	0	0	307
Malkangiri	10	45	680	30	32	7.0	7000	0	22	1025
Mayurbhanj-I	20	180	2015	30	5000	752.2	20500	26600	0	1591
Mayurbhanj-II	11	195	925	50	3635	99.42	20,500	0	70	1012
Nabrangpur	16	170	1140	43	600	66.65	0	0	0	0
Nayagarh	20	155	2005	200	14064	0.6	35553	500	108	1277
Nuapada	12	280	1401	40	1894	103	0	0	0	2606
Puri	20	188	1745	80	1817	440	45500	45100	101	1055
Rayagada	16	220	1895	15	3278	106.4	5500	0	0	1396
Sambalpur	17	18	1595	120	7415	38.4	15806	0	0	1310
Sonepur	12	208	1065	55	6514	123.4	36540	0	162	850
Sundargarh-I	9	132	1410	35	9141	23.27	11158	0	0	1760
Sundargarh-II	10	209	1337	82	2100	23	12800	0	0	1042
TOTAL	535	6231	48555	2055	237737	4470.61	1,022,443	192350	4489	40175

**Observation of expert committee on marine fishing policy**

1416. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to an expert committee on India's marine fishing policy, India does not have adequate expertise or resources to exploit waters beyond 500m, if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether Government has taken any measures to develop domestic capacity in this regard, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR.SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) In the Report submitted by the Expert Committee under the Chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meena kumari for comprehensive review of deep sea fishing policy and guidelines it has been stated that India is presently lacking adequate skill and expertise to exploit the resources in waters beyond 500 meters. The Report mentions that the waters beyond 500 meter depth are not optimally exploited and there is considerable scope for expansion in this zone, mainly for tuna and tuna-like fish species.

(b) The Guidelines for fishing operations in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have been simplified and issued on 12.11.2014 in order to ensure smooth fishing operations in the EEZ. With the new set of Guidelines, smaller vessels of overall length 15 meters and above are also allowed and encouraged to venture for deep-sea fishing. Financial assistance is extended by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce for conversion of mechanised trawlers into mono-filament tuna long liners.

**Shortage of fodder**

1417. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Marathwada region of Maharashtra is suffering from acute shortage of fodder for cattle;

(b) the level of rainfall in the region in percentage terms as compared to normal level; and

(c) whether Government has arranged free fodder camps from end of March, 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR.SANJIV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) No Sir. There is no acute shortage of fodder for cattle in Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

(b) The region received 52.89 Per cent rainfall from the normal level during monsoon 2014.

(c) No. Government has not arranged any free fodder camps from the end of March, 2015.

**Bail out proposal for outstanding bank loans**

1418. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a bail-out proposal from the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation to stay off a crisis arising from huge liabilities on interest payment on outstanding bank loans;

(b) whether NAFED had played a vital role in the past as Government's prime procurement agency for foodgrains; and

(c) whether NAFED had incurred huge liabilities, as guarantor for private companies under a tie-up arrangement without obtaining Government's prior policy or financial approval, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) NAFED submitted a proposal to the Government for its financial restructuring seeking (i) Government guarantee for an amount of ₹ 1200 crore to NAFED to avail long term loan for a period of 8 years (ii) interest free advance of ₹ 920.21 crore over next eight years to NAFED to meet the resource gap required to service the long term loan of ₹ 1200 crore (iii) investment of equity of ₹ 42.50 crores in NAFED by Government so as to have 51% share in the paid up share capital of NAFED. Subsequently, NAFED submitted a revised proposal envisaging a Government Guarantee of ₹ 450 crores and interest free advance/equity of ₹ 590 crores. Considering the fact that NAFED is a Multi-State Cooperative Society registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 without any share capital/equity from the Govt., it was not found feasible to extend the financial help sought therefore.

(b) NAFED is a central nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds, pulses & cotton only under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

(c) NAFED has reported that it had undertaken tie-up business with a number of private parties on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, during the period 2003-04 to 2005-06. Under this, NAFED had borrowed funds from several banks, which could not be repaid, due to default in payment by tie-up parties. As such, the bank loans of Rs.2164 crores have become overdue, as on 31.03.2014. Further, NAFED has incurred huge losses due to interest burden on the funds stuck in tie-up advances resulting in negative net worth of Rs.318 crores (as on 31.03.2014). Due to locking of huge funds in tie-up business, NAFED carried forward the loans taken from various banks for these business and made provisions of huge amount of interest on it every year. This interest liability has become more than the net profit generated by, its business operations and PSS activities. The details of the losses suffered by NAFED during the last 3 years are as under:-

Year	Net loss (₹ in crores)
2011-12	188.00
2012-13	150.00
2013-14	166.00
2014-15	170.00
(Tentative up to 28.02.2015)	

The said tie-up business of NAFED was undertaken on its own, without any policy and/or financial approval of the Government.

#### **Demand to Establish Agriculture**

##### **University in Tripura**

1419. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agriculture Universities in NE States, the names and location thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact, that in order to gainfully exploit the potentialities, Government of Tripura has sent a proposal to the Ministry to establish a University on the existing infrastructure of Tripura Agriculture College; and

(c) if so, the views or plan of the Ministry on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) One State Agricultural University and one Central Agricultural University are functioning in NE States:

1. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam
2. Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Science and the College of Fisheries are already functioning in the State of Tripura. A new CAU is to be started in Barapani, Meghalaya. There is no proposal for opening of new Central Agricultural University (CAU) in the State of Tripura.

#### **Development of floriculture**

1420. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an immense potential for development of floriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to farmers for development of floriculture;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up agriculture export zones for floriculture;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the floriculture exports to various countries during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(e) the details of measures taken for providing technological and financial support along with the development of infrastructure and cold chain management for flower growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) There is an immense potential for development of floriculture in the country. Due to favourable agro-climatic conditions flower crops are grown in almost all the States.

(b) The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for development of horticultural crops including flowers. Farmers are provided assistance @ 40% of the cost ranging from Rs. 40,000 per ha. to Rs. 1.50 lakh per ha. limited to 2 ha per beneficiary. The assistance provided by the Government to various States for the last three years under NHM, and current year under MIDH is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) No. However, the details of floriculture exports from India to various countries and their value during the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement- II (*See below*).

(e) The technological support is being provided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through research organizations like Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, National Research Centre for Orchids, Sikkim besides Horticultural and Agricultural Universities in different states. The ICAR has established a full-fledged Directorate of Floricultural Research at Pune to address the issues specific to floriculture sector.

Government has been supporting all relevant infrastructure development for a market integrated Cold-chain which ensures market access for all horticulture produce including the floriculture sector. Financial assistance is also extended for setting up of infrastructure relating to cold chain management *viz.* pre-cooling units, on farm pack house, mobile pre-cooling units, staging cold rooms, refrigerated vans etc.. Under Integrated Post Harvest Management component of MIDH @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and 50% in case of hilly and schedule areas is provided to beneficiaries including private companies.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides 90 per cent grant-in-aid to State Government agencies for setting up of cold chain facilities for common use by the floriculture exporters. APEDA has set up Centres for Perishable Cargo at the key airports of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Nasik, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa, Bagdogra, Kolkata and Amritsar. Walk in type refrigerated container facilities have also been setup by APEDA at Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Coimbatore airports.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise and year-wise details of funds released under  
floriculture component of NHM and MIDH*

	(₹ in lakh)	
States	2013-14	2014-15
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	78.00
Bihar	161.50	18.40
Chhattisgarh	269.03	250.00
Goa	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	73.38	61.20
Haryana	85.38	48.00
Jharkhand	78.20	126.80
Karnataka	228.13	188.70
Kerala	39.74	91.80
Madhya Pradesh	104.20	231.30
Maharashtra	259.43	255.70
Odisha	251.01	243.10
Puducherry	4.48	8.30
Punjab	77.36	32.30
Rajasthan	16.12	20.40
Tamilnadu	317.48	255.90
Telangana	0.00	31.10
Uttar Pradesh	132.71	403.80
West Bengal	0.00	255.70
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.25	12.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.44	0.00
TOTAL :	2107.84	2534.50



**Statement-II***India's Export of Floriculture*

S.No.	Country	2011-12			2012-13			2013-14			2014-15 (April - September)		
		Qty MT	Rs. Lacs	Value US\$ Mill	Qty MT	Rs. Lacs	Value US\$ Mill	Qty MT	Rs. Lacs	Value US\$ Mill	Qty MT	₹ Lacs	Value US\$ Mill
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	United States	7559.21	7129.10	14.87	6696.60	8381.00	15.38	5158.70	8459.38	14.01	2659.34	5150.63	8.55
2.	Germany	5256.69	5752.49	12.00	3715.28	5675.43	10.40	2841.16	5928.94	9.87	1382.62	3588.23	5.97
3.	Netherland	3923.99	5412.74	11.29	3099.15	5970.00	10.97	1983.51	6615.28	10.96	1123.77	2897.45	4.82
4.	United Kingdom	3456.23	3856.02	8.04	3191.89	4568.17	8.39	2583.87	5512.57	9.02	1118.34	2412.63	3.99
5.	United Arab Emirates	816.85	1125.50	2.35	1029.36	1544.53	2.84	1026.05	1701.07	2.80	724.14	959.86	1.59
6.	Canada	867.81	1202.83	2.51	985.89	1618.65	2.97	567.78	1365.31	2.27	516.98	954.28	1.59
7.	Australia	355.95	991.12	2.07	353.16	1073.82	1.98	270.35	996.34	1.64	213.78	727.76	1.21
8.	Japan	736.65	1472.24	3.07	801.35	1567.19	2.89	727.07	1621.35	2.67	147.97	537.46	0.90
9.	Italy	1267.02	1118.84	2.33	820.80	1350.13	2.49	682.75	1332.93	2.18	267.51	515.07	0.85
10.	Singapore	343.38	378.14	0.79	552.44	613.34	1.13	817.98	910.51	1.49	423.51	460.87	0.76
11.	China P Rp	523.22	656.71	1.37	596.15	1059.75	1.95	515.43	951.67	1.57	165.43	383.60	0.64
12.	Belgium	655.49	777.50	1.62	335.80	543.35	1.00	281.93	751.28	1.22	167.25	375.99	0.62
13.	New Zealand	81.00	166.55	0.35	73.22	234.65	0.43	155.76	558.34	0.92	68.94	330.27	0.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Spain	586.91	501.83	1.05	233.63	336.16	0.62	310.38	456.43	0.76	249.56	294.06	0.49
15.	Poland	392.39	435.07	0.91	441.06	515.44	0.95	383.69	582.43	0.97	149.84	286.15	0.47
16.	France	369.80	406.24	0.85	281.83	457.35	0.83	350.01	438.58	0.72	238.52	280.23	0.46
17.	Bulgaria	27.38	23.41	0.05	8.10	17.80	0.03	26.23	71.18	0.13	35.34	268.07	0.45
18.	Austria	138.44	196.96	0.41	198.90	319.28	0.58	203.01	424.38	0.71	95.62	213.36	0.35
19.	Malaysia	73.55	190.29	0.40	124.66	307.20	0.57	155.46	540.10	0.88	75.96	212.18	0.35
20.	Latvia	254.32	284.26	0.59	535.14	781.04	1.44	197.82	363.94	0.60	60.11	190.66	0.32
21.	Saudi Arabia	143.07	143.50	0.30	186.71	323.85	0.60	165.26	291.81	0.48	114.93	171.42	0.28
22.	Chile	64.24	80.52	0.17	221.93	270.74	0.50	174.48	272.10	0.45	104.11	120.20	0.20
23.	South Africa	215.34	209.19	0.44	240.06	318.81	0.58	227.30	509.90	0.83	121.28	116.69	0.19
24.	Switzerland	38.53	63.83	0.13	34.05	53.58	0.10	110.18	127.58	0.21	59.93	96.22	0.16
25.	Kuwait	60.04	136.71	0.29	62.84	80.79	0.15	293.99	213.26	0.35	33.21	89.38	0.15
26.	Bahrain	45.74	72.21	0.15	102.46	113.71	0.21	66.40	148.34	0.24	60.24	87.47	0.14
27.	Portugal	35.72	61.05	0.13	20.17	57.71	0.11	9.39	39.10	0.06	17.68	79.82	0.13
28.	Korea Republic	84.93	166.33	0.35	48.62	172.89	0.33	81.68	304.00	0.53	6.93	75.72	0.13
29.	Czech Republic	34.85	23.98	0.05	18.45	27.74	0.05	16.26	32.64	0.05	43.57	75.03	0.12
30.	Slovenia	67.92	66.02	0.14	43.35	43.71	0.08	37.85	60.40	0.10	56.48	73.65	0.12

31.	Thailand	177.31	92.55	0.19	115.37	68.92	0.13	155.82	195.09	0.33	48.63	72.44	0.12
32.	Qatar	61.32	61.69	0.13	105.46	127.31	0.24	138.23	293.24	0.48	50.10	71.46	0.12
33.	Greece	28.39	33.03	0.07	18.42	34.60	0.06	99.15	133.37	0.22	25.36	67.37	0.11
34.	Mauritius	21.26	146.42	0.31	30.88	80.76	0.15	13.28	85.83	0.14	8.82	65.25	0.11
35.	Hungary	101.47	75.32	0.16	65.34	48.94	0.09	172.85	172.57	0.29	60.34	58.98	0.10
36.	Malawi	0.12	0.95	0.00	0.05	1.10	0.00	5.19	49.50	0.08	4.88	58.14	0.10
37.	Brazil	27.82	24.10	0.05	138.52	135.13	0.25	0.47	5.95	0.01	20.39	55.84	0.09
38.	Costa Rica	41.89	41.04	0.09	45.12	35.95	0.07	52.73	111.31	0.18	42.52	54.47	0.09
39.	Egypt Arab Republic	33.05	146.78	0.31	174.17	130.01	0.24	141.06	186.58	0.30	56.47	53.79	0.09
40.	Mexico	142.60	136.29	0.28	29.42	65.70	0.12	37.83	82.05	0.14	17.55	52.72	0.09
41.	Lebanon	61.32	73.53	0.15	132.36	175.40	0.32	72.25	252.16	0.41	11.05	47.43	0.08
42.	Oman	35.67	71.17	0.15	31.27	71.74	0.13	59.60	147.81	0.24	46.01	45.60	0.08
43.	Eritrea	15.61	46.84	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.65	44.36	0.07
44.	Bhutan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	38.05	0.06
45.	Taiwan	36.05	90.28	0.19	32.29	100.13	0.18	35.07	68.58	0.12	6.13	36.54	0.06
46.	Colombia	16.33	40.79	0.09	7.43	44.49	0.08	19.51	65.57	0.11	0.78	35.13	0.06
47.	Maldives	19.73	51.03	0.11	71.55	53.81	0.10	27.58	96.80	0.16	13.92	33.69	0.06
48.	Israel	27.78	64.18	0.13	76.78	114.10	0.21	4.06	34.69	0.06	8.65	32.43	0.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
49.	Ecuador	0.90	44.01	0.09	6.51	82.33	0.15	13.52	130.26	0.21	28.13	32.23	0.05
50.	Uruguay	72.04	75.46	0.16	24.29	52.92	0.10	10.42	14.54	0.02	23.18	31.41	0.05
51.	Sri Lanka	73.50	75.35	0.16	25.29	61.30	0.11	48.92	95.79	0.16	41.84	30.87	0.05
52.	Cyprus	0.05	0.07	0.00	3.80	7.44	0.01	4.60	15.31	0.02	1.65	28.22	0.05
53.	Vietnam Social Republic	2.08	4.37	0.01	14.81	38.07	0.07	9.87	54.96	0.09	6.13	28.33	0.05
54.	Morocco	4.40	19.54	0.04	12.46	38.54	0.07	31.72	79.89	0.13	0.97	26.25	0.04
55.	Croatia	27.11	26.13	0.05	35.04	46.86	0.09	29.34	53.27	0.09	16.03	24.49	0.04
56.	Sweden	98.10	120.91	0.25	72.52	102.51	0.19	38.24	64.78	0.11	10.02	24.14	0.04
57.	Philippines	24.89	39.87	0.08	13.68	29.92	0.06	22.16	63.93	0.11	11.59	22.98	0.04
58.	Argentina	121.18	154.41	0.32	26.68	50.43	0.09	35.31	78.02	0.13	2.97	22.37	0.04
59.	Slovak Republic	37.55	32.18	0.07	24.51	46.96	0.09	2.29	2.93	0.00	23.63	21.34	0.04
60.	Hong Kong	238.61	242.90	0.51	93.18	109.02	0.20	99.49	89.53	0.15	15.36	21.11	0.03
61.	Denmark	32.59	77.02	0.16	72.43	86.86	0.16	12.10	37.04	0.06	6.19	19.00	0.03
62.	Ireland	5.70	3.37	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.12	6.60	0.01	13.31	18.35	0.03
63.	Lithuania	20.81	14.34	0.03	18.69	16.91	0.03	15.51	31.31	0.05	19.81	16.83	0.03
64.	Nepal	26.98	27.00	0.06	18.04	24.51	0.05	29.06	47.57	0.08	3.63	16.94	0.03
65.	Cambodia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.09	15.56	0.03

66.	Bangladesh	69.54	8.32	0.02	34.34	14.10	0.03	225.04	53.92	0.09	66.52	13.81	0.02
67.	Panama Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.63	36.56	0.07	11.85	35.13	0.06	3.00	13.66	0.02
68.	Norway	2.75	5.65	0.01	8.09	4.97	0.01	4.81	7.18	0.01	18.06	12.45	0.02
69.	Kenya	2.17	16.06	0.03	2.16	2.02	0.00	0.54	25.41	0.04	0.72	11.00	0.02
70.	Guatemala	7.80	19.21	0.04	11.17	6.72	0.01	10.42	17.58	0.03	4.00	10.22	0.02
71.	Dominic Republic	26.77	15.84	0.03	27.41	16.17	0.03	8.50	8.53	0.01	4.50	10.14	0.02
72.	Tunisia	9.00	13.22	0.03	8.00	8.30	0.02	4.00	4.43	0.01	8.00	9.92	0.02
73.	Turkey	33.48	74.83	0.16	20.21	52.88	0.10	48.31	112.58	0.19	5.14	9.53	0.02
74.	Peru	16.71	9.88	0.02	11.55	30.84	0.06	18.92	18.36	0.03	3.14	7.65	0.01
75.	Ghana	3.02	8.27	0.02	0.22	4.66	0.01	1.00	2.58	0.00	0.15	6.54	0.01
76.	Montenegro	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.44	6.27	0.01
77.	Zambia	0.31	3.60	0.01	0.68	5.46	0.01	4.99	10.59	0.02	1.06	5.89	0.01
78.	Nigeria	2.01	8.04	0.02	2.48	4.68	0.01	8.72	15.95	0.03	5.35	5.08	0.01
79.	Ukraine	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71	0.98	0.00	2.08	3.75	0.01	1.50	4.89	0.01
80.	Iran	10.61	14.87	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.40	15.28	0.02	5.05	4.74	0.01
81.	Yemen Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.18	2.71	0.00	5.50	4.56	0.01
82.	Russia	56.78	84.75	0.18	54.55	108.65	0.20	63.50	97.35	0.16	1.65	4.53	0.01
83.	Jordan	7.78	25.00	0.05	8.94	32.64	0.06	22.69	43.00	0.07	2.44	3.84	0.01

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



136.	Iraq	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.35	4.19	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
137.	Myanmar	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.68	5.86	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
138.	Serbia	7.43	9.27	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
139.	Liberia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
140.	Central African Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
141.	Madagascar	0.25	4.91	0.01	0.10	1.05	1.58	25.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
142.	Monaco	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
143.	Grenada	0.15	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
144.	Cote D'Ivoire	3.20	7.69	0.02	3.20	9.06	1.90	4.60	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
145.	Djibouti	0.06	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
146.	Benin	2.71	2.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
147.	Netherlandantil	6.28	2.72	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148.	Suriname	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
149.	Sierra Leone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
150.	Ethiopia	415.27	822.33	1.72	162.65	1232.07	3.80	333.74	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		30926.01	36532.08	76.25	27121.88	42344.62	22485.21	45590.63	75.31	11333.68	23504.28	39.03

### **Harmful effects of untreated sewage in food chain**

1421. SHRI K.T.S TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether untreated sewage is being diverted to farms for farming because it is almost free;
- (b) whether there are any easy/cheaper technologies to treat sewage; and
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to determine harmful effects of sewage in the food chain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) Studies have revealed that undesirable constituents of untreated wastewater can harm human as well as environment. Accordingly, Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board is promoting decentralized treatment of sewage water at the local level using technology based on natural processes. After proper treatment, sewage water is used in pisciculture, irrigation, forestry and horticulture.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research & Education—Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed environment friendly, low cost and low energy demanding wastewater treatment technology which reduces organic and nutrient loads and also reduces heavy metal pollution.

- (c) Studies have revealed that no clear modifications of the food web structure and dynamics have been observed and no evidence for direct uptake of sewage has been found.

### **Revival of Sindri and Barauni fertilizer units**

†1422 SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fertilizer factory at Sindri has been closed down completely since 2002 and the then Government had passed a proposal to restart the factory in 2007;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating on starting this prestigious factory of the country;
- (c) whether fertilizers factory at Barauni is also closed down along with the above Sindri factory and whether any time bound programme has been formulated to start both these factories; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government proposes to have tender process for Sindri fertilizers factory or give it to any public enterprises on nomination, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) to (d) Government decided in 2002, to close operations of all the fertilizer units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) Sindri unit of FCIL and Barauni unit of HFCL were also included. These units have huge infrastructure facilities like sizable land bank, residential quarters and office buildings, railway siding, tied up sources of electricity and water. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in 2007, had given 'in principle' approval to examine the feasibility of reviving units of FCIL and HFCL. In 2008, the Cabinet had accorded approval to revive FCIL and HFCL units subject to non recourse to Government funding. CCEA, in 2011, approved revival of the closed units on 'nomination basis' by interested PSUs or through 'bidding route' by the interested private parties. The Sindri unit was to be revived through nomination basis by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Barauni unit was to be revived through bidding route.

Recently the union Cabinet in its meeting held on 31.03.2015 approved revival of the Barauni unit through 'bidding route' by providing the land on 'lease basis' instead of 'right to use' basis as approved earlier by the CCEA in 2011.

Since SAIL prepared a modernization and expansion plan, SAIL has taken a view not to pursue the Sindri Revival project further. At present, PSUs/cooperatives with experience of fertilizer manufacturing are not free to take-up revival of Sindri unit to enable Government to offer the same on nomination basis. The Government, while exploring the feasibility of fast tracking the revival of Sindri unit, considered the alternative route for revival, i.e. through the 'bidding route'.

#### **Unauthorized sale of fertilizers**

†1423. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fact that fertilizers such as Urea, Ammonium Sulphate meant to be provided to farmers for increasing agricultural production are being furtively sold in the market to industries;

(b) the number of persons caught in the year 2014-15 who were involved in black-marketing of fertilizers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps Government intends to take to check black marketing of fertilizers meant for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) There are reports of alleged diversion of subsidized fertilizers meant for agricultural use to industrial users from some quarters. During the year 2014-15 three cases of diversion have been reported by the Government of Gujarat so far.

(b) and (c) For the year 2014-15, 29 cases of black marketing have been reported so far by various States namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Here it is pertinent to mention that the distribution of fertilizers to the farmers within the State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Government of India has declared fertilizers as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act and notified Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) under this Act. State Governments are adequately empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating the provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

In addition, Department of Fertilizers has, from time to time, written to the Chief Secretaries of various States and Ministry of Home Affairs to activate the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to take appropriate action to curb diversion, black-marketing and smuggling. Further, Department of Fertilizers, through weekly Video Conference with Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) and representatives of State Governments has been sensitizing and advising the State Governments to check black-marketing, diversion, smuggling and breach of MRP etc.

#### **Restricting profits on sale of medicines**

1424. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some companies, are earning huge profit on medicines and medical equipments produced by them as there seems huge price difference between production cost and selling price as Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of different brands of the same medicine varies by as much as 1,700-1,800 per cent in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for restricting profit on medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Pursuant to announcement of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP, 2012), the Government has notified Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15.05.2013. Under DPCO, 2013, methodology for price fixation of drugs is 'Market based pricing' instead of 'Cost based pricing' provided earlier in the DPCO, 1995. NPPA has already fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 521 medicines till date out of 680 medicines (628 net medicines) included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 2013 on the basis of market based price data under provisions of said order.

Maximum Retail Price of different brands of the same molecules / medicines varies for both scheduled and non-scheduled formulations. However, in respect of scheduled formulations, no person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified by the NPPA. In respect of medicines not under price control, manufacturers are allowed to increase maximum retail price (MRP) by 10% annually. The NPPP, 2012 and DPCO 2013 does not regulate the production cost of medicines and medical equipments and the profit earned by the respective companies.

#### **Closure of urea producing plants**

†1425. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of plants in the country producing urea;
- (b) whether it is a fact that two urea producing plants are facing closure for quite a long period of time; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore and the persons/institutions responsible for such closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) to (c) At present, there are 30 urea manufacturing units in the country out of which 27 are gas based units while 3 units are Naphtha based units. As per the modified New Pricing Scheme (NPS) – III notified on 02.04.2014, the Naphtha units were allowed subsidy upto 30.06.2014 or till they convert to gas based, whichever is earlier. Government permitted the continuation of these units till 30.09.2014. From 01.10.14, these units had to shutdown. Government again permitted them to start operation for 100 days from the date of notification (07.01.2015). One of these 3 is a PSU and 2 are private sector units. The two private sector units have obtained an order from the court that subsidy shall continue till government decides for further operations. No person/institution is responsible for their closure.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Rationalising fertilizer subsidy**

1426. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to revise and rationalise the fertilizer subsidy as the industry is facing challenges like unfavourable policies for setting up new urea facilities and delays in providing interim relief to naphtha-based urea producers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is considering to encourage overseas joint ventures to meet the shortfall in fertilizer availability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) A final Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Note regarding New Urea Policy – 2015 has been approved and sent to the CCEA on 05.05.2015 for its consideration. Further, to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector, the department of fertilizers has notified NIP – 2012 on 2nd January, 2013 and an amendment thereof on 7th October, 2014.

For continuation of the three naphtha based urea units *i.e* Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) – Manali, Southern Petrochemicals Industries Limited (SPIC) – Tuticorin and Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (MCFL) – Mangalore, a draft CCEA note has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations. A final CCEA Note will be submitted to CCEA after the receipts of comments of all concerned ministries/departments.

(b) The Government has been encouraging Indian Companies to establish Joint Ventures abroad in Countries which are rich in fertilizer resources for production facilities with buy back arrangements and to enter into long term agreement for supply of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs to India. Further, the Department is also working with the goal of having access to acquisition of the fertilizer raw materials abroad to ensure assured supply of raw materials and fertilizers inputs to augment indigenous production and reduce import dependence.

**Revival of defunct urea manufacturing units**

1427. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a policy to supply natural gas at a uniform price to all urea plants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government hopes to revive some of the defunct urea manufacturing units in eastern India and boost local output; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved budgetary support of nearly Rs.5,000 crore for strategic oil reserves and revival of fertilizer units in many parts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India, on 31.03.2015, has approved the proposal for pooling of domestic gas with imported Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to supply gas at a uniform delivered cost to all the grid connected fertilizer plants for production of Urea.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the revival of Gorakhpur unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) through bidding route. The Government is also exploring revival of Sindri unit of FCIL through bidding route. Talcher Unit of FCIL is being revived by a consortium of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) Limited, Coal India Limited (CIL), GAIL India Ltd and FCIL.

(c) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 31st March 2015, *inter alia* approved that the entire cost for filling the crude oil in Visakhapatnam cavern would be met by the Government of India against the 12th Plan outlay of Rs. 4948 crore under the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) Scheme of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for Indian Strategic Storage Programme for storage of crude oil by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL). The balance amount would be used for filling up strategic part of the caverns being constructed at Mangalore and Padur.

However, the revival of closed units at Gorakhpur, Barauni and Sindri will be with non-recourse to Government funding.

#### **India's dependence on China for bulk drugs and APIs**

1428. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's overdependence for bulk drug or Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used in medicine formulations on China can lead to severe shortages and force to pay more for additional supplies; and

(b) whether Government proposes to support domestic pharmaceutical industry to rebuild Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) clusters and start manufacturing key

medicines in public sector enterprises to avoid a crisis in future, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) and (b) As per the Boston Consulting Group Report of 2013 import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) during the year 2013 was approximately US\$ 3.5 billion of which a large share was from China. The Government had constituted a High Level Committee known as the Katoch Committee on 08.10.2013 to study and identify the APIs of critical importance and to work out a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities and to examine the cost implications. The Katoch Committee has *inter-alia* recommended establishment of Mega Parks for APIs with common facilities such as common Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Testing facilities, Captive Power Plants / assured power supply by state systems, Common Utilities/Services such as storage, testing laboratories, IPR management, designing, etc., maintained by a separate Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV); a scheme for extending financial assistance to states to acquire land and also for setting up common facilities; revival of public sector units for starting the manufacturing of selected and very essential critical drugs (e.g. penicillins, paracetamol etc.); financial investment from the Government for development of clusters which may be in the form of a professionally managed dedicated equity fund for the promotion of manufacture of APIs and extending fiscal benefits to creation of the entire community cluster infrastructure and individual unit infrastructure; extension of fiscal and financial benefits to promote the bulk drugs sector; promoting stronger industry-academia interaction, synergising R&D promotion efforts by various govt. agencies; incentivising scientists, duty exemptions for capital goods imports.

These recommendations are being examined for formulation of a Policy for Promotion of Manufacturing of Bulk Drugs.

**Realisation of 'Make in India' in pharmaceutical sector**

1429.SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to realize the 'Make in India' in the pharmaceutical sector of the country;

(b) the extent to which this will make our country self-reliant and make available medicines at affordable prices to the common man; and



(c) the details of the prices of medicines which have been reduced in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken various measures to realise the 'Make in India' campaign in pharmaceutical sector. In this direction, the Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health and Research. The mandate of this Committee was to carefully study the whole issue of APIs of critical importance by identifying important APIs and then working out a package of interventions/concession required to build domestic production capabilities and examine the cost implications. Besides this, with a vision to catalyze and encourage quality, productivity and innovation in pharmaceutical sector and to enable the Indian pharmaceutical industry especially SMEs to play a leading role in a competitive global market, a scheme titled Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDP-PS) is being implemented.

(c) Pursuant to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012), Government has notified Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15.05.2013. All the essential medicine (net 628) with specified dosage and strengths, as specified in the 'National List of Essential Medicines-2011' are included in the Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013 and are under price control. NPPA has already fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 521 medicines till date under provisions of the DPCO, 2013. Of these 521 medicines, ceiling price of 12 medicines have been fixed / notified in the month of March, 2015. The details of price reduction with respect to maximum price to retailer are as under:

% reduction with respect to Maximum PTR	No. of Medicines
0<= 5%	4
5<=10%	5
10<=15%	1
Above 40%	2
TOTAL	12

In addition to price fixation of 521 scheduled medicines, NPPA *vide* price notifications dated 10.07.2014 capped the maximum retail price (MRP) of 106 non-scheduled single ingredient drug formulations related to treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The price notifications have been challenged in the Delhi High

Court and Bombay High Court where the matter is *sub-judice*. However, a large number of manufacturers have already implemented the price reduction and the price notifications of 10.07.2014 issued by the NPPA are very much legally valid and still in operation. The reduction in prices effected as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to price capping are as follows:

	% reduction with respect to Highest prevailing MRP (No. of Drugs)		
	Diabetic	Cardiovascular	Total
0 <= 5%	7	10	17
5 <= 10%	2	10	12
10 <= 15%	1	11	12
15 <= 20%	1	8	9
20 <= 25%	2	12	14
25 <= 30%	2	7	9
30 <= 35%	2	7	9
35 <= 40%	1	4	5
Above 40%	4	15	19
TOTAL	22	84	106

#### Opening of JASs during Twelfth Plan

1430. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is planning to open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs) in the country during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of stores that have been opened so far, year-wise and the plans it has to achieve 3,000 target in the remaining two years of the Twelfth Plan; and

(c) the monitoring mechanism the Ministry has to ensure that all the drugs identified are available in JASs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) Under the New Business Plan, it was proposed to open 3000 JASs during the 12th Plan period.

(b) So far 179 stores have been opened, out of which 99 are functional. Yearwise

List is given in the Statement (*See* below). All efforts are being made to open more JAS with the co-operation of State Governments and NGOs / Trusts / Charitable Societies / Institutions / Self Help Groups / Un-employed Pharmacists/Doctors/Registered Medical Practitioners.

(c) The Jan Aushadhi Scheme is being reviewed on regular basis by Secretary and the Steering Committee constituted under New Business Plan 2013, has started to monitor and mentor the Scheme including ensuring making available all identified Drugs to all JAS.

#### **Statement**

*The number of stores that have been opened so far, year-wise*

Financial Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number	07	36	54	20	37	08	17	0

Total stores opened till 30.04.2015= 179

#### **Rehabilitation scheme for sick drugs PSUs**

1431. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the likely increase in the production of these PSUs after implementation of the revival packages; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to initiate revival plans for other sick PSUs in pharmaceutical sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) Rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) are under consideration of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

(b) The likely increase in the production of these PSUs after implementation of the revival packages is projected as under:

**HAL:**

Financial Year	Production (₹ in crores)
2013-14(actual)	30.19
2014-15 (provisional)	20.00
2015-16 (projected)	130.00
2016-17 (projected)	218.07

IDPL: After revival of IDPL, the installed capacity is expected to be in range of Rs. 500-600 crores based on current National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) prices on full utilization depending on product mix.

(c) No PSU other than HAL & IDPL under Department of Pharmaceuticals require initiation of revival proposal.

**Revival of Talcher Fertilizer Plant**

1432. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the revival plan of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant;
- (b) whether it is a fact that revival activities of the plant are going on at a sluggish pace, and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time-line fixed for commissioning the plant and making it functional;
- (d) the estimated cost of the project and the amount spent so far; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to expedite work on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) Two Joint Venture Agreements one for Coal Gasification and other for Ammonia-Urea Plants separately have been signed on 24.12.2014 amongst Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), GAIL (India) Ltd., Coal India Ltd. (CIL) & Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL).

Pre-project activities have been undertaken by RCF & GAIL. Approval for the Terms of Reference (ToR) has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF) and studies for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) & Environment Management Plan (EMP) are being conducted for submission to the State Pollution Control Board. The Coal Gasification Technology has been selected. Notice inviting

tender for coal gasification plant shall be published soon. Short listing of Lump sum Turnkey (LSTK) bidders for Ammonia, Urea Plants have been done and last date for submitting bid by shortlisted bidders is 25th May, 2015.

(b) No Sir.

(c) It is estimated that the commissioning of the plant would be completed by December 2018.

(d) The Talcher unit is being revived with non-recourse to funding from Government of India. The estimated expenditure of Talcher Project would be Rs.9000 crores. No major expenditure has been done till now.

(e) Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers (C&F) along with MoS (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG), MoS (IC) for Coal, Power & New and Renewable Energy and Union Minister of State (MoS) (C&F) are regularly reviewing the progress of the revival of Talcher Unit of FCIL.

#### **Self-sufficiency in fertilizer production**

1433. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether condition of fertilizers in the country has been more or less stagnant for the last one decade, whereas imports are increasing to meet the growing demand of fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether production of fertilizers has not kept pace with the growing requirement of fertilizers : and

(c) if so, the details of measures proposed to boost the growth of fertilizer industry so that there is self-sufficiency and sustained growth of fertilizers industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) to (c) The production/ Imports of major fertilizers in the country for the last one decade is given in the Statement (See below).

The month-wise demand/requirement of fertilizers is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation ( DAC) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season. On the basis of month-wise & state-wise projection given by DAC, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/

adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability. The gap in the demand and domestic production of fertilizers is met through imports.

The Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP) 2012 and amendment to NIP-2012 on 2nd January 2013 and 7th October 2014 respectively to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector to boost the indigenous production of Urea and to reduce import dependency.

All the P&K fertilizers are under the OGL. The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports. India's dependency on import at present is to the extent of 25% of our requirement of Urea, 90% in case of Phosphates and 100% in case of Potash. As we are dependent on import of either finished fertilizer or its raw material to a great extent, it is not possible to achieve self-sufficiency in fertilizer sector at present. However, the Government has been encouraging Indian Companies to establish Joint Ventures abroad in Countries which are rich in fertilizer resources for production facilities with buy back arrangement and to enter into long term agreement for supply of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs to India. Further, the Department is also working with the goal of having access to acquisition of the fertilizer raw materials abroad to ensure assured supply of raw materials and fertilizers inputs to augment indigenous production and reduce import dependency.

### ***Statement***

*Production and import of urea, DAP & complex fertilizers from 2005-06 to 2014-15*

*(Figure in lakh MT)*

Year	Urea		DAP		Complex Fertilizers		Total	
	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2005-2006	200.98	20.57	46.28	24.36	67.63	0.00	314.89	44.93
2006-2007	203.09	47.18	48.52	28.41	74.64	0.00	326.25	75.59
2007-2008	198.58	69.29	42.12	27.22	58.50	0.00	299.20	96.51
2008-2009	199.22	56.67	29.93	61.91	68.48	0.00	297.63	118.58
2009-2010	211.12	52.09	42.47	57.60	80.38	0.00	333.97	109.69
2010-2011	218.80	66.09	35.37	74.09	87.27	9.80	341.44	149.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2011-2012	219.84	77.92	39.63	68.97	77.70	36.44	337.17	183.33
2012-2013	225.75	78.66	36.47	56.41	61.80	4.01	324.02	139.08
2013-2014	227.15	70.87	36.11	32.61	69.13	3.62	332.39	107.10
2014-2015	225.85	87.49	34.44	38.17	78.32	2.91	338.61	128.57

### Creation of BBNL for NOFN Project

1434. KUMARI SELJA:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) for administrating the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) operations and execute the projects implemented by telecom PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of areas where all Gram Panchayats have been covered by NOFN and their status at present?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to connect Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre for enabling broadband connectivity was approved by Government on 25.10.2011. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012 to create, operate, maintain and manage NOFN infrastructure.

Under NOFN project, the mandate is to connect all Gram Panchayats (Approx. 2.5 Lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Bandwidth of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) so created in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs shall be used by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications like e-health, e-education, e-governance, e-mart, e-mandi etc. can also be provided on this network.

BBNL has entered into agreement with three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to utilize their existing optical fiber and to implement the work on ground for laying incremental optical fiber for connecting all GPs.

(c) As on 03.05.2015, tenders for trenching and pipe laying works have been finalized for 2,170 blocks. Work orders have been issued for 1,872 blocks and work has commenced in 1,692 blocks. 58,874 Kms of duct and 36,689 Kms of OFC have been laid. Cable laying has been completed for 16,840 GPs. Total 1,061 GPs have been connected through NOFN for high speed rural broadband network. All Gram Panchayats in the country are targeted to be connected through OFC for providing broadband connectivity by December 2016 in a phased manner under NOFN Project.

**Secure flow of public and private communications**

1435. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to protect privacy and security of our citizens and elected leaders in view of recent global incidents of tapping of communications by US and UK agencies;

(b) whether Government will control foreign agencies handling internal communications of our citizens and Government; and

(c) whether Government will take initiative in this respect to bring together various Governments to ensure secure flow of public and private communications and protect exchange of communications of national interest among Government officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, taking note of the disclosure by foreign media reports in June, 2013 about extensive electronic surveillance programmes deployed by the U.S. agencies to collect internet and telephony data, Government has expressed concerns over reported U.S. monitoring of internet traffic of India. Concerns with regard to violation of any of Indian laws relating to privacy of information of Indian citizens as well as intrusive data capture deployed against Indian citizens or Government infrastructure have been conveyed to the U.S. Government. In addition, the issue of U.S. cyber surveillance activities was discussed during the India-US Strategic Dialogue meeting held in New Delhi on 24 June 2013.

Government keeps on taking appropriate protective measures by way of an integrated approach with a series of legal, technical and administrative steps to ensure that necessary systems are in place to address the growing threat of cyber attacks. In this direction, Government has approved a framework for cyber security, including protection of critical sectors in country that envisages a multi-layered approach for ensuring



defence-in-depth with clear demarcation of responsibilities among various agencies and departments. Government is also engaged with world community towards promoting the evolution of better international internet governance-norms, through ongoing discussions at international fora.

(c) Government is promoting Indian players in the IT field to develop and offer Internet Services by having the servers located in India, in order to protect the interests and secrecy of communication of Indian citizens. Already Rediff and Indiatimes have set up Servers and accessories in the country to provide email and other services to Indian citizens.

Further, Government has notified email policy of Government of India on 19th Feb., 2015 to protect exchange of communications of National interest among Government officials. The policy mandates that only Government of India email service shall be used for official correspondence, the objective of the policy includes sensitizing the Government officials regarding protection of critical Government data and mandating the use of Government mail service for official communication. Government has also planned to install Secure & Dedicated Communication Network (SDCN) for Intra-Government Classified Communication.

#### **Net neutrality on the use of internet**

1436. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has come out with a discussion paper on the use of internet particularly the Net Neutrality in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many people in the country are in favour of Net Neutrality and have given their comments to TRAI in this regard; and

(d) the stand of Government on Net Neutrality?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on “Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services” on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 for inviting comments from various stakeholders. This consultation paper also covers the issues related to Net Neutrality. The

last date for receiving comments and counter comments is 24th April, 2015 and 8th May, 2015 respectively. Further, this consultation paper is available on TRAI website [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in).

(c) TRAI has received a large number of comments (more than 10 Lakh) in response to the consultation paper on “Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services”. This consultation paper also covers the issues related to Net Neutrality. These comments are uploaded in TRAI website [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in).

(d) Government notes with assurance the growth of internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.

At present the issues pertaining to net neutrality are in consultation stage. Department of Telecommunications has constituted a committee in January, 2015 to examine various aspects of net neutrality and recommend overall policy and technical response to net neutrality. The committee has already held stakeholder consultation meetings with Over the Top (OTT) players, Telecom Service Providers/Internet Service Providers, Civil Society Member & Consumer groups, Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) and various Associations/ Industry bodies.

Based on the report of committee and TRAI recommendations Government will take a considered decision.

#### **Resolving net neutrality issue**

1437. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government proposes to address and resolve the Net Neutrality issue; and

(b) how does Government plans to ensure that telecom operators won't pass on to the customers the burden of high spectrum price paid by them to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Government notes with assurance the growth of internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.

At present the issues pertaining to net neutrality are in consultation stage. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on “Regulatory framework for Over-the-top services” on 27th March 2015. This consultation paper covers the views of the service providers and OTT providers and related issues including net neutrality. The last date for receiving comments and counter comments is 24th April, 2015 and 8th May, 2015 respectively.

Department of Telecommunications has constituted a committee in January, 2015 to examine various aspects of net neutrality and recommend overall policy and technical response to net neutrality. The committee has already held stakeholder consultation meetings with Over the Top (OTT) players, Telecom Service Providers/Internet Service Providers, Civil Society Member & Consumer groups, Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) and various Associations/Industry bodies.

Based on the report of committee and TRAI recommendations Government will take a considered decision.

(b) Tariff for telecom services falls under purview of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. The service providers have the flexibility to decide various tariff components for different service areas of their operation. Tariffs are offered by service providers taking into account several factors including input costs, level of competition and other commercial considerations.

#### **Shifting of BPOs to rural areas**

1438. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the BPO companies are shifting their bases to rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of impact of such a decision on the standard of living in rural areas;

(d) whether Government is incentivizing the BPO companies to operate from rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The BPO companies locate their operations based on techno-commercial considerations. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the BPO companies are setting up centres in non-metro locations, including rural areas of the country to run cost effective operations. Under the Digital India Programme, a North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) has been approved to incentivize BPO Operations in the North East Region (NER), including rural areas, for creation of employment opportunities for the youth and growth of IT-ITES Industry, by the establishment of 5000 seats, with capital support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India, has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the NEBPS.

Further, another Scheme for promotion of BPO Operations, for other parts of the country, particularly small towns, is contemplated for creation of employment opportunities and growth of IT-ITES Industry. The proposed Scheme would, inter-alia, lay down the appropriate guidelines in regard to eligibility, location, nature of support to the Industry and other related aspects, and would be operationalized, after obtaining necessary approvals of the Competent Authority.

#### **Position on net neutrality**

1439. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether in view of the fact that a committee has been formed within the Ministry to evolve its position on Net Neutrality, Government would ensure that the position on Net Neutrality is discussed in the Parliament and with the public, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : Government notes with assurance the growth of internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.

At present, the issues pertaining to net neutrality are in consultation stage. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on “Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services” on 27th March, 2015 for inviting comments

from various stakeholders. This consultation paper also covers the issues related to Net Neutrality. The last date for receiving comments and counter comments is 24th April, 2015 and 8th May, 2015 respectively. Further, this consultation paper is available on TRAI website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

Department of Telecommunications has constituted a committee in January, 2015 to examine various aspects of net neutrality and recommend overall policy and technical response to net neutrality. The committee has already held stakeholder consultation meetings with Over the Top (OTT) players, Telecom Service Providers/Internet Service Providers, Civil Society Member & Consumer groups, Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) and various Associations/Industry bodies. The committee has been asked to submit its report by May, 2015 end.

Further, Statement on Calling Attention Notice by Sh. Derek O' Brien Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha on 'Issue of safeguarding Net Neutrality in the country' was made by Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT on 05.05.2015 and he replied on various queries, issues and aspects raised by Hon'ble Members of Rajya Sabha. (Refer to the Statement given below).

Based on the report of committee and TRAI recommendations Government will take a considered decision.

### ***Statement***

Let me begin by making a commitment, an assurance to this Honourable House and through the House to the people of India- this Government is committed to the fundamental principles' and concept of net neutrality i.e, keep the Internet accessible and available to all without discrimination. Within 100 days of assumption of office, the Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, initiated the programme of Digital India in a mission mode, designed to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is designed to bridge the divide between the digital haves and digital have-nots and reach digital connectivity to a billion 'citizens. Digital India has basically three components: (a) creation of digital infrastructure as a utility for the citizen of India; (b) digital delivery of services; and (c) digital empowerment of citizens. Digital connectivity has emerged as a key driver of economic and social development in an increasingly knowledge intensive global scenario, in which India needs - to play a leadership role. The programme is - designed to ensure that the socio-economic scenario across India is transformed through accelerated equitable and inclusive economic growth by laying special emphasis on providing

affordable and quality access to broadband and the Internet in rural and remote areas. We are confident that ‘sustained adoption of technology would offer viable options in overcoming developmental - challenges in education, health, employment generation’ financial inclusion and a host of other services designed to make life more , meaningful. We recognise that digital technology can afford means for millions of our citizens to improve their economic lives.

The world has changed so much in a short time. Countries across the world have moved from an emphasis on physical connectivity to economic connectivity and lately to digital connectivity. At the heart of digital connectivity is the public Internet - which has connected near and far, poor and rich alike. Internet is a new technology - its protocols were written not more than forty years ago. The public Internet -, the worldwide web - is only 23 years of age. In this short span of time, it has come to occupy the centre of the world. This has been made possible by the open, democratic structure of the public Internet - equal and accessible to all those who are connected to the network. In India too, the new age economic growth is being fuelled by the Internet. This Government notes with confidence the growth of Internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. In particular” the Government compliments the initiative and entrepreneurship of the young in making India a power-house in Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES). Studies by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) show that every 10% increase of internet subscribers leads to 1.08% increase in our GDP. A similar study by the World Bank showed that for every 10% increase in broadband leads to 1.3% growth in national GDP~ While it has significant macroeconomic contribution, towards growth, productivity and employment, its empowering influence not only benefits large enterprises but also start-up entrepreneurs & individual citizen.

The Internet has also emerged as a destination - for public discourse. In a free, democratic country, the Internet has increasingly become an important platform of information dissemination and exchange of opinion and views. Just as India values its constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and expression, it also values an Internet that is open. Discourse on Internet on a variety of issues has led to the empowerment of the common man.

While reiterating this Government’s commitment to the core principles of net neutrality, we must recognise that there are nuances to the issue which needs deliberation, to make it more meaningful. If this had not been so, the issue of net neutrality would not have become an issue of debate and litigation across the world - even in the Western world -

where the Internet occupies a much more central role in the nation's economy and society. I have had occasion to study the debate on net neutrality in the United States of America from where Internet originated. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the communications regulator in USA, declared a set of regulation for an open Internet in 2010. These regulations were challenged in U.S Courts by Internet Service Providers and were struck down in January 2014. Thereafter, FCC came out with a consultation paper in May 2014 that asked for a response, amongst other questions, to a query as to whether 'paid prioritisation' that permits Internet Service Providers to charge content providers to provide greater bandwidth for their end-users, should be allowed. FCC was swamped by over three million mails in response to the consultation paper. The recent FCC rules announced in February 2015 have been decided by the regulator with a slim 3-2 majority and have promptly been challenged in U.S Federal Courts. As per media reports, the European Commission is meeting in early May to decide on whether Over-the Top (OTT) players who provide communication services over the Internet should be regulated.

The debate in India has' also gathered over the suo moto consultation paper issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which asked for responses to a number of questions concerning the regulation of OTT, players. If the issue did not have nuances to it, why then would experts and regulators all over the world be breaking their heads over it.

It is, .therefore, imperative that we not only preserve but also foster non-discriminatory Internet ecosystem, wherein Telecom Services Providers, Content and application providers, industries, entrepreneurs and above and above all, all the citizen of the country have a stake. Government stands for ensuring non discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country and current debate on Net Neutrality should be seen from this perspective while resolving the issues harmoniously and consistent with constitutional and economic principles.

What is, Net-Neutrality? Professor Tim Wu, who coined the word "net neutrality", stated that "network neutrality is best defined as a network 'design' principle. The-idea is that a maximally useful' public' information network aspires to treat all content, sites and platforms equally. This allows the network' to carry every form of information and support every kind of application." Net Neutrality thus refers to non-discrimination of data packets by intermediate' network of Internet on the basis of content, application, service, device, sender .or recipient address etc. Generally, it places the requirement on Telecom Service Providers to treat all internet traffic on an equal basis. Net-Neutrality has many dimensions impacting economic, regulatory and public policy aspects. Government

agrees with the viewpoint that blocking & deliberate slowing down/ speeding up of lawful content on Internet should not be allowed and customers should have unrestricted access to all lawful content on internet. . There would be instances, such as traffic management, national security, integrity of the network, investment in infrastructure etc. where the implications of net neutrality would need detailed expert examination. This is what governments and regulators all over the world are grappling with.

I am informed that very few countries have opted for specific legislation for enforcement of Net Neutrality provisions. In its recently released report “2014 Web Index”, Web Foundation has found in its study across 86 countries that 74% of countries lack clear and effective net neutrality rules and/or show evidence of price discrimination. On the basis of measures undertaken to enforce net-neutrality, nations can be broadly divided in three categories:

1. Countries with no specific measures undertaken, as existing mechanism is often considered sufficient to address the issue. Examples: Australia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand etc.
2. Countries with light-handed regulatory measures e.g., transparency, lowering switching barriers, minimum Quality of Service (QoS) undertaken in these countries. Examples: European Commission, Japan, United Kingdom etc.
3. Countries with specific legislative measures undertaken / being undertaken in these countries to enforce no blocking, no discrimination in treatment of traffic. But most of these provisions are not absolute but subject to reasonable network management and other exemptions. Examples: Brazil, Chile, Netherlands, USA etc.

As per the Telecom Regulatory. Authority of India (TRAI) Act, TRAI makes recommendations to Government on regulating various aspects of telecom sector through a transparent, open public consultation process. TRAI has issued, suo moto, a consultation paper “Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services” on 27.03.2015. While TRAI has the power to regulate tariff and quality of service, its regulations are subject to the overall public policy of Government. On other issues, TRAI can make recommendations and final decision rests with Government. Even on tariff and quality of service regulation, these have to be in accordance and consistent with public policy and the Government has sufficient powers under the TRAI Act to invoke its national policy objectives to give directions to TRAI.

The Government has also separately constituted a committee with the mandate to recommend overall policy and technical responses to Net Neutrality. The Committee has



already held stakeholder consultation meetings with Over the Top (OTT) players, Telecom Service Providers/ Internet Service Providers, Civil Society Members & Consumer groups, Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) & various Associations / Industry bodies. The committee is expected to submit its recommendations by this month end. The Government will then take a structured view on the way forward. I assure this Honourable House that the key principles of net neutrality will be followed while addressing concerns with a national outlook.

**Amendment to it Act, 2000**

1440. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Information and Technology (IT) Act 2000 in the aftermath of the recent Supreme Court judgement that struck down Section 66A as unconstitutional, with a view to de-criminalize posting of offensive content on the Internet;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to include procedural safeguards in such a provision to ensure that such provision is not misused by fundamentalist elements in Society to harass law-abiding citizens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal with the Government to amend the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a Committee to examine the implications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment quashing Section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000 and to suggest appropriate legal remedy to fill gaps in the legal regime, if any, in the wake of the aforesaid judgment.

Also, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.K. Vishwanathan, former Secretary, Law Commission & Secretary General has been set up by Ministry of Home Affairs to study and examine the existing domestic cyber laws and International Cyber legislations and recommend a road map with measures and amendments to the present laws for consideration of the Government.

Further, in order to comprehensively address the issues of Cyber Crimes, Ministry of Home Affairs has set up an Expert Group consisting of Academicians and Professionals

of repute to prepare a roadmap for effectively tackling the Cyber Crimes in the country and give suitable recommendations on all facets of cyber crime. The five-member Expert Study Group comprises of Dr. Rajat Moona, Director General Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Professor Balakrishnan, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Dr. Gulshan Rai, then Director General Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), Professor Manindra Aggarwal, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Professor D. Dass, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru. Shri Kumar Alok, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs is the Convenor of the Expert Group. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group are:

- (i) To prepare a Road Map for effectively tackling the Cyber Crime in the country and give suitable recommendations on all its facets.
- (ii) Recommend possible partnerships with Public and Private Sector, NGOs, International Bodies and International NGOs.
- (iii) Any other special measures / steps the Expert Group may like to recommend with regard to tackling Cyber Crimes.

#### **Opening of post offices**

1441. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether post offices have been opened in all the villages of the country;
- (b) if so, the details especially to that of Gujarat and the number of post offices likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise;
- (c) whether all post offices of the country, including those of Gujarat, have been equipped with e-mail, internet and computer facilities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, by when all post offices are likely to be equipped with above mentioned facilities, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No Sir, However, Department through a physical network of 1,39,182 rural post offices, 1,795 Franchise Outlets (FOs) and 2,795 Panchayt Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) are providing basic postal services to all the villages in the country. In addition to delivery, sale of stamps and stationery is also being offered through postmen/delivery agents, while they are on their regular visits to respective beats. Expansion of postal services by relocation and redeployment

is an ongoing activity. This is taken up under Plan Scheme-“Rural Business & Access to Postal Network” subject to fulfillment of certain norms prescribed by the Department for opening of post offices, availability of Plan support and manpower. Postal Circle-wise physical targets for opening of 92 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices (GDSPOs) by relocation/redeployment including Gujarat for the current financial year 2015-16 is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c)and(d) Yes Sir, all 25,468 departmental post offices including those in Gujarat have been supplied with computers & peripherals and out of this 24,465 post offices are having e-mail & internet facilities and also have been switched over to the new Wide Area Network as a part of “India Post IT Project 2012”. The remaining 1003 (including 9 post offices in Gujarat) do not have these facilities yet due to technical reasons which are in the process of getting addressed and remaining post offices will be provided with e-mail & internet facilities after solving these issues. Postal Circle-wise details of number of Post Offices Computerized and provided inter-net facilities is given in the Statement -II (*See below*).

***Statement-I***

*Postal circle-wise given physical targets for opening of Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices (GDSPOs) by redeployment & relocation during 2015-16*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Physical Target for 2015-16 (in number)
1.	Andhra Pradesh including Telangana State	6
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	7
5.	Delhi	0
6.	Gujarat	4
7.	Haryana	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	5
11.	Karnataka	4
12.	Kerala	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Physical Target for 2015-16 (in number)
14.	Maharashtra	4
15.	North East	10
16.	Odisha	4
17.	Punjab	3
18.	Rajasthan	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	4
20.	Uttarakhand	2
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5
22.	West Bengal	2
TOTAL		92

***Statement-II***

*Postal circle-wise number of post offices computerized and provided  
e-mail & internet facilities*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Post offices computerized	No. of post offices provided e-mail & internet facilities
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh including Telangana State	2438	2439
2.	Assam	626	582
3.	Bihar	1046	1043
4.	Chhattisgarh	343	335
5.	Delhi	425	393
6.	Gujarat	1335	1328
7.	Haryana	493	490
8.	Himachal Pradesh	464	418
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	263	251
10.	Jharkhand	455	454

1	2	3	4
11.	Karnataka	1715	1683
12.	Kerala	1506	1506
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1062	1061
14.	Maharashtra	2212	2213
15.	North East	329	268
16.	Odisha	1195	1147
17.	Punjab	758	760
18.	Rajasthan	1345	1334
19.	Tamil Nadu	2759	2578
20.	Uttarakhand	388	341
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2553	2540
22.	West Bengal	1758	1301
TOTAL		25468	24465

**Creation of jobs through BPOs in North East region of the country**

1442. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is offering funds and dedicated contracts to Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry to create jobs in the region such as North East and tier 2-3 towns in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BPO firms had been demanding more incentives from Government to move work to tier 3 and tier 4 locations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Under the Digital India Programme, a North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) has been approved to incentivize BPO Operations in the North East Region (NER), including rural areas, for creation of employment opportunities for the youth and growth of IT-ITES Industry, by the establishment of 5000 seats, with capital support in the form of Viability Gap Funding

(VGF). The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India, has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the NEBPS.

Further, another Scheme for promotion of BPO Operations, for other parts of the country, particularly small towns, is contemplated for creation of employment opportunities and growth of IT-ITES Industry. The proposed Scheme would, inter-alia, lay down the appropriate guidelines in regard to eligibility, location, nature of support to the Industry and other related aspects, and would be operationalized, after obtaining necessary approvals of the Competent Authority.

According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the BPO industry has been moving to non-metro locations, and needs further support in terms of infrastructure and trained manpower.

#### **Call drop cases in MTNL Dolphin network in Delhi**

1443. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether call drop cases are rampant in the MTNL Dolphin network in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the data regarding Dropped-Call Rate (DCR) of the MTNL Mobile telephony network as compared to the other private mobile operators operating in Delhi; and
- (d) the measures to be taken to mitigate the problems faced by the MTNL Dolphin subscribers because of its faulty network?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of service providers including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmark parameters through quarterly performance monitoring reports (PMR) received from service providers.

The performance on call drop is assessed through two parameters viz. call drop rate (benchmark < 2%) and worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH (Traffic channel) drop (benchmark < 3%) by TRAI.

TRAI has reported that MTNL is meeting all the benchmarks for all the network related parameters for 2G and 3G services.

TRAI has further reported that all the service providers are meeting benchmark related to call drops for 3G services. For 2G services, all the service providers in Delhi Service area are meeting the benchmark of < 2% for the parameter call drop rate.

However, M/s. Vodafone and Aircel are not meeting the benchmark of < 3% for the parameter “worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop”. As per PMR for the period ending 31.12.2014 details of call drop rate and worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop for 2G services are given below:

Operator	Call drop rate benchmark of <2%	Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop
MTNL	1.85	2.52
Airtel	0.57	0.74
Vodafone	1.03	3.92
Aircel	1.05	6.06

Call drop rate of MTNL during the last three months (January to March, 2015) is 1.88, 1.87 and 1.85% respectively.

(d) MTNL has reported that to strengthen coverage and capacity of its mobile network it is augmenting the mobile network by adding 1080 3G and 800 2G BTS sites in Delhi.

#### **Broadband penetration in the country**

1444. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is ranked below Bhutan and Sri Lanka in terms of broadband penetration and ranks 125th in the world for fixed broadband penetration;

(b) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested that the multi-layered structure involved in the decision making for the sector needs to be overhauled;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has also suggested that the licence fee on the revenue earned from fixed line should be exempted for five years; and

- (e) if so, the view of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As per 'The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All' report, published by the Broadband Commission of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which was published in September 2014, the ranking of Bhutan, Sri Lanka and India with respect to Fixed Broadband penetration for 2013 are as under:

	Fixed Broadband Penetration (per 100 inhabitants)	Rank
Bhutan	2.7	108
Sri Lanka	2.0	115
India	1.2	125

(b) to (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations "Delivering Broadband Quickly: What we need to do?", dated 17.04.2015 has *inter alia*, recommended the following:

- (i) Overhauling of multi-layered structure involved in the decision making in respect to National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project
- (ii) Exemption of the license fee on the revenues earned on fixed line Broadband for at least 5 years.

A committee has been constituted on 29.04.2015 in Department of Telecommunications to examine the TRAI recommendations.

#### **Law with the concept of Net Neutrality**

1445. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is bringing a law with the concept of Net Neutrality for consumers; and

- (b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government notes with assurance the growth of internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. Government is committed to the fundamental principles and



concept of net neutrality and strives for non discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.

The issues pertaining to net neutrality are in consultative stage. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on “Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services” on 27th March, 2015 for inviting comments from various stakeholders. This consultation paper also covers the issues related to Net Neutrality. The last date for receiving comments and counter comments is 24th April, 2015 and 8th May, 2015 respectively.

Department of Telecommunications has constituted a committee in January, 2015 to examine various aspects of net neutrality and recommend overall policy and technical response to net neutrality. Committee has been asked to submit its report by May, 2015 end.

Based on the report of committee and TRAI recommendations Government will take a considered decision, in the best national interest.

#### **Regulation of Over-the-top services**

1446. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the stand of Government in protection of Net Neutrality;
- (b) whether Government proposes to regulate Over-the-Top (OTT) services;
- (c) the argument for and against for regulation of OTT services;
- (d) the details of the growth of internet traffic and internet users over the years;
- (e) the details of the revenue generated by different telecom companies over the years; and
- (f) whether the move to regulate OTT services will affect the growth of start-ups in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) and (f) Government notes with assurance the growth of internet in India and wide platform it has offered for innovation, investment and creativity. Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.

At present the issues pertaining to net neutrality are in consultation stage. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) also has released a consultation paper on “Regulatory framework for Over-the-top services” on 27th March 2015 for inviting comments from various stakeholders. This consultation paper also covers the issues related to Net Neutrality. The last date for receiving comments and counter comments is 24th April, 2015 and 8th May, 2015 respectively. This consultation paper covers the views of the service providers and OTT providers and related issues including net neutrality.

The main arguments in favour of OTT regulation is loss of traditional revenues from data and voice to telecom service providers, telecom service providers are subjective to all licensing and regulatory conditions whereas the OTT providers are not subjected to similar restrictions and that large scale OTT service in traditional services could significantly hampered the TSPs investment capability and growth. The TSPs are insisting on ‘Same Service Same Rules’ to maintain regulatory balance.

The main argument against OTT regulation is that the OTT players offer services through internet provided by TSPs and the TSPs are paid for internet services consumed by end users and OTT service lead to increase data usages and revenue to TSPs.

Department of Telecommunications has constituted a committee to examine various aspects and recommend overall policy and technical response to net neutrality.

Based on the report of committee and TRAI recommendations Government will take a considered decision in the best national interest.

(d) Details of internet subscribers are as under

For the period ending	Dec-2013	Dec-2014
Internet subscribers (in Crores)		
As per TRAI	23.87	26.74
As per IAMAI-IMRB report ‘Internet in India 2014’		>30

(e) The trend of revenue from data usage from full mobility service (GSM+CDMA) segment is given below:

Quarter ending	Revenue from data usage (in ₹ crore)
June 2013	3057.83
September 2013	3594.83
December 2013	4240.01

Quarter ending	Revenue from data usage (in ₹ crore)
March 2014	4637.89
June 2014	5259.18
September 2014	5911.05
December 2014	6457.06

#### Delay in NOFN Project

1447. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project for laying of optical fibre for National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for connecting 2,50,000 panchayats is delayed and expected to be completed in 2016, and the cost may also be increased by 5000 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a delay and increase in financial burden; and

(c) the results achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was approved by Government on 25.10.2011. NOFN project aims to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by bridging the connectivity gap between GPs and Blocks for provision of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) bandwidth.

A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012 for execution of the NOFN project. Following difficulties were encountered, which led to delay in NOFN project implementation:

- (i) Project is of a mega nature widely dispersed across the country and to reach fibre to the unreached areas, which are rural and remote. Survey work to ascertain the total length of incremental OFC to be laid has been significantly completed and this has been a fairly time consuming process for the 3 participating Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)
- (ii) Supply constraints with a given set of suppliers to meet the vast demands of material requirement of large NOFN project.
- (iii) Constraints in timely availability of labour and contractors for trenching and

cable laying in different parts of the country given the high volume of work of NOFN at rates within reasonable limits of estimated rates.

All Gram Panchayats in the country are targeted to be connected through OFC for providing broadband connectivity by December 2016 in a phased manner under NOFN Project.

Government approved NOFN project on 25.10.2011 at an indicative cost of about Rs. 20,100 Crore. While approving, the Cabinet noted that “Given the complex nature of NOFN, the widespread geographical area and multiplicity of agencies involved, precise estimates cannot be made as of now, since actual cost will depend on per km cost of OFC as well as the length of OFC required for network will be known only after the detailed survey.”

Since work is being taken up in a phased manner, the final cost of project is yet to be firmed up.

(c) As on 3.5.2015, tenders for trenching and pipe laying works have been finalized for 2,170 blocks. Work orders have been issued for 1,872 blocks and work has commenced in 1,692 blocks. 58,874 Kms of duct and 36,689 Kms of OFC have been laid. Cable laying has been completed for 16,840 GPs. Total 1,061 GPs have been connected through NOFN for high speed rural broadband network.

#### **Impact from mobile phones and towers radiation on health**

1448. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been initiated to review the impact from mobile phones and mobile towers radiation on health in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government undertook any such study previously;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that despite banning installation of mobile towers at the residential areas, schools, hospitals and playgrounds, etc., violations are still happening; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the violators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) under Department of Science and Technology has constituted an Expert Committee/Task Force comprising of various experts from Medical & Engineering Institutes to evaluate R&D proposal to study possible impact of EMF radiation exposure from mobile towers and handsets in the non-ionizing band (300MHZ to 3 GHZ) on life. i.e. Humans, Living Organisms, Flora & Fauna and Environment. The Committee has short listed 19 research proposals for further consideration for support and funding.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to examine the effect of Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) Radiation from base stations and mobile phones was constituted on 24.08.2010. In its report, the committee has, inter-alia, referred to studies conducted by certain institutes in India. Further, the IMC in its report, after examining various national and international studies on the environmental and health related concerns due to EMF, has indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause and effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health.

Also, World Health Organisation (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 studies, conducted around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation". Since the effects on human beings are to be studied over a long period of time, further studies are going on around the world.

(e) and (f) DoT has issued advisory guidelines to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines to State Governments do not place any restriction on installation of mobile towers in public buildings/places such as residential areas, schools, hospitals, playground etc. As such the violation of the banning installation of towers at residential areas, schools, hospitals, & playgrounds etc., does not arise.

#### **Solarisation of mobile towers**

1449. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed any panel for entrusting the task of solarisation of mobile towers in rural areas to BSNL; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Government has not appointed any panel for entrusting the task of solarisation of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas.

- (b) Does not arise in view of response to part (a).

**Savings accounts for girl child**

1450. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry proposes to open one crore savings accounts for girl child in Maharashtra and rest of the country;

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

- (c) how these accounts will be beneficial to the girl child?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) A new Small Savings Scheme called “Sukanya Samriddhi Account” for the welfare of Girl Child has been launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana. The account can be opened in Post Offices as well as in banks. With an aim to spread awareness and to provide benefit of such a good scheme to more and more number of girl child, the Department of Posts set target to open one crore Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts in the country, including Maharashtra. So far, more than 38 Lakhs accounts have been opened in different Post Office. The details of the scheme and facilities provided in these accounts which will be beneficial to the girl child are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

- (i) ‘Sukanya Samriddhi Account’ is a new Small Savings Scheme for girl child.
- (ii) An account can be opened in the name of Girl Child under ‘Sukanya Samriddhi Account’ (SSA) by Guardian/Natural Guardian. Birth certificate of the girl child has to be produced. The depositor (parents or guardian) has to submit his/her identity and address proofs.
- (iii) A Guardian can open only one account in the name of one girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children. The natural or legal guardian

can open two or three accounts if twin girls are born as second birth or triplets are born in the first birth itself.

- (iv) An account under SSA can be opened up to the age of 10 years only from the date of birth. The girl child who had attained the age of 10 years, one year prior to the commencement of this scheme shall also eligible to open the SSA.
- (v) Minimum amount for opening SSA is Rs 1000/- (subsequent deposit should be in multiple of Rs 100/-).
- (vi) A minimum of one thousand rupees shall be deposited in a financial year but the total money deposited in an account on a single occasion or on multiple occasions shall not exceed Rs 1.5 Lakh in a financial year.
- (vii) There is no limit on the number of deposits. The deposits in 'Sukanya Samriddhi Account' can be made in the form of Cash or Demand Draft or Cheque.
- (viii) The interest rate for the financial year 2015-16 under 'Sukanya Samriddhi Account' is 9.2%. The rate of interest is not fixed and will be notified by the Central Government on financial yearly basis.
- (ix) 50% (half of the fund) of the accumulated amount in 'Sukanya Samriddhi Account' can be withdrawn for girl's higher education and marriage after she attains 18 years of age.
- (x) 'Sukanya Samriddhi Account' can be closed after completion of 21 years.
- (xi) If account is not closed after maturity, balance will continue to earn interest as specified for the scheme from time to time.
- (xii) The account can be transferred anywhere in India if the girl shifts to a place other than city or locality where the account stands.
- (xiii) Investment in Sukanya Samriddhi Account has been covered under Section 80C of IT Act.

#### **Food subsidy for poor families**

1451. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that some States have removed food subsidy for the poor families, if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and
- (b) the action proposed by Government towards benefits under PDS to APL, BPL families of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No Sir. No such reports have been received from State Governments regarding removal of poor families from the ambit of subsidised food grains.

(b) For better targeting of food subsidy, removing bogus ration cards, ensuring timely availability of food grains, check on leakage and diversion of foodgrains, introducing public accountability, etc., Government has taken various steps in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in States/Union Territories (UTs). The TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 mandates the State/UTs to take action for smooth functioning of TPDS. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 also prescribes essential reforms in the TPDS and accordingly, government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shops operations. Further, with a view to modernise the system, the Government has initiated a plan scheme on end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations.

**Government websites meeting international standards of web accessibility**

1452. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government regarding the number of Government websites that meet the international standards of web accessibility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in an accessibility survey conducted by National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), not a single Government website was accessible; and

(d) the steps taken to improve web accessibility?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) have been adopted by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and have become a part of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP). The GIGW accessibility guidelines are based on W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. These are internationally accepted guidelines on web accessibility and cover a wide range of recommendations for making web content more accessible.



Deity has initiated the Website Quality Testing project which is being executed by Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) for testing and certifying the government websites. Under this project, 1000 websites have been undertaken for testing. Currently, around 950 websites of various Ministries/Departments, attached offices, societies have already been tested by STQC and test reports have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments for addressing the issues of non-compliance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, as per the Web Accessibility Survey Report for Indian Government websites - 2012 of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), none of 10 Government websites were able to meet even the basic accessibility standards. The Government has undertaken following steps in this regard:

- (i) The Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) have been adopted by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG). The GIGW guidelines adhere to the requirements of persons with disabilities and ensure compliance with level A of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 as laid down by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). GIGW has incorporated all the level A success criteria and a few success criteria from level AA. This is sufficient to make the websites accessible.
- (ii) Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) has had three rounds of meetings with the Website Information Managers (WIMs) of various Government departments to sensitize the departments regarding addressing the non-conformance issues of their websites with GIGW. STQC along with e-Governance division of DeitY and NIC has conducted one-to-one discussion with the concerned departments and ministries to close the non-conformance areas.

#### **Arrest for violation of Section 66A of IT Act**

1453. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people arrested for violation of Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in last two years and the current year, so far, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is considering to amend or repeal the said section; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when the change is expected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Police and Public Order

are State subjects under the Constitution and as such the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crimes including Cyber Crime and for prosecuting the criminals through Law Enforcement machinery within their jurisdictions. National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects and maintains statistical data of police recorded cognizable crimes from 35 States/Union Territories. Information relating to cyber crime data relating to Section 66-A is not maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide judgement dated 24th March 2015 in Writ Petition (Criminal) of Shreya Singhal Versus Union of India has struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000 in its entirety being violative of Article 19(1) (a) and not saved under Article 19(2). During the course of submission in the said case, Government has clearly stated that if Section 66A in the present form falls foul of Article 19(1) or Article 19(2) of the constitution then it does not support it.

#### **Cyber Security Auditors**

†1454. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only forty four Cyber Security Auditors in our country, if so, whether this number is adequate, if not, the number of Cyber Security Auditors required;

(b) the number of Government institutions/ Departments which have undergone security audit and the number of them yet to be audited; and

(c) whether Government provides training to its employees to prevent the cyber risk, if so, the number of such trainings organized and the number of institutions/ Departments covered so far and the level of training together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) At present there are 51 Cyber Security Auditors/ Auditing Organizations empanelled by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) for the purpose of carrying out cyber security audit related activities. CERT-In, is empanelling the Cyber Security auditors through a stringent testing mechanism, to help government and critical sector organizations to conduct regular audits. The empanelment is a continuous process and new auditors are empanelled after successful completion of test procedures and verification of auditing skills. Government and critical sector organisations are consulting the list for their cyber security audit requirements.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has the process of engaging CERT-In empanelled auditors to carry out auditing of Government web sites. These audits are conducted prior to hosting of a Government website on NIC infrastructure. Subsequently audits are also conducted on periodic basis especially following major changes/upgradation in ICT infrastructure.

As of now 5053 websites/applications hosted on NIC infrastructure have been security audited and cleared; 2137 websites/applications are under the process of security audit and 1196 website/applications are due for security audits. Besides, 9 Government Ministries/Departments in the NIC domain have undergone security audit of network resources and systems during the period from 1.1.2014 to 30.4.2015. In addition, Standardisation Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, as an empanelled auditor by CERT-In, has conducted 430 security audits in the last three years covering organisations in Government, public and private sectors.

(c) Government is conducting trainings on regular basis for staff of various Government Ministries/Departments, Public Sector organizations, banking/financial institutions, State Police departments and Law enforcement agencies to give them exposure on current cyber security threats/attacks and latest mitigation strategies.

As part of Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project implemented during 2005-2014, six (6) Implementing Agencies viz. CERT-In, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Education & Research Network (ERNET), NIC, National Institute of Electronics & IT (NIELIT) and STQC organized various training/awareness programmes for Government officials of various departments/organisations. These programs covered various aspects of Information security, risks, mitigation etc. Under this project, around 9000 Government officials were covered. Besides this, 97 officers have been trained as Master Trainers to conduct training programme for participants. Subsequently, Government has approved ISEA project phase-II with effect from 1st April 2014. In this phase, so far 2000 Government officials have been imparted the training.

CERT-In has organised 170 training programmes in various specialized areas of Cyber Security for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), IT Heads/Managers, Systems & Network Administrators, Database Administrators, IT/Security Professionals and Cyber Crime Investigators. Around 5700 participants from 200 organisations attended these programmes. In addition, CERT-In in collaboration with other organisations has organized more than 50 trainings in north eastern States and more than 400 trainings in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Kolkata at respective Police headquarters exclusively

for Police officers to train them in cybercrime detection, seizing and imaging digital evidence. In addition, about 200 training programmes have been organized in the area of cyber-crime and cyber forensics for Judicial academies, Law Enforcement agencies and States Police Departments.

### **Manipulations in the postal accounts**

†1455. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received complaints regarding manipulations in the accounts of people in Khamtara post office branch in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the date on which complaint was received, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has assured the account holders that their money is safe and if need be their entire money would be returned;
- (d) the action taken by Government against the culprits; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One complaint dated 10.02.2015 was received by Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Hoshangabad Division from Postmaster Narsinghpur Head Post Office. Second complaint dated 16.02.2015, from some persons of Gram Khamtara alleging defalcation of public money by Shri Ashok Patel, Mail Overseer was received in the office of Chief Postmaster General, M.P. Circle, Bhopal.

(c) The matter is under investigation. No assurance has been given to the complainants as no loss /fraud has been established till date and no claims have been received.

(d) An FIR has been registered with Police Thana Kotwali Narshinghpur on 11.02.2015. Shri Ashok Patel, Mail Overseer who was found prime facie responsible for alleged manipulations, was suspended on 19.02.2015.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Stopping of purchases from NCCF**

1456. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to extend the special dispensation services permit to purchase stationery and other articles from National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF); and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The special dispensation permit whose validity extended on year to year basis by Department of Personnel & Training / Department of Expenditure has been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2015 after an analytical study by Cost Accounts Branch of Department of Expenditure regarding its cost implication.

**Pendency of cases in consumer fora**

1457. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in consumer fora across the country;

(b) the reasons for high pendency rates in consumer fora;

(c) the average time taken for disposal of consumer disputes; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce pendency of cases?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As on 15.4.2015, 10,566 cases in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, 89,511 cases in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and 2,75,038 cases in the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora are pending.

(b) There are several reasons for high pendency rate in Consumer Fora such as:

(i) Increasing awareness about their rights among consumers leading to greater number of cases;

(ii) delay in timely filling up of posts in various Consumer Fora;

(iii) the usual adjudication process involving adjournment etc;

(iv) the provision for multiple appeals available to consumers.

(c) As per provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, endeavour shall be made to decide a consumer complaint within three months. No data is maintained on average time taken for disposal of consumer disputes.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to reduce the pendency:-

(i) State Governments are being requested from time to time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Member and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments.

(ii) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting the States.

(iii) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose of backlog of pending cases.

(iv) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.

(v) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking.

(vi) Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being comprehensively amended to provide for inter-alia, speedy disposal of cases.

#### **Reduction of levied rice limit**

1458. SHRI ANAND SHARMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to reduce the levied rice limit to 25 per cent;

(b) whether there has been an assessment of the likely impact on farmers from this decision; and

(c) the policy measures proposed by Government to protect the farmers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Government has

decided to reduce the levy on rice upto maximum 25% in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), which has started on 1st October 2014. With reduction in levy, the Government Agencies through cooperative societies/self help groups etc., are undertaking procurement of paddy directly from the farmers thereby ensuring direct payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers. This is to reduce irregularities which exist in levy procurement system and to evolve better outreach of the procurement machinery to the farmgate. Under direct procurement of paddy, the State Government & their agencies adopt various measures to safeguard interest of the farmers in marketing of their produce, such as proper grading & weighment of paddy, timely payment of MSP through cheque / online banking system, transportation of paddy from procurement centers to the storage points etc. In view of these benefits, the Government has further decided to stop procurement through levy system w.e.f. 1st October 2015.

**Steps to reduce pendency of cases in consumer fora**

1459. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending in consumer fora in District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court;
- (b) whether Government has taken any fresh measures to reduce the number of pending cases in consumer courts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) The data of pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts is maintained by these courts. As per information furnished by the Supreme Court and the High Courts, 61,081 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 01.04.2015, 41.53 lakh cases were pending in the High Courts as on 31.12.2014. A total of 3,75,115 cases were pending in the Consumer Fora as on 15.04.2015.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken the following steps to reduce pendency of cases in consumer courts:-

- (i) State Governments are being requested from time to time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Member and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments.

- (ii) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting the States.
- (iii) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose of backlog of pending cases.
- (iv) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.
- (v) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking.
- (vi) Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being comprehensively amended to provide, inter alia, for speedy disposal of cases.

#### **Implementation of the International Food Security Act**

1460. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that some States have not implemented the National Food Security Act, so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the names of the States which have not implemented the Act, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Before implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), States/Union Territories (UTs) are required to complete various preparatory activities and have to certify their preparedness. Allocation of foodgrains under the Act has started to 11 States/UTs based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries reported by them. Remaining 25 States/UTs have not completed all the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act. Names of these States/UTs are “ Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

#### **Irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat**

1461. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of wheat and paddy produced and procured during the last year and the current year, State-wise; and



(b) whether complaints have been received about irregularities in the procurement of paddy and wheat from various States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) The quantum of wheat and paddy produced and procured during last year and current year, State-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received about the irregularities in procurement of paddy and wheat by the State Agencies and the same have been sent to the State Governments concerned for taking remedial action.

**Statement**

*State-wise production and procurement of foodgrains.*

PADDY ( In terms of rice) (In lakh tonnes)

State/Ut	Kms 2013-14		Kms 2014-15	
	Production	Procurement	\$Production	*Procurement
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	127.25	37.37	107.6	22.83
Telangana		43.53		18.74
Assam	49.27	0.00	50.37	0.08
Bihar	55.06	9.42	53.93	12.12
Chandigarh	Neg	0.12	Neg	0.1
Chhatisgarh	67.16	42.90	58.33	33.54
Gujarat	16.36	0	17.08	0
Haryana	39.98	24.06	37.53	20.08
Jammu and Kashmir	6.11	0	8.23	0
Jharkhand	28.11	0	29.1	0.01
Karnataka	35.73	0	35.13	0.78
Kerala	5.09	3.59	5.58	3.34

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	28.45	10.45	33.33	8.06
Maharashtra	31.20	1.61	29.56	1.37
Orissa	76.13	28.01	71.82	26.62
Punjab	112.67	81.06	110.43	77.82
Rajas Than	3.12	0	3.16	0
Tamil Nadu	53.50	6.84	55.33	0.06
Uttar Pradesh	146.36	11.27	137.99	16.35
Uttranchal	5.78	4.63	6.05	4.6
West Bengal	153.71	13.59	153.55	13.55
Others	24.20	0	25.24	0.08
ALL INDIA TOTAL :	1066.45	318.45	1030.43	260.13

\*As on 05.05.2015

\$ 2nd Advacne Estimates

WHEAT In Lakh Tons

State/UT	RMS 2014-15 (Crop Year 2013-14)		RMS 2015-16 (Crop Year 2014-15)	
	Production	Procurement	\$Production	*Procurement
	2	3	4	5
Haryana	118	64.95	113.99	61.32
Uttar Pradesh	298.91	6.28	307.16	5.13
Uttarakhand	8.42	0.01	9.08	0
Madhya Pradesh	129.37	70.94	145.15	48.45
Gujarat	46.94	0	36.95	0.36
Rajasthan	86.63	21.59	90.32	6.56
Jharkhand	3.7	0	3.45	0

1	2	3	4	5
Kamataka	2.1	0	1.47	0
Jammu and Kashmir	6.02	0	5.82	0
Maharashtra	16.02	0	9.56	0
Odissa	0.01	0	0.02	0
Himachal Pradesh	6.71	0	5.59	0
Chandigarh	Neg	0.05	0	0
West Bengal	9.28	0	9.38	0
Andhra Pradesh	0.04	0	0.05	0
Others	1.02	0	1.09	0
TOTAL:	958.49	280.23	957.64	208.31

\*As on 05.05.2015

\$ 2nd Advance Estimates

### Contingency measures for shortfall in foodgrain production

1462. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrain production is going to fall in 2014-15 in view of deficit monsoon, El Nino and also due to unseasonal rains in February, 2015;

(b) if so, the output of rice, wheat and pulses as per the advance estimates; and

(c) the contingency measures Government is planning to take to provide enough foodgrains, not only for PDS under food security but also for others in open market at affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Details of production of rice, wheat, pulses and total foodgrains in the country during 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as under:-

Crop	Production (Million Tonnes)	
	2013-14	2014-15*
Rice	106.65	103.04
Wheat	95.85	95.76
Pulses	19.78	18.43
Foodgrains	265.57	257.07

\*As per 2nd Advance Estimates.

The production during 2014-15 has been lower than that in 2013-14 mainly due to shortfall in area coverage and productivity of crops on account of delayed/deficient monsoon rainfall in many parts of the country.

After release of 2nd Advance Estimates for 2014-15, unseasonal rains in many parts of country during February-March, 2015, have adversely impacted production of rabi crops and, therefore, total foodgrains production during 2014-15 may decline by another 2-3%.

(c) There is sufficient stock of foodgrains under Central Pool to provide enough quantity for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes and also for making foodgrains available in open market at affordable price. As on 1st April, 2015 there is a stock of 170.94 lakh tonnes of rice as against stocking norm of 135.80 lakh tonnes and 172.91 lakh tonnes of wheat as against stocking norm of 74.60 lakh tonnes.

#### **Slump in production of foodgrains**

†1463. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge slump is expected in the production of foodgrains in the current financial year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether food security can be under crisis due to slump in the production of foodgrains, and whether taking this into consideration, Government has started its preparations to overcome this crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The production of agricultural crops including foodgrains is not assessed financial year-wise but crop year-wise. As per Second Advance Estimates for 2014-15, total production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 257.07 million tonnes which is lower by 8.51 million tonnes than the last year's record production of 265.57 million tonnes but higher by 8.15 million tonnes as compared to the last five year's average production of 248.91 million tonnes. The decline in total foodgrains production during 2014-15 has been mainly on account of lower production in the Kharif season due to deficient monsoon rainfall in many parts of the country. After the release of Second Advance Estimates, there were unseasonal rains in February-March 2015 adversely impacting production of rabi crops which were at maturity stage. As per preliminary assessment by State Agricultural Departments, total rabi area of 93.81 lakh ha. has been affected by unseasonal rains. However, it is too early to arrive at exact estimates of loss of production of wheat during 2014-15.

(b) and (c) The yearly requirement of foodgrains after implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in all the States/Union Territories (UTs) is estimated at 61.43 Million tones. NFSA has so far been implemented only by 11 States/UTs. The allotment and offtake of foodgrains under NFSA/Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) (including additional allocations) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) excluding Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic)/Tender Sales/Export during 2011-12 to 2014-15 has been as under:-

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Allotment			Offtake		
	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
2011-12	289.72	367.50	657.22	229.85	320.36	550.21
2012-13	277.47	356.18	633.65	232.99	325.40	558.39
2013-14	269.98	341.91	611.89	220.70	290.30	511.00
2014-15	241.09	372.86	613.95	225.71	326.61	552.32

The stock of foodgrains in Central Pool as on 01.04.2015 *vis-a-vis* the buffer norms for 1st April is as under:-

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

Item	Wheat	Rice (including paddy in terms of rice)	Grand Total
Stock as on 01.04.2015	172.2	238.2	410.4
Buffer Norms for 1st April	74.6	135.8	210.4

In view of the above no shortage of foodgrains is expected to meet the demand against the allotment of 53.41 million tonnes of foodgrains for TPDS/NFSA and OWS for the year 2015-16.

#### **Implementation of recommendations of Shanta Kumar Committee Report**

1464. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee on Food Corporation of India and the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, by when the percentage of persons eligible for coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) Government is examining the recommendations made by the committee on Food Corporation of India. With regard to recommendations on the Public Distribution System the stand of the Government is as under-

#### **Recommendations:**

- (i) to defer implementation of NFSA in States that have not done end to end computerization; have not put the list of beneficiaries online for anyone to verify, and have not set up vigilance committees to check pilferage from Public Distribution System (PDS).
- (ii) to reduce coverage from 67 per cent of population to 40 per cent; raise allocation to priority households from 5 kg to 7 kg per person per month.
- (iii) to gradually introduce cash transfers in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), starting with large cities with more than 1 million population; extending it to grain surplus States, and then giving option to deficit States to opt for cash or physical grain distribution.

**Stand of the Government:**

- (i) The States/ UTs are already required to comply with certain pre-requisites like completion of the ongoing scheme for computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System operations, which includes putting up digitized list of beneficiaries on transparency portal; putting in place grievance redressal mechanism, etc. as per requirement of NFSA, in order to start implementation of the Act.
  - (ii) The NFSA is already in force. There is no proposal for any amendment to the Act.
  - (iii) Direct transfer of cash subsidy is one of the options discussed in various fora for checking diversion of foodgrains. Its implementation, however, depends upon readiness of States/ UTs in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiary data-base seeds with bank account numbers and it can be taken up on specific requests from States/UTs.
- (b) Does not arise.

**Devising mechanism for e-commerce sector**

1465. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up a Committee to devise a clear mechanism for the e-commerce sector against the mega discounts offered by on-line retailers evoking protests from traditional chains, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether some big companies running off-line retail chains have approached Government seeking clarity on guidelines for this emerging sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

- (b) Yes Sir, The confederation of All India Traders (CITA) had *vide* a representation dated 26.12.2014 requested for framing of specific rules and regulations for e-commerce business.

**Implementation of NFSA in North-Eastern States**

1466. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which came into force two years ago in the country, has been implemented in its totality in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will take up this matter on priority and ask the concerned State Governments to expedite implementation of the said Act completely in the interest and for the benefit of people of that region?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) has not started in the North-Eastern States as they have not completed all the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act.

NFSA came into force w.e.f. 5th July, 2013. The Act provided for a period not exceeding 365 days to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for identification of eligible households for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, as implementation of the Act is yet to start in 25 States/UTs, including North-Eastern States, this period has been extended upto 30.09.2015. States/UTs are regularly impressed upon to ensure early implementation of the Act through letters, meetings and conferences. While extending the period upto 30.09.2015, the States/UTs, including North-Eastern States, have been requested to complete identification of beneficiaries and other preparatory measures within the extended period so that the Act is implemented at the earliest.

#### **Prices of cereals, vegetables and fruits**

1467. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of pulses like Masur, Moong, Urad, Arhar, prices of vegetables like cabbage, tomato, brinjals, cauliflower, onion and prices of fruits like guava, coconut, orange, grapes and cashew nut as in March, 2014 and March, 2015 respectively, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is rise in prices of these commodities, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the action initiated by Government, so far, to check the price rise, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The requisite information based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Rise in the prices of food items generally are due to several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation costs, supply constraints like



storage facilities for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black-marketing.

Government have initiated several measures to contain price rise and improve the availability of essential food items. The recent steps taken in this regard are given in the Statement-II (See below).

**Statement-I**

*Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Variation*

Commodity	March 2014	March 2015	Variation (%)
<b>A. Pulses</b>	227.7	257.8	13.2
Masur	228.5	290.2	27.0
Moong	320.0	364.8	14.0
Urad	254.4	310.1	21.9
Arhar	212.5	258.0	21.4
<b>B. Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b>	208.4	232.0	11.3
(i) Vegetables	198.4	217.6	9.7
Cabbage	159.9	248.4	55.3
Tomato	169.3	225.6	33.3
Brinjal	148.8	185.0	24.3
Cauliflower	135.4	159.6	17.9
Onion	243.6	332.5	36.5
(ii) Fruits	216.6	243.9	12.6
Guava	203.1	295.5	45.5
Coconut (Fresh)	176.4	226.2	28.2
Orange	203.7	224.2	10.1
Grapes	211.3	218.9	3.6
Cashew nut	217.1	248.7	14.6

Source: DIPP

***Statement-II***

*Recent steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items :*

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. w.e.f. 26.06.2014 (now withdrawn with improved availability and fall in prices w.e.f. 20.2.2015) and of onions at USD 250 per M.T. w.e.f 7.04.2015 respectively.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) with a corpus of ₹ 500 crores has been approved for implementation aimed at regulating price volatility of agricultural and horticultural commodities both when there is price rise or *vice-versa* through procurement of farm produce, maintenance of buffer stocks and regulated release into the market.
- States have been advised to exempt levy of market fee on fruits and vegetables and to allow establishment of “KisanMandis”/ Farmers markets where producers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can directly market their produce to wholesalers, organized retailers and ordinary consumers. Such alternative marketing channels promoted to reduce intermediaries and to contain marketing costs, are intended to benefit both farmers and consumers.
- Government is also encouraging production of horticultural crops through a Centrally Sponsored scheme, namely Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture w.e.f 2014-15.
- Authorized States/UTs to impose stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL & APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential

Commodities Act, 1980.

- Authorized States/UTs to impose stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds for a period up to 30.9.2015.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.
- The Government has approved for the current year *i.e.* 2014-15 Open Market Sale of ten million tonnes of wheat in the domestic market.

#### **Operation of fair price shops**

1468.DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fair Price Shops (FPS) in the country as on 31st March, 2014, State-wise;
- (b) how many of these are run by private retailers, Gram Panchayats, Cooperative Societies and NGOs;
- (c) whether according to the Ministry, it would be desirable to hand over all these shops to the Gram Panchayats and/or women's SHGs; and
- (d) if so, the details of reasons in either case?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As reported by States/UTs the details indicating State/UT-wise total number of Fair Price Shops(FPSs) as on 31.03.2014 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) As reported by States/UTs the details indicating State-wise number of FPS under TPDS run by various groups *viz.* Women's Self Help Group, Village Panchayats, Urban Local bodies, Self Help Groups, Cooperatives as on 31.03.2014 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint

responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities including the issuance of licenses to the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

However, with a view to ensure transparency, States/UTs have been requested to involve elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains and for giving FPS licenses to village panchayats, urban local bodies, self help groups, women self help groups, co-operatives, etc.

Further, Section 12 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 requires Central and the State Government to endeavour to progressively undertake necessary reforms in the TPDS which *inter-alia* include preference to public institutions or public bodies such as Panchayats, self help groups, co-operatives, in licensing of FPSs and management of FPSs by women or their collectives.

***Statement-I***

*State-wise total no. of fair price shops*

(As on 31.3.2014)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total No. of Fair Price Shops
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45322
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1568
3.	Assam	37124
4.	Bihar	44480
5.	Chhattisgarh	10888
6.	Delhi	2508
7.	Goa	501
8.	Gujarat	17251
9.	Haryana	9201
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4455
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5902
12.	Jharkhand	14395

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total No. of Fair Price Shops
13.	Karnataka	20405
14.	Kerala	14308
15.	Madhya Pradesh	20688
16.	Maharashtra	45828
17.	Manipur	2551
18.	Meghalaya	4202
19.	Mizoram	1247
20.	Nagaland	1425
21.	Odisha	29482
22.	Punjab	17815
23.	Rajasthan	23491
24.	Sikkim	1420
25.	Tamil Nadu	33490
26.	Tripura	1755
27.	Uttar Pradesh	73004
28.	Uttarakhand	8915
29.	West Bengal	20368
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	504
31.	Chandigarh	59
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	76
33.	Daman and Diu	51
34.	Lakshadweep	38
35.	Puducherry	516
TOTAL		515233

**Statement-II**

*Number of FPS under TPDS run by various groups viz. Women's Self Help Group, Village Panchayats, Urban Local bodies, Self Help Groups, Cooperatives in the States/UTs*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	(As on 31.3.2014)				
		Women's Self Help Groups	Village Panchayats	Urban Local bodies	Self Help Groups	Co-operatives
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1237	0	0	0	739
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	231
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	37
4.	Bihar	220	0	0	163	4647
5.	Chhattisgarh	2361	4173	24	0	4335
6.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	1	0	0	0	174
8.	Gujarat	440	5	20	155	3096
9.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	22
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7	37	0	0	3171
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	17
12.	Jharkhand	10145	0	0	0	184
13.	Karnataka	32	0	0	0	9003
14.	Kerala	687	0	0	2	373
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	21390
16.	Maharashtra	1889	219	220	1702	7960
						11990

17. Manipur*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	22	22	22
19. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Nagaland	0	1165	260	0	0	0	0	0	1425	1425
21. Odisha	6511	4287	9	699	642	12148	1193	1193	3748	3748
22. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	458	458
23. Rajasthan	532	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33839	33839
24. Sikkim	340	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	285	285
25. Tamil Nadu	549	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2326	2326
26. Tripura	9	0	0	35	241	0	0	0	0	0
27. Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	858	858
28. Uttarakhand*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	55
29. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
30. Andman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	2	53	0	0	0	34	34
31. Chandigarh	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	1	31	0	0	0	38	38
33. Daman and Diu	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	485	485
34. Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136073	136073
35. Puducherry	4	0	0	1	480	0	0	0		
TOTAL	24968	9894	533	2760	97918					

\* - Not Reported

**Mega Food Parks in Maharashtra**

†1469. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains which goes waste annually in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to set up Mega Food Parks in order to check the wastage of foodgrains and to shorten the distance between farm and plate;
- (c) the number of Food Parks proposed to be set up in Maharashtra, including Pune, in the first phase of the scheme; and
- (d) the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) As per the report (released in 2010) of nation-wide study on quantitative assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses carried out by CIPHET, Ludhiana, the cumulative wastage of Cereals in the country ranges from 3.9 – 6.0 per cent and Pulses from 4.3-6.1 per cent.

(b) The primary objective of the Scheme of Mega Food Parks is to provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market with a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and Collection Centres (CCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure at Central Processing Centre (CPC). Mega Food Parks provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agriculture production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income.

(c) and (d) In the first phase of the Mega Food Park scheme implementation, Final approval has been given by the Ministry on 08.03.2013 for setting up a Mega Food Park at Village Wahegaon and Dhangaon, Taluka: Paithan, District Aurangabad, Maharashtra by M/s Paithan Mega Food Park Ltd. in 110 acres at total project cost of ₹ 124.56 crore.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



**New Mega Food Parks**

1470. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to establish new Mega Food Parks in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the States in which the Food Parks are being planned to be established; and
- (c) in what way the plan is being financed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) Government has sanctioned setting up of 42 (Forty Two) Mega Food Parks for creation of modern infrastructure for food processing industries in the country. Out of these, 21 (Twenty One) Parks have been accorded Final Approval by the Ministry. The remaining four projects, which have been accorded In-principle approval, are in the process of meeting the conditions of final approval as per the scheme guidelines.

To fill up the 17 vacancies created due to cancellation/withdrawal etc. of the Mega Food Park projects selected earlier, Expression of Interest (EoI) had been invited on all India basis on 10.02.2014 with the last date of 31.07.2014. Based on merit, the Ministry has accorded "In-principle Approval" to 15 Mega Food Park projects on 31.03.2015. Details of these Parks are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Mega Food Parks are very important and capital intensive projects having far reaching socio-economic impact in and around the selected location. The scheme is project oriented and private driven and there for location of the project is selected by the promoters based on economic viability and business considerations. Selection of the project by the Ministry is made on the basis of the evaluation of the proposals, received against Expressions of Interest (EoI) as and when invited by the Ministry, by observing stringent appraisal process as per the Scheme Guidelines.

(c) The financial assistance for setting up Mega Food Parks is provided by the Ministry @ 50% of eligible project cost in general areas and @ 75% of eligible project cost in NE Region and difficult areas (Hilly States and ITDP areas) subject to maximum of ₹ 50 crore per project. A Plan allocation of ₹ 1714 crore has been made by the Government during Twelfth Plan for implementation of the Scheme of Mega Food Parks.

**Statement***Details of the newly approved 15 Mega Food Parks*

Sl. No.	Project Name	State	Project Cost (in ₹ crore)	Date of In-principle Approval
1.	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC)	Andhra Pradesh	152.16	31.03.2015
2.	Mums Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd.	Bihar	136.98	31.03.2015
3.	Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd.	Gujarat	168.60	31.03.2015
4.	Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited	Haryana	164.33	31.03.2015
5.	Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC)	Kerala	125.00	31.03.2015
6.	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Kerala	121.92	31.03.2015
7.	Ruchi Acroni Industries Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	150.37	31.03.2015
8.	Jain Agro Trading Company Private Limited	Maharashtra	88.73	31.03.2015
9.	Vinay Tiwari Agro Estates & Farms Pvt. Ltd.	Maharashtra	119.09	31.03.2015
10.	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO)	Odisha	116.26	31.03.2015
11.	Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.	Punjab	136.00	31.03.2015
12.	The Sukjhrit Starch & Chemical Limited	Punjab	128.28	31.03.2015
13.	3F Industries Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	127.78	31.03.2015
14.	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (Telangana Division)	Telangana	141.03	31.03.2015
15.	Raaga Mayuri Agrovet Pvt. Ltd.	Telangana	112.05	31.03.2015

**Food processing industries in Odisha**

1471. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey in Odisha for assessment to set up Food Processing Industries;
- (b) if so, the details of potential in the State with regard to food processing sector; and
- (c) whether any Food Parks are proposed to be setup in Odisha, particularly in KBK region, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any survey in Odisha to assess the potential for development of food processing industries.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) A Mega Food Park has been given Final approval by the Ministry on 16.04.2012 in KBK region at Bhujbul & Sindhubadi Mouza, District Rayagada, Odisha which is being implemented by M/s MITS Mega Food Park Ltd. at the total project cost of ₹ 80.17 crore.

In addition, the Ministry has recently given In-Principle Approval on 31.03.2015 for establishment of a Mega Food Park at Deras Village, Khurda District, Odisha to be implemented by M/s Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) at the total proposed project cost of ₹ 116.26 crore.

**National Mission on Food Processing**

1472. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the National Mission on Food Processing;
  - (b) whether it is a fact that some of the schemes have been subsumed in the above Mission, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
  - (c) the new components included in the above Mission;
  - (d) the physical targets set in the Twelfth Five Year Plan under the above Mission;
- and

(e) to what extent the above Mission gives a fillip to food processing sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) to be implemented through State / UT Governments during Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). The scheme aimed at decentralization of implementation of the schemes, leading to substantial participation of State Governments/UTs. The State / UT Governments were given flexibility in implementing the schemes included in the NMFP based on the needs of local area.

However, Government of India (GOI) has delinked the NMFP from Central Government support from the current financial year. State Governments may decide to continue (or not) NMFP scheme out of their increased resources resulting from the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

(b) The following schemes of Eleventh Five Year Plan were subsumed under the Mission during first year of Twelfth Plan (2012-13):

- (i) Scheme for Technology Up-gradation / Establishment / Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticultural Products.
- (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD).
- (iv) Scheme for Promotional Activities.

(c) The following new components were included for the remainder of Twelfth Plan (2013-17) under the Mission :

- (i) Scheme for Creating Primary Processing Centres / Collection Centres in Rural Areas.
  - (ii) Modernisation of Meat Shops.
  - (iii) Reefer Vehicles.
  - (iv) Scheme for Setting-up / Modernisation / Expansion of Abattoirs (implemented w.e.f 2014-15).
- (d) Since the Mission was implemented by State / UT Governments, Ministry had

not fixed any physical targets for Twelfth Five Year Plan. The State Governments were given flexibility to set their own physical targets and identify focus areas to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material.

(e) The NMFP was to augment the capacity of the food processing by adoption of new technologies and improving the quality of food products as per the National / International standards. Mission also aimed to reduce wastage of agricultural produce, infuse new technologies, upgrade human resource capacities to provide impetus to the development of food processing sector in the country.

#### **Development of Food Processing Industry in the country**

1473. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the main reasons for slow development of food processing sector in the country;
- (b) the schemes announced for the sector in the Budget, 2015;
- (c) whether Food Processing Industry in the country is facing huge disadvantage due to adverse exchange rate;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (e) whether it is a fact that import duties of around 30 to 35 per cent puts the imported machinery out of reach of most of the tiny, small and medium level manufacturers in this field; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) Lack of efficient supply chain infrastructure, inadequate processing capacity, complex regulatory regime and non-availability of affordable credit are some of the major constraints for slow development of food processing sector in the country.

- (b) No new scheme has been announced in the Budget, 2015.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No Sir. Government has extended Project Imports' benefits to the projects for the (i) installation of mechanized foodgrain handling systems and pallet racking systems in 'Mandis' and Warehouses for foodgrains and sugar; (ii) cold storage, cold room (including for farm level pre-cooling) or industrial projects for preservation, storage or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat. Consequently, all machinery related to food processing, imported as part of the project, irrespective of their tariff classification, would be entitled to uniform assessment at concessional basic customs duty.

Basic customs duty on the machinery items is upto 12.5 per cent. Over and above basic customs duty, countervailing duty upto 12 per cent is levied in some of the cases.

#### **Cold storages in rural areas**

1474. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated, sanctioned and released for setting up of cold storages under the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) in the country during the last three years and the current year, so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of existing cold storages in each State/UT;

(c) whether Government has any plans for setting up of cold storages in rural areas so that the perishable vegetables and fruits are stored immediately after their harvest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the country can become self-reliant in storage of vegetables and fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) The details of the grants-in-aid sanctioned and released by State / UT Governments under NMFP scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture products in the country during the last three years are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

During the current financial year (2015-16), Government of India (GoI) has delinked NMFP from Central Government support. State Governments may decide to continue (or not) NMFP scheme out of their increased resources resulting from the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.

(b) The details indicating the State-wise number of existing cold storages is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for providing financial assistance for setting up of integrated cold chain infrastructure for arresting post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce in the country including rural areas. The objective of the scheme is to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break, from the farm gate to the consumer. Integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, co-operative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. The scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure is primarily private sector driven and provides flexibility to the promoters to choose the components, their capacities and location of the project based on techno-economic feasibility and viability of the project.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North-Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of ₹ 10.00 crore.

Besides the above scheme, other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

The present existing cold chain / storage capacity is estimated at around 32 million MT and the present gap in the cold storage capacities is estimated at around 29 million MT. With the increase in production of perishable food products, the requirement of the cold chain / storage also increases.

**Statement-I**

*State / UT-wise information on number of Cold Chain Projects sanctioned and Grants-in-aid released under the scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during last three years of 12th Plan*

Sl. No.	State Name	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		
		No.	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	No.	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	No.	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3	26.18	13.14	0	0	0	6	29.43	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	1	4.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	1.17	0.87	0	0	0	3	12.84	4.85
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Haryana	1	7.31	5.48	1	5.00	5.00	1	5.00	3.75
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.38	0
16.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(₹ in crore)



17.	Karnataka	0	0	0	2	4.35	1.09	0	0	0	0
18.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3.35	1.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	1	10.00	10.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	3	7.01	2.45	2	3.50	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	4	10.72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Telangana	1	1.02	0.22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttar Pradesh	5	30.80	13.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Uttarakhand	1	5.87	4.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		23	107.56	50.96	5	12.85	6.09	11	50.65	8.60	

Source: Date entered by State / UT Governments in NMFP MIS portal, accessed on 31.03.2015.

**Statement-II***State / UT-wise information on number of existing Cold Storages in the country*

Sl.No	States/UTs	Number of Cold Storages	Capacity in MT
1.	Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	2	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh	404	1577828
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	5000
4.	Assam	34	119652
5.	Bihar	303	1406395
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	6	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	89	427766
8.	Delhi	97	129857
9.	Goa	29	7705
10.	Gujarat	560	2030873
11.	Haryana	295	588649
12.	Himachal Pradesh	32	38557
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	28	64769
14.	Jharkhand	55	217280
15.	Karnataka	189	526752
16.	Kerala	197	78355
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	1	15
18.	Madhya Pradesh	260	1097168
19.	Maharashtra	540	706302.6
20.	Manipur	1	2175
21.	Meghalaya	4	8200
22.	Mizoram	3	3931
23.	Nagaland	2	6150
24.	Odisha	111	326639
25.	Puducherry (UT)	3	85

Sl.No	State/UTs	Number of Cold Storages	Capacity in MT
26.	Punjab	606	2004778
27.	Rajasthan	154	480032
28.	Sikkim	2	2000
29.	Tamil Nadu	163	295671
30.	Tripura	13	39181
31.	Uttar Pradesh	2176	13633039
32.	Uttarakhand	28	84545
33.	West Bengal	502	5901925
TOTAL		6891	31823700.6

Source : DMI, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and MoFPI

### Promoting Food Processing Industries

†1475. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- whether it is estimated that only a few percentage, *i.e.*, very less quantity of fruits and vegetables, are being processed in the country;
- if so, the potential of fruit and vegetable processing in every State, especially in Maharashtra; and
- the steps taken/being taken by Central Government to promote Food Processing Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI) : (a) As per the “Vision 2015: Strategy & Action Plan for Food Processing Industries in India” prepared by Rabo India Finance in April, 2005, for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the level of processing in India is very low and varies from sector to sector and it is estimated at 2 per cent in the case of fruits and vegetables.

(b) The Indian food processing industry, supported with a large base of agricultural, horticultural, dairy, meat and fish production holds huge potential for growth. Annual

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Survey of Industries (ASI) by Central Statistics Office (CSO) is the main source of data on units registered under Factories Act, 1948. As per the latest ASI, the total number of registered Fruits & Vegetables processing units in the country and in the State of Maharashtra for 2012-13 was 1,110 and 182 respectively.

(c) Food processing units are set up by entrepreneurs in the private sector. It has been the endeavour of the Government to promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produces, control food inflation and ensure higher returns to the farmers. With a view to promote the sector, Government is implementing various Central Sector Schemes, namely (i) Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing having components of Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs (ii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities. Ministry also has two academic-cum-research institutions viz. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. These institutions provide academic programmes at Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. level, undertake research in various aspects of food processing and also conduct short-term training programmes for stakeholders.

Ministry had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), w.e.f. 1st April, 2012, which was implemented through State/UT Governments. However, NMFP has been delinked from Central Government support from current financial year (2015-16) excepting the U.Ts.

Government has also extended number of fiscal incentives to promote processing of agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables. A special fund of ₹ 2000 crore was created in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during Financial year 2014-15 for extending concessional credit to designated Food Parks and the individual processing units in the Designated Food Parks. The fund is being continued in 2015-16.

#### **Vacancies of Judges in Jharkhand High Court**

1476. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against a sanctioned strength of 984 Judges in 24 High Courts at present, 348 posts are vacant, and Jharkhand High Court is worst affected wherein, as against 25 posts only 12 Judges are posted;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to fill the vacant posts of Judges in the Jharkhand High Court to avoid delayed justice; if so, by when; and

(c) the reasons for keeping the posts of Judges vacant in various High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) The details showing the Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a time consuming process, as it requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in the Judge strength of High Courts. The Government has been periodically reminding the various Chief Justices of the High Courts including the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court to initiate proposals well in time for filling the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in the next six months in the High Courts. However, with the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 on 13th April, 2015, the role of recommending appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts now rests with the Commission to ensure timely filling up of vacancies. The constitutional validity of the Constitution (Ninety Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 has been challenged in the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub-judice*.

#### **Statement**

*The details showing the approved strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved strength	Working strength	Vacancies as per approved strength
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	160	80	80
2.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	49	29	20
3.	Bombay	94	65	29
4.	Calcutta	58	45	13

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	10	12
6.	Delhi	60	41	19
7.	Guwahati	24	17	07
8.	Gujarat	52	30	22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	07	06
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	10	07
11.	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12.	Karnataka	62	35	27
13.	Kerala	38	38	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	33	20
15.	Madras	60	40	20
16.	Manipur	04	03	01
17.	Meghalaya	03	03	0
18.	Odisha	27	21	06
19.	Patna	43	33	10
20.	Punjab and Haryana	85	55	30
21.	Rajasthan	50	29	21
22.	Sikkim	03	03	0
23.	Tripura	04	04	0
24.	Uttarakhand	11	06	05
TOTAL		1017	651	366

**Use of Tamil language in court proceedings**

1477. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) why Tamil language is not used for judgements and proceedings in Madras High Court: and

(b) by when it is expected that in Tamil Nadu Tamil language gets proper respect and acceptance in areas of court proceedings at higher level?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) and (b) Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides. Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Based on proposals received from State Governments including the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding use of Hindi/regional languages in the proceedings of certain High Courts, Government had taken up the matter with the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court had not accepted the proposals. The Government has abided by the decision.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) was requested again on 04.07.2014 to reconsider the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India to provide for greater flexibility for the use of Hindi and regional languages in High Courts. The Supreme Court has informed that the matter is to be placed before the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India again and steps are being taken for placing it before the Full Court.

#### **Creation of special benches in High Courts**

1478. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to create special benches in all High Courts to decide election petitions, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has carried out any study regarding the time taken by High Courts and the Supreme Court to decide election petitions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the estimated cost of creation of such special benches in all the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Changes to Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**

1479. SHRI MAJEED MEMON : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Law Commission has suggested some key changes in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 redefining the “Public Policy” clause, taking into account a recent Supreme Court judgement and its implication on international and domestic arbitration;

(b) if so, the details of the specific suggestions of the Law Commission on this Act suggested in its report submitted to the Government; and

(c) by when Government proposes to bring a legislation to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA) :

(a) and (b) The Law Commission of India has informed that in view of the two judgments of the Supreme Court (ONGC Ltd. Vs. Western Geco International Ltd. [2014(9) SCC263] and Associate Builders Vs. Delhi Development Authority [2014(4)ARBLR 307 (SC)]), the 20th Law Commission has submitted a report titled ‘Supplementary to Report No. 246 Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 “Public Policy” Developments post-Report No. 246’ on 06.02.2015, wherein the Commission has proposed amendments to Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 pertaining to “Public Policy”.

(c) The said Report of the Law Commission has been examined in this Department and a proposal for amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, is under process.

**Law colleges**

1480. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bar Council of India has recommended to de-recognise several law colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such colleges, State-wise, including West Bengal;

(c) whether there is any student-teacher ratio fixed in the law colleges;

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

(e) whether Government has decided to increase law literacy in the country, if so, the details of the steps undertaken in this regard?



THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA) :  
(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Compensation for delayed justice**

1481. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state : whether Government has any proposal to award compensation to the affected party in case of delayed justice, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure.

Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The Government has no proposal to award compensation to the affected party in case of delayed justice.

**Average time taken by courts to deliver judgements**

†1482. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken to deliver judgement by lower Courts, High Courts, and Supreme Court in the country;

(b) the average number of criminal and civil cases being heard per day by the Courts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the average number of cases being heard per day in Singapore, United States of America and United Kingdom and the average time taken by Courts to deliver justice in these countries; and

(d) whether Government is working on any plan to shorten the time taken to deliver justice and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure. The Government at present does not maintain data on average time taken by courts to deliver judgements and average number of cases being heard per day by various courts in the country or outside.

Further, it may not be valid to compare the time taken for disposal of cases by courts in the country with the time taken by courts in other countries like Singapore, United States of America and United Kingdom. The courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts.

Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

#### **Judicial system under strain**

1483. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether judicial system is under strain due to pending cases;

(b) if so, whether Chief Justice of India has sought help of various agencies to address the pendency effectively, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pendency issues require tremendous investment in developing appropriate infrastructure for the judiciary, police and prosecuting agencies; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering a proposal to provide required assistance to address the pendency and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) During the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held in New Delhi on 05.04.2015, considering the pendency of cases in various courts in the country, the Chief Justice of India *inter-alia* called upon the State Governments and the High Courts to work in tandem for elimination of arrears of cases and improvements in the justice delivery system.

Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities to judiciary, police and prosecuting agencies in the States falls within the domain of the State Governments. Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments through various Schemes and Programmes to *inter-alia* improve justice delivery in the States.

The major initiatives of the Central Government in this regard relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 3,131 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last four years. Under the eCourts Project 13,672 courts have been computerised by 31st March, 2015. The Government has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation. As a result of the concerted efforts made by all stake-holders the increasing trend of pendency of cases in subordinate courts has been checked.

#### **Review of Obsolete Laws**

1484. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel appointed by Government has recommended repealing of 1741 obsolete Central laws that have outlived their utility;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the panel; and

(c) whether Government has sought views of legal experts before repealing the obsolete Central laws, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Two- member Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has submitted its Report and *inter alia* identified a total number of 1741 Central Acts for repeal. The said Report has been examined by the Legislative Department, which categorized those Acts as under:

- (i) 777 Central Acts identified for repeal wholly or in part;
- (ii) 83 Central Acts relating to State Subjects to be repealed by State Legislatures;
- (iii) 624 Central Appropriation Acts enacted upto the year 2010; and
- (iv) 257 Appropriation Acts enacted by Parliament for the States under President's Rule to be repealed by the States.

Legislative Department further examined the Central Acts recommended by the said Committee for repeal. Out of the total 777 Central Acts identified by the Committee for repeal either wholly or in part, 82 Acts already included in the two Repealing and Amending Bills pending in Parliament, have not been examined for their categorization. Out of the remaining 695 Central Acts, 637 Central Acts have been categorised to be repealed by Parliament and 58 Central Acts have been categorised to be repealed by Parliament in consultation with the States. Letters have been sent to the concerned Ministries/ Departments for their views/comments on repeal of 637 Acts. Letters have also been issued to the respective States for repeal of obsolete Acts, which pertain to those States.

#### **Affordable and accessible justice to poor people**

1485. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to adopt any effective policy to provide affordable and accessible justice to the downtrodden, backward and poor peoples, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any request from various social organizations or State Governments in this regard; and

- (c) if so, the details of and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) Yes, Madam. Article 39 A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all. In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes. Legal Services Institutions have been set up at all level from Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court. Apart from these legal services institutions, High Court Legal Services Committees have been constituted at all High Courts and the Supreme Courts Legal Services Committee at the Supreme Court level to provide free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act. The free Legal Aid Services include;

- (i) Payment of court fee, process fees and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings;
- (ii) Providing service of lawyers in legal proceedings;
- (iii) Obtaining and supply of certified copies of orders and another documents in legal Proceedings; and
- (iv) Preparation of appeal paper book including printing and translation of documents in legal proceedings.

(v) and (c) Receipts of requests in this regard is a continuous process. These are received very often and the same are forwarded to NALSA for taking up the matter with the concerned State Legal Services Institutions for appropriate action. NALSA closely monitors the action on such requests. Social organizations are also involved in various awareness and out reach programmes conducted by the State Authorities.

#### **Disposal of cases by Fast Track Courts**

1486. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fast Track Courts are operating in various States to deal with offence against women, children, differently-abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society; and ;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of disposal of cases during the last three years along with allocation of funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) and (b) Setting up of courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) is the responsibility of the State Governments. In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it has been resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of FTCs relating to offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society, and provide adequate funds for the purpose of creating and continuing them. Government has requested the State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts to implement this decision. The details indicating the number of Fast Track Courts operating in various States as on the date mentioned is given in the Statement-I (See below).

State-wise details of disposal of cases during the last three years is not maintained. However, the details indicating the number of cases transferred to FTCs, disposed of and pending is given in the Statement-II (See below).

The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

***Statement-I***

*The number of Fast Track Courts as on the date mentioned*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FTCs functioning	As on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72	April, 14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	March, 14
3.	Assam	20	Oct., 12
4.	Bihar	179	March. 11
5.	Chhattisgarh	21	April, 14

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FTCs functioning	As on
6.	Goa	5	July, 14
7.	Gujarat	61	Feb., 11
8.	Haryana	6	Dec., 10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	June, 14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	June, 14
11.	Jharkhand	11	March, 14
12.	Karnataka	39	March, 14
13.	Kerala	38	Aug., 13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	84	Dec., 10
15.	Maharashtra	92	June, 14
16.	Manipur	2	Oct., 12
17.	Meghalaya	3	June, 14
18.	Mizoram	3	March 11
19.	Nagaland	2	Oct., 12
20.	Odisha	30	June, 14
21.	Punjab	20	March, 14
22.	Rajasthan	0	March, 14
23.	Sikkim	1	March, 14
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	June, 14
25.	Tripura	2	June, 14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80	Feb., 15
27.	Uttarakhand	0	July, 14
28.	West Bengal	77	Aug., 14
29.	Delhi	10	March, 14
TOTAL		895	

**Statement-II**

*The Number of cases transferred to Fast Track Courts (FTCs),  
disposed by FTCs and pending in FTCs*

Sl. No	Name of the State	Number of cases transferred to FTCs since inception	No. of cases disposed of since inception by FTCs	No. of cases pending in FTCs	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	265545	248457	17088	April, 14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4162	1660	2502	March, 11
3.	Assam	84098	72240	11858	Oct., 12
4.	Bihar	239278	159105	80173	March, 11
5.	Chhattisgarh	94670	76575	18095	March, 11
6.	Goa	10185	8590	1595	Feb., 14
7.	Gujarat	537636	434296	103340	Feb., 11
8.	Haryana	38359	33590	4769	Dec., 10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	54651	47480	7171	Dec., 12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	
11.	Jharkhand	110027	87789	22238	March, 11
12.	Karnataka	218402	184067	34335	Aug., 10
13.	Kerala	135839	116843	18996	Aug., 13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	360602	317363	43239	Dec., 10
15.	Maharashtra	423518	381619	41899	Feb., 11
16.	Manipur	3512	3287	225	Oct., 12
17.	Meghalaya	1288	973	315	Oct., 12
18.	Mizoram	1868	1635	233	March, 11
19.	Nagaland	845	786	59	Oct., 12
20.	Odisha	73093	67700	5393	March, 12



1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Punjab	58570	46347	12223	Dec., 10
22.	Rajasthan	149447	123024	26423	March, 11
23.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA	
24.	Tamil Nadu	411957	371336	40621	Aug., 10
25.	Tripura	5812	5591	221	March, 11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	March, 11
27.	Uttarakhand	112726	103208	9518	June, 12
28.	West Bengal	196240	166711	29529	Aug., 14
29.	Delhi	NA	NA	NA	
TOTAL		3592330	3060272	532058	

NA- Not Available

### Setting up of Family Courts

1487. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling over to set up Family Courts in the next five years in districts with a population of one million or more; and

(b) if so, the number of Family Courts Government proposes to set up in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) and (b) As per the Family Courts Act, 1984, Family Courts are established by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Court as per their need.

Government sent a proposal to the 14th Finance Commission for funding setting up of Family Courts so as to provide for at least one Family Court in each district in the country. The number of Family Courts required to be established in a State was arrived at so as to provide for, on an average, at least one Family Court in each district in that State or the number of districts without Family Courts reported by the respective High Court, whichever was higher. Thus it was proposed to provide funds for setting up of 235 Family Courts in various states in the country. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*). The Finance Commission endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 235 Family Courts at a cost of ₹ 541.06 crore for the period of 5 years. The State Governments are urged to use the additional fiscal space provide by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirement.

**Statement***Number of Family Courts to be established*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Family Courts to be established
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Delhi	0
8.	Goa	0
9.	Gujarat	16
10.	Haryana	15
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
13.	Jharkhand	3
14.	Karnataka	13
15.	Kerala	0
16.	Lakshadweep	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	20
18.	Maharashtra	22
19.	Manipur	5
20.	Mizoram	4
21.	Meghalaya	0
22.	Nagaland	9
23.	Odisha	14
24.	Punjab	22
25.	Puducherry	0
26.	Rajasthan	5
27.	Sikkim	2

1	2	3
28.	Tamil Nadu	18
29.	Telangana	0
30.	Tripura	5
31.	Uttar Pradesh	0
32.	Uttarakhand	8
33.	West Bengal	17
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
35.	Daman and Diu	0
36.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
	TOTAL	235

#### Disposal of cases by Family Courts

1488. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Family Courts in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases pending in these Courts, since last five years, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of cases disposed of in these Courts during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
 (a) to (c) As per the reports received, a State-wise number of Family Courts functioning in the country is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The number of cases pending in these Courts and the number of cases disposed of in these courts during the last three years is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

#### Statement-I

##### Number of Family Courts functional

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Family Courts functional in the State
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	02
4.	Bihar	32

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	17
6.	Delhi	14
7.	Goa	-
8.	Gujarat	18
9.	Haryana	06
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-
12.	Jharkhand	20
13.	Karnataka	24
14.	Kerala	28
15.	Madhya Pradesh	38
16.	Maharashtra	22
17.	Manipur	04
18.	Mizoram	04
19.	Meghalaya	-
20.	Nagaland	02
21.	Odisha	17
22.	Punjab	-
23.	Puducherry	01
24.	Rajasthan	28
25.	Sikkim	04
26.	Tamil Nadu	14
27.	Tripura	03
28.	Uttar Pradesh	75
29.	Uttarakhand	08
30.	West Bengal	02
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
32.	Chandigarh	-
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
34.	Daman and Diu	-
35.	Lakshadweep	-
TOTAL		410

**Statement-II**  
*Number of cases disposed of/pending in Family Courts*

S.No.	State	Cases disposed of during the year			Cases pending
		2012	2013	2014	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	9996	10209	12267	18838 (as on end of 2014)
2.	Assam	6804	8535	10977	18044 (as on 31.12.2014)
3.	Chhattisgarh	8015	8448	8496	Not indicated
4.	Delhi	10446	12000	20923	27687 (as on 01.01.2015)
5.	Gujarat	11735	12953	15910	28384 (as on 31.01.2015)
6.	Haryana	8233	9130	9151	12059 (as on 31.01.2015)
7.	Jharkhand	4747	6249	8241	14914 ( as on January 2015)
8.	Karnataka	12541	15480	16690	23285 (as on 01.02.2015)
9.	Kerala	40499	54215	47525	52541 (as on 31.12.2014)
10.	Maharashtra	22469	23022	22812	31075 (as on 31.01.2015)
11.	Manipur	614	727	815	701 (as on 31.01.2015)
12.	Mizoram	98	157	119	133 (as on 31.12.2014)

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11782	13196	21569	26363 (as on 26.2.2015)
14.	Nagaland	13	15	12	19 (as on 31.12.2014)
15.	Odisha	3816	5692	8926	22992 (as on 31.12.2014)
16.	Rajasthan	12874	21218	35183	54996 (as on 31.12.2014)
17.	Sikkim	194	300	245	106 (as on 31.01.2015)
18.	Tripura	1376	1709	1722	1673 (as on 03.03.2015)
19.	Uttarakhand	4990	6332	5879	7412 (as on 5.5.2015)
20.	Uttar Pradesh	34974	34758	114159	268776 (as on 31.12.2014)
21.	West Bengal	547	387	313	1024 (as on 31.12.2014)

**Revision of ceiling on income for free legal aid**

1489. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether free legal aid is being given to the poor and weaker sections of the society;
- (b) if so, since when and what was the ceiling on income for such facility at the time of beginning;
- (c) whether the limit has been revised from time to time; and
- (d) if so, the details of revisions made along with the dates of revision?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) Yes Sir. Under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987) free legal aid is provided to the poor and weaker sections of the society. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 came into force on 9th November, 1995. At the time of enactment of the said Act, the ceiling of annual income limit prescribed for entitlement to free legal services was ₹ 9000/- or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a Court other than the Supreme Court, and less than ₹ 12,000/- or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government if the cases is before the Supreme Court. Presently a person is eligible for free legal aid if he is in receipt of annual income less than ₹ 1,00,000/- (in some States ₹ 50,000/-) if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than ₹ 1,25,000/-, if the case is before the Supreme Court. As far as the Annual income ceiling limit for the cases upto High Court is concerned, State Governments have the power to revise it. Accordingly, there are different annual income ceiling limit followed by different States.

**Special courts to deal with crimes against minors**

1490. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether special courts have been set up to deal with crimes against minors even since the law on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) came into existence, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of pendency of cases involving crime against minors during each of the last three years and the current year, so far, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to set up special courts for speedy trial of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) to (c) Setting-up of subordinate courts including courts for disposal of cases relating to crimes against children is within the purview of the State Governments and the High Courts.

Legislative provisions have been made by the Government for setting up of special courts for speedy trial of offences against children. Section 25 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 provides that for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights, the State Government may, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification, specify at least a court in the State or specify, for each district, a Court of Session to be a Children's Court to try the said offence. Section 28(1) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 provides that for the purposes of providing a speedy trial, the State Government shall in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the Official Gazette, designate for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act provided that if a Court of Session is notified as a Children's Court under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 or a Special Court designated for similar purposes under any other law for the time being in force, then, such court shall be deemed to be a Special Court under this section.

As per the reports published by National Crime Records Bureau, the cases reported and conviction rate in respect of crimes against children during the last three years are as under:

*Crime against children*

Year	Number of cases reported	Conviction rate
2013	58224	30.9
2012	38172	29.0
2011	33098	34.6

**Filling up of vacancies of Judges in High Courts**

1491. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has sought proposal from the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors for filling up vacancies of Judges in High Courts; and

(b) if so, the response of States/Chief Justices and Governors thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):



(a) and (b) Filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a time consuming process, as it requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in the Judge strength of High Courts. The Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals well in time for filling the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in the next six months in the High Courts. However, with the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 on 13th April, 2015, the role of recommending appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts now rests with the Commission to ensure timely filling up vacancies.

The constitutional validity of the Constitution (Ninety Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 has been challenged in the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub-judice*.

#### **Requisition register for HOR quota**

1492. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH :

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2711 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 20 March, 2015 and state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large number of berths under HOR quota are being cornered by unauthorized railway officials on their slips sent as requisitions;

(b) whether in past, various cases of connivance of touts and railway officials who have been getting their berths confirmed under HOR quota have been reported; and

(c) if so, the reasons why Government is blocking transparency in confirmation of berths under HOR quota and not maintaining the requisition registers of requisitions received under HOR quota in the name of voluminous work involved and manpower required?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) No, Sir. Emergency Quota is allotted by the nominated Railway officials/officers after following the prescribed procedure. However, stray cases of irregularities brought to the notice, are inquired.

(b) Some complaints alleging connivance of touts and Railway officials in confirmation of berths out of Emergency Quota were received.

(c) With a view to ensure transparency in allotment of Emergency Quota, procedure has been prescribed which has to be followed by all concerned. Further, regular/preventive

checks, including those on trains, are conducted by Commercial/Vigilance Departments for verification of the passengers who have been allotted confirmed accommodation out of Emergency Quota.

For maintenance of register for requisitions received from various sources for confirmation of berth out of Emergency Quota, as already replied, the extant instructions stipulate that all such requests should be preserved for a period of at least three months from the date of journey and accordingly, these requests are preserved for the stipulated period.

Indian Railways, on an average release Emergency Quota of approximately 65,000 berths/seats per day (approximately 2.39 crores per annum). Hence, it is not practically feasible to collect and compile all such requests as the voluminous work and manpower involved in this exercise is not likely to give any gainful managerial input commensurate with the work involved.

#### **Bibek Debroy Committee report**

1493. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bibek Debroy headed Committee, set up to suggest ways to restructure Railways, has recommended drastic reforms such as allowing private players to run passenger as well as freight trains, producing coaches, wagons and locomotives and switching over to commercial accounting of railway functions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has also asked Railways to withdraw from welfare services, such as running of schools and hospitals and managing Railway Protection Force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Interim Report of the Committee headed by Dr. Bibek Debroy for Mobilisation of Resources for Major Railway Projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board submitted in March, 2015 contains various recommendations on Reforms. These include, *inter-alia*, the following:-

- \* Allowing Private entry into running both freight and passenger trains in competition with Indian Railways (IR) and Private Participation in various Railway infrastructure services and non-core activities like production and construction.

- \* Allowing private entry for the proposed Rolling Stock Units in Rae Bareilly, Bhilwara, Sonapat, Chhapra, Jalpaiguri, Kacharapara and Palakkad in addition to Madhepura and Marhowra.
- \* Refine/Restructure the existing accounting system and the financial statements of IR need to be redrawn, consistent with principles and norms nationally and internationally accepted.

(c) and (d) The Interim Report of the Committee has also suggested that IR should focus on core activities to efficiently compete with the private sector. It has recommended that Railway Protection Force (RPF) should be de-linked from IR system and there should be phased pruning of the functions and numbers of Indian Railway Medical Service (IRMS) along with possibility of integrating the Railway Hospitals with Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and integration of the existing Railway Schools into the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathana set-up.

#### **Conversion of Railway lines in Odisha**

1494. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the railway lines that need conversion in Odisha;
- (b) the total length of such railway lines; and
- (c) the total amount of funds needed for such conversions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) There is no Railway line that needs gauge conversion in Odisha.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Railway train route from Londa to Vasco-Da-Gama**

1495. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the train route from Londa to Vasco-da-Gama is proposed to be upgraded and/or developed;
- (b) whether any work is in progress; and
- (c) the details of the benefits of development work for passengers and goods traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doubling of Londa - Vasco - Da - Gama section has been taken up as part of Hospet-Tinaighat - Vasco - Da - Gama doubling project. The project has latest anticipated cost of ₹2127 crore and an expenditure of ₹.321 crore has been incurred up to 31.03.2015. An outlay of ₹756.5 crore has been provided in Railway Budget 2015-16. The details of doubling work on the section are as under;

- (i) Londa-Tinaighat (11.52 Km): Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.
- (ii) Tinaighat - Vasco - Da - Gama (97 Km): Final Location Survey on Tinaighat-Castlerock and Kulem - Vasco - Da - Gama has been completed. Final Location Survey on Castlerock-Kulem has been taken up.
- (c) Once this line is doubled, additional capacity will be created which would increase off take from Mormugao Port and improve connectivity of Goa with other parts of the country.

**Proposal for railway projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1496. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has received proposal for various railway projects from State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date;
- (c) the current status of the proposal; and
- (d) the time by when this proposal would be finalised and the reasons for delay in finalising such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) Proposals from State Governments or various public representatives and other organizations for construction of railway projects are received at Divisional Officers, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such proposals is not maintained. Projects are sanctioned based on remunerativeness, operational requirements, missing links, strategic/socio-economic considerations etc.

In the recent past, two references have been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, wherein requests have been made to early completion of following projects:-

*Details of proposals contained in the reference received from Government of Andhra Pradesh*

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Status
<b>(A) Projects</b>		
1.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla Line (126 Km)	Yerraguntla-Banaganapalle (96 km) section has been completed. Earth work and Bridge work for the remaining section between Banaganapalle-Nandyal (30 km) has been taken up.
2.	Nadikudi Srikalahasti New Line Project (303 Km)	Final Location Survey has been completed. Project has been taken up in phases from Nadikudi end. Land Acquisition has been taken up.
3.	Kadapa-Bangarapet New Line (255 Km )	The project has been taken up in phases. In Kadapa-Pendlimari section 18 km out of 22 km track linking completed. In balance sections earthwork, bridge work has been taken up. New work included in budget 2015-16 subject to requisite clearances.
4.	Doubling bet. Gooty-Dharmavaram-Bangalore	The project was included in Railway Budget 1999-2000 subject to obtaining requisite clearance from erstwhile Planning Commission. However, Approval of erstwhile Planning Commission has not been received.
5.	Kakinada-Pithapuram New Line project (21 Km)	Survey has already been taken up. These surveys has not been taken up so far.
<b>(B) Surveys</b>		
1.	Narsapur-Machilipatnam	
2.	Darsi-N arsaopet	
3.	Cumbum-Ongole	
4.	Chittoor-Kuppam via Palamer	
5.	Obulavaripalli-Vayalapadu	

*Details of proposals contained in the reference received from Government of Telangana*

SL.No.	Name of the project	Status
<b>(A) Projects</b>		
1	Railway Coach Factory	In terms of schedule XIII of AP Re-organization Act, 2014, a committee of Railway Officers to look into the feasibility of establishing Railway Coach Factory in Telangana State, has been set up.
2.	Wagon factory at Kazipet	In View of the existing capacity of manufacturing wagons on Indian Railways, work on the project for setting up wagon manufacturing unit at Kazipet has not been taken up.
3.	Peddapalli - Karimnagar-Jagityal- Nizamabad New Line Project (178 Km)	Peddapalli - Nizamabad (178 Km) New Line has been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 915 crore and an expenditure of ₹ 725 crore has been incurred upto March, 2015. Peddapalli-Karimnagar- Jagityal-Metpalli (113 Km) section has been commissioned. Track linking in Metpalli-Morthad-Armor (38 Km) section has been completed. Land acquisition for the remaining section between Armoor and Nizamabad (27 Km) has been taken up with State Government.
4.	Manoharabad-Kotapalli New Line Project (149 Km)	Final Location Survey of the project has been completed and detailed Estimate has been prepared.
5.	Iakkanapet-Medak New Line Project (17 Km)	Detailed Estimate of the project has been sanctioned.
6.	Bhadrachalam Road to Sattupally (56 Km) and Bhadrachalam to Kovur (151 Km)	Final Location Survey for both the projects has been taken up.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 7.  | Mancheria- Peddampet (Patch Tripling) (4 Km)               | Earth work and Bridges work has been taken up.  |
| 8.  | Kazipet-Vijaywada Third Line with electrification (220 Km) | Project has been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 2220 crore and work has been taken in phases from Vijayawada end.               |
| 9.  | Raghavpuram- Mandamari (Patch Tripling)                    | Detailed Estimate has been sanctioned.  |
| 10. | Mannuguru-Ramagundam (200 Km) New Line project             | The project has been included in the Railway Budget at an anticipated cost of ₹1112 crore subject to requisite Government clearances. |

**(B) Surveys**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Doubling of track between Secunderabad-Mahaboobnagar          | The project has been included in the Railway Budget 2015-16 subject to requisite Government clearances.  |
| 2. | Doubling of track between Secunderabad-Zaheerabad             | As per the survey report, cost of Secunderabad-Zaheerabad New Line (67 Km) has been assessed as ₹ 456 crore (2011-12 prices) with Rate of Return of 8%. The project could not be taken forward due to large shelf of ongoing projects. |
| 3  | Pagidipalli-Shakarapalli                                      | Survey has been completed.   |
| 4. | Sanction of new BG line between Gadwal-Macherla               | Planning Commission has not accorded 'in principle' approval for the project.  |
| 5. | Sanction of new line between Pandurangapuram and Bhadrachalam | Survey completed and Project has not been taken forward due to large shelf of ongoing projects.  |

**Roll on/Roll off model for freight corridors**

1497. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to include Roll on/Roll off (RO-RO) model in Western, Eastern or other proposed dedicated freight corridors;

(b) whether there has been a decrease in quantum of freight carried by Railways in the last decade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Eastern and Western dedicated freight corridors are designed to handle Roll on/Roll off (RO-RO) type of movement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Approved Railway lines in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions**

†1498. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway lines approved in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions under Hajipur zone, and the time-frame fixed for completion of the same; and

(b) whether the work on these projects are stalled due to non allocation of funds, if so, by when the funds would be allocated for getting these projects completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) 30 railway projects comprising 14 New Lines, 4 Gauge Conversions and 12 Doublings falling in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions of East Central Railway/ Hajipur Zone have been taken up since 1996-97. Out of these 9 Doublings and 1 New Line projects have been completed and remaining projects are at different stages of progress.

Non-availability of adequate funds has hampered most of the above mentioned railway projects. Apart from fund constraints, projects also got delayed due to factors like land acquisition, forestry clearances, law and order problems etc. which are beyond control of Railways. Allocation of funds to various projects is done on year to year basis as per the Railway Budget passed by Parliament.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



**Requirement of escalators for multi-platform railway stations**

1499. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a survey has been made to assess the requirement of escalators for multi-platform railway stations and terminals and a time-bound programme to put into operation for completing the work;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether, in the interests of senior citizens and the disabled, such a programme will be accelerated through a PPP mode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly and differently abled passengers, as per the existing guidelines, escalators are being provided at 'A1', 'A', 'C' category stations and stations of tourist importance based on techno commercial feasibility and availability of funds. So far, 244 no. of escalators at 96 stations have been provided. In addition, 400 no. of escalators at 171 stations have been sanctioned.

- (c) At present, there is no proposal to provide escalators through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

**Tickets reserved through PRS and IRCTC website**

†1500. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tickets reserved during 2014-15;
- (b) the number of tickets out of the above that were reserved from Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters and through the IRCTC website, separately;
- (c) the per-ticket cost of tickets reserved from PRS counters and through IRCTC website, after adding up all charges, separately;
- (d) whether the per-ticket cost of the tickets reserved online is less than those reserved from PRS counters; and
- (e) if so, whether Railways would consider providing any additional concession on, tickets booked through online reservation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) During 2014-15, a total of 33,53,78,119 reserved tickets were booked, out of which 15,39,42,718 were booked across Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters and 18,14,35,401 were booked through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) to (e) The cost per e-ticket issued through IRCTC is ₹ 7.22 based on figures for the financial year 2013-14. However, it is practically not feasible to establish the cost of issuing a ticket through the PRS counter since it involves various factors such as cost of premises & equipment and their maintenance, manpower cost, and other costs such as electricity, furniture, stationery, networking etc., which vary from location to location.

#### **Recommendation of Railway Safety Review Committee**

1501. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Safety Review Committee, that is the Khanna Committee (1998), had recommended to exclude supervisors from trade union activities for safety aspect;

(b) if so, whether it was accepted by Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee had recommended that supervisors should not be allowed to join the unions. They should be permitted to form their own association to represent their interests and grievances.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under the present Trade Union Act, it was not possible to accept the recommendation as it had legal implications and would have required modification in the Trade Union Act.

#### **Concierge services at Secunderabad and Tirupati Railway stations**

1502. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of passengers to Railways' concierge services introduced at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations;

(b) the criteria adopted for offering this service;

- (c) the basis for the selection of above stations; and
- (d) whether Railways plan to extend the said service to more stations, including Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Vizag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (c) The concierge services (cab services only) at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations was launched by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) recently, as pilot projects. Till 29.04.2015, there has been no booking at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations. The detailed criteria/policy is being framed by IRCTC. Based on tourism importance, two A-1 category stations have been selected to begin with as pilot projects.

(d) Concierge services (only cab services) have already been started as pilot projects at 22 railway stations. These stations are Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Ernakulam Jn., Guwahati, Howrah, Jaipur, Lucknow, Lucknow Jn., Madurai, Mumbai Central, Mumbai CST, Mysore, Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Safdarjung, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Patna, Secunderabad and Tirupati.

**Usage of Pension Funds for investment in infrastructure development of Railways**

1503. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are using Pension Funds for investments in the infrastructural development;
- (b) if so, the details of investments made during the last two years therefor; and
- (c) the details of Government proposal to participate in the GDP of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) An investment of ₹ 8.5 lakh crore is envisaged in the next five years in Railways aimed at increasing traffic throughput and reducing unit cost of transportation which will contribute to economic growth.

**Setting up of cold storage facilities**

1504. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to set up more cold storage

facilities for fruits, in other parts of the country like the one recently opened at Azadpur in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this will help the movement of fruits and vegetables through Railways from producing places to consuming areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a pilot project called “Kisan Vision Project”, Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) were asked to provide infrastructure at following locations in addition to Azadpur in Delhi on Indian Railways to encourage development of facilities for setting up of cold storage and temperature controlled perishable cargo centers as well as developing agri-retail outlets to be allotted to different parties through Public private partnership (PPP) mode.

The details and the present status of the said projects is as under:-

- (i) Nasik (Maharashtra): The centre is located at Nasik in Nasik District of Maharashtra. The centre is functional with effect from 23.02.2013.
- (ii) New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal): The perishable Cargo Centre at Bagdogra airport was taken over by CONCOR on 22.02.2011 from Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority (SJDA) which was functional. Under the provision of agreement signed between SJDA & CONCOR, SJDA was required to obtain requisite license from State Government authorities. SJDA was not able to obtain the same and the facility is intended to be returned back.
- (iii) Singur (West Bengal): The Perishable Cargo Centre was made functional on 18.12.2011. However, due to very low utilization, the service provider has abandoned the contract. Expression of interest for fresh contract for operation and maintenance of the facility has been floated.
- (iv) Dankuni (West Bengal): Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd. has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing Perishable Cargo Centre at Dankuni.
- (v) Mecheda/Murshidabad (West Bengal): The Perishable Cargo Centre at Murshidabad (in lieu of Mecheda) has not been found viable as per study taken by CONCOR.

In addition to the above, Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) has been entrusted to carry out the preliminary work such as surveys pertaining to availability of land, feasibility, layout plans etc for construction of temperature controlled storages at 10 locations Vatva, Vishakhapatnam, Badagara, Udhna, Cheriyanad, Bhivandi Road, Azara, Navlur, Kalamboli and Yashwantpura in the country to boost rail movement of fruits and vegetables in different part of the country. CRWC has been allowed a maximum of two years of gestation period from the date of executing individual agreement with the Railways for construction and operationalization on the warehouses complex.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At Nasik 3257.78 Metric Tonnes cut flowers and fruits were stored during the last year. The Perishable Cargo Centre (PCC) at Kela Godown, New Ajadpur is located in the vicinity of Adarsh Nagar Station where huge quantity of banana is coming by rail. The storage is able to provide the linkage to banana/mango traders to keep these fruits in cold store chambers/ripening chambers which is being transported by rail/road. The PCC has been commissioned by Hon'ble Minister of Railways on 24.03.2015.

**Status of railway projects recommended by Government of Madhya Pradesh**

†1505. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details and the current status of those various railway projects which have been recommended by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the total amount allocated to various railway projects in Madhya Pradesh and the amount actually spent on such projects; and

(c) the details of the number of completed and incomplete railway projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Proposals from State Governments or various public representatives and other organizations for construction of railway projects are received at Divisional Offices, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such proposals is not maintained. Projects are sanctioned based on remunerativeness, operational requirements, missing links, strategic/socio-economic considerations etc. However, Government of Madhya Pradesh in recent past has requested for early completion of following projects:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Present Status
1.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 km) (New Line)	Mahoba-Khajuraho (65 km) and Lalitpur-Chhatarpur (134 km) completed. Work has been taken up in remaining portion.
2.	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua and Dhar (201 km) (New Line)	Earthwork, bridge work, etc. have been taken up on Dahod-Katwara and Sagor-Indore section (50 km).
3.	Fatehabad-Chintaman (Gauge conversion)	This section is not sanctioned for gauge conversion.
4.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (473 km) (Gauge conversion)	Ratlam-Fatehabad-Laxmibainagar (116 km): completed. Detailed estimate Akola-Akot (43.5 km) sanctioned. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
5.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi (285 km) and Katangi-Tirodi (Gauge Conversion)	Balaghat-Katangi (46.80 km) and Gondia-Balaghat including MOIL Limited siding (42.7 km): completed. Balaghat-Nainpur (75 km): Earthwork and bridge works taken up. Work held up for want of forestry/wild life clearance. Nainpur-Jabalpur (113 km): Earthwork, bridge/ROB/RUB work taken up. Katangi-Tirodi (15 km) New Line: Land acquisition taken up.

(b) and (c) 21 major ongoing projects viz. 6 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion, 7 Doubling and 3 Railway Electrification projects, falling partly or fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh, have been taken up at a total anticipated cost of ₹ 29434 crore. Total expenditure incurred on these projects upto March, 2015 is ₹ 5376 crore and total outlay provided for 2015-16 is ₹ 3082 crore. In addition, 12 Doubling and 4 Railway Electrification projects falling partly or fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been included in Budget 2015-16 at an anticipated cost of ₹14685 crore subject to requisite approvals. An outlay of ₹ 409 crore for these projects has been provided in 2015-16.

Two Railway Electrification projects viz. Bina-Kota (303 km) and Ujjain-Indore and Dewas-Maksi (115 km) have been completed in last three years falling partly or fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh. New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects are taken up and completed in phases. The sections completed in last 3 years include:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Name of section completed	Length completed in KM
<b>2012-13</b>			
1.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (New Line)	Kharagpur-Chhatrapur	48
2.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (Gauge Conversion)	Ratlam-Fatehabad	80
3.	Bhopal-Bina 3rd Line (Doubling)	Bandbhadraghat-Diwanganj-Salamatpur	19
		Kalhar-Mandi Bamora	9
		Sukhi Swaniyan-Nishatpura	10
		Gulabganj-Sumer	7
		Kurwaikaithora-Mandir Bamora	8
<b>2013-14</b>			
1.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (New Line)	Lalitpur-Udaipura-Mawai-Kharagpur	30
<b>2014-15</b>			
1.	Godhra-Indore (New Line)	Indore-Rau	15
2.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (New Line)	Chhatrapur-Khajuraho	23
3.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (Gauge Conversion)	Fatehabad-Indore-Rau	46
TOTAL			295

#### Allocation of funds for reforms in services and modernisation

1506. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have allocated funds for reforms in railway services/modernisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount released for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Plan funds are allocated under various Plan Heads which, *inter-alia*, serve the objective of reforms in Railway services/modernization. Plan Head-wise expenditure/outlay during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

**Statement**

*Plan Head-wise Expenditure/Outlay*

	(₹ in crores)		
	Expenditure 2012-13	Expenditure 2013-14	Revised Estimates 2014-15
1	2	3	4
New Lines (Construction)	5301.82	5808.66	8983.67
Restoration of Dismantled Lines	53.51	54.66	-
Gauge Conversion	2700.13	3103.3	3428.97
Doubling	2484.73	2977.82	4046.14
Traffic Facilities-Yard Remodelling and Others	766.6	658.91	958.72
Computerisation	96.92	154.35	316.77
Railway Research	52.44	24.5	25
Rolling Stock	18365.53	17498.34	17376.9
Leased Assets - Payment of Capital Component	4204.29	4970.87	5452
Road Safety Works - Level Crossings	527.56	503.96	459.75
Road Safety Works - Road Over/ Under Bridges	1056.53	1482.35	2017.25
Track Renewals	5426.19	4985.35	5046.52



1	2	3	4
Bridge Works	322.19	390.19	465.04
Signalling and Telecommunication Works	938.81	905.32	1033.11
Electrification Projects	967.61	1264.8	1400
Other Electrical Works excl. TRD	151.99	121.59	132.15
Traction Distribution Works	169.1	194.49	221.66
Machinery & Plant	414.88	450.15	463.4
Workshops including production units	1518.52	1823.2	2721.87
Staff Quarters	162.38	229.02	308.28
Amenities for Staff	285.63	283	342.69
Passengers Amenities	841.79	862.41	1049.91
Investment in Govt. Commercial Undertakings -Public Undertakings	612	641.9	571.5
Investment in non-Govt.Undertakings incl. JVs/SPVs	2760.74	4087.68	7811.5
Other Specified Works	298.63	322.66	448.53
Metropolitan Transport Projects	1187.92	905.27	1781.43
New Lines (Const) - Dividend free projects	888.16	803.85	1300
Inventories (Net)	192.41	298.79	-207.11
Credits/recoveries	2365.58	1818.12	2157.97
<b>TOTAL PLAN OUTLAY</b>	<b>50383.45</b>	<b>53989.26</b>	<b>65797.67</b>

**Multi-Functional Complex at Villupuram railway station**

1507. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had selected Villupuram railway station under Southern Railway to provide Multi-Functional Complex (MFC);

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (c) Villupuram Railway Station is not identified for development of Multi Functional Complex (MFC) as passenger amenities like Refreshment Room, Book Stall/ other stalls of essential goods, parking facilities etc., which are generally obtainable in MFCs, are available at this station.

**Revenue outlay cut for railways**

1508. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cash-strapped Railways are going slow on repair, maintenance and operations as it faces a revenue outlay cut of about ₹ 4,000 crore for the current fiscal year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount spent on these works in the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan period, year-wise and work-wise, so far; and
- (d) how Railways are going to keep the works running without compromising the safety and efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The amounts for repairs and maintenance on the Indian Railways are provided under four Demands for Grants and operating expenses are provided under three Demands for Grants. The details, along with the amount spent during Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan periods, are given below:-

*Repairs and Maintenance Activities (Net ₹ in crore)*

Demand No. and Name	Eleventh Five Year Plan					Twelfth Five Year Plan			
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 Revised Estimates	2015-16 Budget Estimates
04-Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	4163	5891	7419	7307	7723	8164	9104	10282	11517
05-Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	2078	2861	3413	3350	3491	3838	4369	4773	5349
06-Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	4431	6236	7698	7587	8155	9031	10125	11068	12303
07-Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	2310	3318	4279	4130	4381	4766	5361	6370	7176
<i>Operating Expenses (Net ₹ in crore)</i>									
Demand No. and Name	Eleventh Five Year Plan					Twelfth Five Year Plan			
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 Revised Estimates	2015-16 Budget Estimates
08-Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	3249	4566	5817	5975	6670	7676	8575	9837	11106
09-Operating Expenses - Traffic	6602	9397	11603	11740	12961	14611	16213	19070	21897
10-Operating Expenses - Fuel	12150	13888	14555	16748	18809	22327	29235	29945	30020

- (d) In view of the above, does not arise.

**Improvement in Railways' catering services**

†1509. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether catering services of Railways need improvement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received complaints regarding catering services in Railways during the last three years, till date; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Improvement of catering services is an on-going process. Steps taken/being taken to further improve the catering services include (i) Third Party Audit of catering services to be conducted at periodic intervals by independent and reputed auditing agencies accredited by NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies) as empanelled by the zonal railways. The parameters for audit include all aspects of catering services like personal hygiene, infrastructure facilities, cleaning and sanitation, food safety, storage facilities, implementation of regulatory, statutory and safety regulations, quality of presentation etc. (ii) Introduction of E-Catering so that passengers can book the food of their choice through internet. (iii) Introduction of Pre-cooked Food (ready to eat) meals of reputed brands to improve the quality, hygiene and to provide variety of options of meals to the passengers. (iv) A centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell (CSMC) has been set up having a toll free number 1800-111-321 for prompt redressal of the passenger grievances related to the catering activities for real time assistance to travelling public. (iv) Imposition of stringent punitive action including heavy penalties in case of deficiencies in services.

(c) and (d) About 17,440 complaints have been reported regarding catering services in Railways during the last three years and current year (i.e 01.01.2012 to 31.03.2015). Penal action has been taken on the defaulter licensees including termination of contracts in 9 cases and imposition of fines in 5903 cases.

**Elimination of level crossings**

1510. SHRI MAJEED MEMON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Railways have approached Government to make available sufficient funds for their plan to eliminate all level crossings which have emerged as death traps;
- (b) by when the funds asked for by Railways are likely to be released;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of level crossings—manned and unmanned, State-wise, are there at present and the total number of deaths taken place in 2014-15; and

(d) the quantum of monetary saving that would accrue on account of elimination of all level crossings, per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Railway has decided to eliminate all unmanned level crossings in a phased manner. Funding for works related to elimination of unmanned level crossings as well as construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) comes from Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of the cess collected on petrol and diesel and the consequent annual allocation to Railways is of the order of ₹ 1,100 – 1,300 crore against the throwforward of ₹ 30,500 crore as on 01.04.2015. To address the issue of constraints of funds, Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for enhanced allotment of funds.

The State-wise break-up of number of manned and unmanned level crossing is given in the Statement (*See below*). Number of persons who have lost their lives in consequential accidents at manned and unmanned level crossings during 2014-15 are 31 and 130 respectively.

Unmanned level crossings can be eliminated either by manning or by providing ROB/RUB. Both the methods require initial capital expenditure as well as recurring revenue expenditure, in case of manning.

***Statement***

*State-wise, number of manned and unmanned level crossings*

S.I.	State	Number of manned level crossings	Number of unmanned level crossings
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1071	453
2.	Assam	609	202
3.	Bihar	1263	938
4.	Chandigarh	4	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	280	88
6.	Delhi	32	1
7.	Goa	10	0

1	2	3	4
8.	Gujarat	1555	2052
9.	Himachal Pradesh	50	6
10.	Haryana	603	182
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	1
12.	Jharkhand	471	221
13.	Karnataka	704	382
14.	Kerala	451	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1179	518
16.	Maharashtra	1244	413
17.	Manipur	1	0
18.	Mizoram	1	0
19.	Nagaland	1	0
20.	Odisha	539	497
21.	Puducherry	19	4
22.	Punjab	1037	436
23.	Rajasthan	1323	1022
24.	Tamil Nadu	1336	702
25.	Telangana	413	86
26.	Tripura	11	7
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3219	1466
28.	Uttarakhand	144	56
29.	West Bengal	1443	698
TOTAL		19047	10440
GRAND TOTAL		29487	

**Train accidents due to derailments**

1511. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether majority of train accidents are due to derailments;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard for the last five years;
- (c) the details of factors responsible for derailment of trains; and
- (d) how does Government propose to deal with backlog in track renewals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Year-wise number of consequential train derailments during the last five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15 on Indian Railways and these derailments as percentage of the total consequential train accidents in each year is given below:

Year	Number of Derailments	As percentage of total number of consequential train accidents
2010-11	80	56.74 %
2011-12	55	41.98 %
2012-13	49	40.16 %
2013-14	53	44.92 %
2014-15	63	46.67 %

(c) Based on the inquiry reports, cause-wise analysis of the above derailments is as under:

Cause	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Failure of Railway Staff	47	37	31	39	51
Failure of other than Railway Staff	7	4	1	3	-
Failure of Equipment	5	5	6	3	-
Sabotage	15	6	3	3	3
Combination of factors	2	1	-	-	-
Incidental	4	1	7	4	8
Could not be established conclusively	-	1	1	-	1
Under investigation	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	80	55	49	53	63

(d) Track renewal is a continuous activity which is undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis. Accordingly,

track renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution is prioritized according to the condition of track and overall availability of funds. In case, if any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons including paucity of funds, materials, etc., suitable speed restriction is imposed to ensure safe running of trains. As on 31.03.2015, track renewal and related works covering 2250 Kms of track renewal have been sanctioned and taken up. In addition, track renewal works for 2850 Kms have been sanctioned in the year 2015-16. The budget outlay for track renewal in 2015-16 has been increased to ₹ 6035 crore in comparison to ₹ 5046 crore in 2014-15.

**Tellapur-Patancheru railway track under MMTS-II**

1512 . SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps for Tellapur-Patancheru railway track route under Multi Modal Transit System-II (MMTS-II phase) in Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds sanctioned/released along with present status thereof along with the funds spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (c) Tellapur-Ramachandrapuram (5.5 km) is a part of Multi-Model Transport System (MMTS-II) project costing ₹ 816.55 crore being shared between Ministry of Railways and State Government in the ratio of 1:2. ₹ 45 crore have been spent on the project till 31.03.2015 and an allocation of ₹ 8 crore has been made for the year 2015-16 by Ministry of Railways.

**Modernisation/upgradation of Nizamabad railway station**

1513. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to modernise/upgrade the Nizamabad railway station in Telangana; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed sanction/spending of funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Modernisation/upgradation of amenities at stations is a continuous process. Nizamabad station has been developed under the 'Adarsh', 'Model' and 'Modern'



Station Schemes. Station-wise details of funds allocated/spent are not maintained. The expenditure on work of modernization of railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head-‘Passenger Amenities’. ₹ 133.47 crores have been allocated under this plan head to South Central Railway, which covers Nizamabad railway station, during the current financial year.

#### **Modernising railway stations in Delhi**

†1514. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those railway stations in Delhi which are proposed to be modernised;

(b) the steps being taken for the safety of passengers at the important railway stations in Delhi;

(c) whether any proposal for the expansion of ring railway in Delhi is being considered in the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process. Such upgradation of identified stations in various States including Delhi is undertaken under various station upgradation schemes including Adarsh Station Scheme. Two stations *i.e.* Delhi Kishanganj and Subzi Mandi in Delhi have been developed under Adarsh Station Scheme.

(b) All out efforts are being made to ensure security of passengers in Railway premises, including important railway stations of Delhi, in coordination with concerned Government Railway Police authorities since registration of crimes, their investigation and maintenance of peace and order over railways is the responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP).

Measures initiated by the RPF to ensure security of passengers include access control at major stations, prosecution of offenders under relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989, Integrated Security System at sensitive stations, operationalisation of security helpline, networking of security control rooms, etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is nothing in Delhi area which is called ring railway. The

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

name of the line is Delhi Avoiding Line (DAL) which is used primarily for movement of freight trains. Commuter Services running on DAL are not well patronised at present.

**Provision of branded food items to passengers**

1515. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision to provide branded food items to train passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this scheme has already been implemented; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) E-catering service has been started by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on pilot basis exclusively for passengers travelling in trains without pantry where passenger can book preferred meal of reputed brands through e-catering website as well as through phone and SMS. The website address is [www.ecatering.irctc.co.in](http://www.ecatering.irctc.co.in) and phone numbers are 1800-1034-139 (Toll-free), 0120-4383892-99 (Toll) and SMS MEAL to 139. Further, Railways have also conducted trials for service of pre-cooked (ready-to-eat) meals of reputed brands on some trains. A policy guideline on “Ready to Eat Meals” has been issued to zonal railways on 30.01.2015. North Western Railway has been nominated for shortlisting/empanelment of branded and reputed Ready-to-eat Companies/vendors.

**Recommendation to set up Railway Regulatory Authority of India**

1516. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the High Power Committee headed by Dr. Bibek Debroy, set up to suggest ways to re-structure Railways, has recommended drastic reforms including allowing private players to run trains, producing coaches and wagons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has also suggested setting up a regulator - Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) for fixing tariff, determining cost of services, setting technical standards among others; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) The Interim Report of the Committee on Mobilisation of Resources for major Railway Projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board headed by Dr. Bibek Debroy, (submitted in March, 2015) contains, various recommendations on reforms. These include, *inter-alia* the following:

- Allow Private entry into running both freight and passenger trains in competition with Indian Railways (IR) and private participation in various Railway infrastructure services and Non-core activities like Production and Construction.
- Allow Private entry in the proposed Rolling Stock Units in Rae Bareilly, Bhilwara, Sonapat, Chhapra, Jalpaiguri, Kacharapara & Palakkad in addition to Madhepura and Marhowra.
- Setup a Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) statutorily, with an independent budget, so that it is truly independent of the Ministry of Railways. The RRAI should have powers and objectives of economic regulation, including, wherever necessary, tariff regulation, safety regulation, fair access regulation, including access to the railway infrastructure for private operators, service standard regulation; licensing and enhancing competition and setting technical standards.

No decision has been taken on the Interim recommendations of the Committee, which is at the stage of feedback/comments from stakeholders.

#### **Projects in Maharashtra on cost sharing basis**

1517. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects taken up in Maharashtra on cost sharing basis;
- (b) whether these projects have been accorded priority over other on-going projects in Maharashtra;
- (c) if so, whether any blue print has been drawn up for their early completion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Three New Line projects falling partly or fully in the State of Maharashtra, viz. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath (250 km), Wardha-Nanded *via* Yavatmal-Pusood (270 km) and Wadsa-Gadchiroli (50 km) have been taken up on cost sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra. In addition, Nagpur-Nagbhir Gauge Conversion project (106 km) and Karad-Chiplun New Line project (112 km) have also been included in the Budget in 2013-14 and 2015-16 respectively on cost sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra subject to requisite approvals.

(b) to (e) The projects where State Governments have agreed to share the cost are given due importance keeping in view the stage of progress of various projects, the overall availability of funds, capacity enhancement works etc. However, completion of projects including those with cost sharing by State Governments depends on a number of other factors viz. land acquisition, forestry clearances, law and order conditions etc. which are beyond the control of Railways.

#### **Empowering Railway Protection Force**

1518. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to empower Railway Protection Force (RPF) with more powers and to handle charge of criminal investigation of crimes on trains;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have opposed the proposal; and

(c) if so, the further steps Government proposes to take to ensure that the passengers travelling in trains are safe with their belongings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for amendment in the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the concurrence and approval of the Ministries of Law and Justice and Home Affairs to empower RPF to register and investigate all passenger related criminal offences in passenger area.

(b) Comments of States have been solicited on the proposed amendments in the RPF Act. Comments have so far been received from 23 States/Union Territories (UTs). Six States have agreed to the proposal whereas sixteen States/UTs have opposed the move to amend the RPF Act and one UT has not offered any comments. Eight States have preferred not to send the reply. Minister of Railways has requested the Chief Ministers of States to consider the proposal keeping the interest of common passengers in mind and convey the concurrence so that proposal may be processed further.

(c) As per RPF Act, 1957, protection and security of railway property, passenger area and passengers is the responsibility of RPF which functions under the Ministry of Railways. Following measures have been initiated by the RPF to ensure security of passengers and their belongings in the passenger area-

- (i) Escorting of about 1300 important Mail/Express trains [in addition to escorting of about 2200 trains by Government Railway Police (GRP) of different States].
- (ii) Access control at major stations.
- (iii) Apprehending offenders involved in passenger related offences and handling over to GRP for further legal action since registration of crimes and their investigation is the statutory responsibility of concerned GRPs.
- (iv) Surveillance through Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) installed at about 311 stations over Indian Railways.
- (v) Coordination with GRP, Civil Police and Civil Authorities.
- (vi) Prosecution of offenders under relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.
- (vii) Integrated Security System at sensitive stations comprising of CCTV surveillance system, baggage scanners etc.
- (viii) Operationalisation of security helpline through a common three digit no. 182 for providing round the clock security related assistance to passengers during their journey over railways.
- (ix) Networking of security control rooms and RPF Posts.
- (x) Creation of additional posts, filling up of existing vacancies as well as newly created posts by conducting recruitment drive etc.

#### **Serving of unhygienic food to train passengers**

1519.SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that unhygienic food is being served to passengers in train coaches;
- (b) the number of such cases reported in the last one year; and
- (c) the preventive measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) It is a continuous endeavour of the Indian Railways to provide good quality hygienic food to the passengers. However, 125 complaints have been reported regarding serving of unhygienic food to passengers in train coaches during the last year (*i.e.* 01.01.2014 to 31.12.2014). Penal action has been taken on the defaulter licensees including imposition of fines in 38 cases.

(c) Railways have a detailed institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular, surprise and periodical inspections. Steps taken/being taken to ensure that good quality and hygienic food is served to the passengers include (i) Third Party Audit of catering services to be conducted at periodic intervals by independent and reputed auditing agencies accredited by NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies) as empanelled by the zonal railways. The parameters for audit include all aspects of catering services like personal hygiene, infrastructure facilities, cleaning and sanitation, food safety, storage facilities, implementation of regulatory, statutory and safety regulations, quality of presentation etc. (ii) Introduction of E-Catering so that passengers can book the food of their choice through internet. (iii) Introduction of precooked food (ready to eat meals) to improve the quality, hygiene and to provide variety of options of meals to the passengers. (iv) A centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell (CSMC) has been set up having a toll free number 1800-111-321 for prompt redressal of the passenger grievances related to the catering activities and real time assistance to travelling public. (v) Imposition of stringent punitive action including heavy penalties in case of deficiencies in services.

#### **Reform measures by Railways**

1520.SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at long last Railways have taken baby steps towards delegation, decentralization and deregulation of the public sector utility by roping in experts from diverse fields;

(b) whether the Bibek Debroy and Sreedharan Committees have formulated reports on reform measures for Railways;

(c) whether Railways' in-house watch-dog Committee headed by a former CAG has commenced the process of putting in place an efficient and transparent system of stores procurement and tender screening mechanism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) In a large organisation like Indian Railways, delegation and procedural changes are a continuous process taking into account the operational flexibility, quick decision making, transparency as well as requisite checks and balances, but the same needs to be done with due caution to strike a proper balance between operational efficiency and accountability.

The latest exercise was undertaken by Ministry of Railways in August 2014 for delegation of more powers to Zonal Railways on the matters of sanctioning of estimates and works tenders. As a part of this process, all powers to deal with tenders were delegated by the Ministry of Railways to the General Managers. The powers for sanction of detailed estimate hitherto being exercised by the Minister have also recently been delegated to the Board Members. Further, to suggest ways to implement the decision of delegation taken by Minister of Railways, a One Man Dr. E. Sreedharan Committee was appointed.

The Final Report has been submitted on 11.3.2015. A Sub-Committee has been set up to evaluate the recommendations and suggesting a framework for implementation sequence duly taking into account the practical aspects.

The Interim Report of Dr. Bibek Debroy Committee on mobilisation of resources for major Railway projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board submitted in March 2015 contains recommendations on restructuring of the Railways and on other changes.

The one-man Committee of Shri Vinod Rai, former CAG of India constituted to advise the Ministry of Railways for making Railways more efficient and transparent and to suggest improvements in systems and procedures to bring in better efficiency, productivity and accountability has already commenced functioning and has had interaction with a number of Railway officers, so far, on the issues related to its mandate.

#### **Scam in Railways' freight operations**

1521.SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has uncovered massive scam in Railways' freight operations recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Jan Ahaar stalls under Departmental Catering System at Lucknow station**

†1522. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an order was issued by the Railway Board to run Jan Ahaar stalls situated at Lucknow railway station under Departmental Catering System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the agency which is running it at present;
- (c) the number of railway stations under the North Eastern Railway, where Jan Ahaars are being operated under the Departmental Catering System;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to run any food plaza at the Gorakhpur railway station; and
- (e) the details of the employees, against the sanctioned posts, in Jan Ahaar situated at Gorakhpur station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Guidelines have been issued to Zonal Railways for setting up of Jan Ahaars departmentally. However, in case of non-availability of Railway catering staff, operation of Jan Ahaars may be undertaken by the professionals (licensees) and the supervision and monitoring is to be done departmentally by Zonal Railways. Accordingly, Zonal Railway is ready to take over the Jan Ahaar stall at Lucknow Junction. At present, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is operating Jan Ahaar at Lucknow Junction through service provider M/s Krishna Enterprises.

- (c) One at Gorakhpur.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) The details of employees against the sanctioned posts in Jan Ahaar at Gorakhpur station are as follows (i) Catering Inspector -01 (ii) Sales Incharge -02 (iii) Head Cook -01, (iv) Assistant Cook -01 (v) Bearer-05 (vi) Helper -05.

**Irregularity in tender process of yard remodelling**

†1523. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Headquarter of the North Eastern Railway has

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



received complaints regarding irregularities in the tender process of yard remodelling at Gorakhpur railway station in the year 2013-14;

(b) if so, when were the complaints received and the progress made in the investigation thereof;

(c) the rate fixed by the tender committee for the abovesaid work and whether that rate was increased late ignoring the recommendations of the tender committee; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that on the basis of the complaints the matter was closed without any investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The complaint dated 23.04.2014, received by the North Eastern Railway on 30.04.2014 could not be authenticated as the complainant did not own the complaint. As per extant instructions, such pseudonymous complaints are not to be investigated.

#### **Cartels in supplying materials to Railways**

1524.SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of prevalence of cartels in supplying materials to Railways;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to break these cartels in the supply side to Railways; and

(c) whether the Ministry is considering any policy changes in the present method of procuring materials for Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry has issued circulars time to time on the said subject, suggesting steps to be taken in such cases including reporting the matter to Competition Commission of India.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Photo identity card for disabled persons to avail benefits**

1525.SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are insisting on possession of photo identity card issued by it to avail the benefits of fares and other concessions for disabled persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received any representation from public to do away with this system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (d) The scheme of concession based ticketing facility for physically challenged persons by using Photo Identity Card issued by the Railways has been implemented with effect from 29.01.2015 over Northern Railway on pilot basis. The said facility has obviated the need for a Handicapped person to visit a Passenger Reservation System (PRS) booking window for booking a Railway ticket as he/she can book concessional tickets through internet sitting at home. However, the practice of issuing concessional tickets to disabled persons at PRS counter on production of concessional certificate is also in vogue.

The Ministry of Railways is not aware of any representation to do away with this system. However, many representations were received for extending this scheme over other Zonal Railways also. Instructions have since been issued to all Zonal Railways for implementation of this scheme across the country.

#### **Losses due to compensation to victims of train accidents**

1526.SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have to incur huge losses due to train accidents and providing compensation to victims from its own resources instead of charging it from the insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the compensation paid by Railways to the victims during the last five years; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is no passenger Insurance Policy in the Railways.

(b) and (c) (I) Cost of Damage in consequential train accidents over Indian Railways during the last five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Cost of Damage (Approx.).
2010-11	5978
2011-12	8418
2012-13	7493
2013-14	4643
2014-15*	4099
TOTAL	30631

\* Provisional

(II) Amount of Compensation paid in Train Accidents, Untoward Incidents, Accidents at Manned Level & Unmanned Level Crossings.

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Sec. 124 Train Accidents	Sec. 124/A Untoward Incidents	Manned Level Crossings	Unmanned Level Crossings	Total
2010-11	585.79	17,654.24	07.03	19.89	18266.95
2011-12	510.77	14,030.86	50.50	02.22	14594.35
2012-13	319.63	16,697.68	06.68	11.39	17035.38
2013-14	149.22	11,742.92	22.78	15.15	11930.07
2014-15	127.48	12,155.69	06.30	21.34	12310.81
TOTAL	1692.89	72,281.39	93.29	69.99	74137.56

Total (I) + (II) = ₹ 30631 Lakhs + ₹ 74137.56 Lakhs = ₹ 104768.56 Lakhs

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signal, Vigilance

Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 Kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressively increased use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches etc.

**Oak- Grove School, Jharipani under Northern Railway**

†1527. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per rule the Principal in Oak-Grove School, Jharipani under Northern Railway must be appointed through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that prior to the year 1996, Principals were appointed by the UPSC but after that IRPS officers are being appointed as Principal;

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

(e) whether on an important issue like education, Government would remove this school from Northern Railway and will it be governed by a Committee constituted by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Recruitment Rules for the post of Principal, Oak Grove School, Jharipani dated 06.09.1980 provide for filling up the post by promotion failing which by transfer on deputation (including short-term contract) and failing both by direct recruitment. Consultation with the Union Public Service Commission is necessary while making direct recruitment and selecting an officer for appointment on deputation/contract.

(c) and (d) The Principal recruited through direct recruitment from Union Public Service Commission retired in 1994 and further recruitment from Union Public Service Commission has not been done. Further, the post of Principal, Oak Grove School, Jharipani is virtually an isolated post without any further avenues for promotion. Direct recruitment for this post (whether through Union Public Service Commission or otherwise) is perhaps not the ideal method of filling up this post. Under these circumstances, Indian Railway Personnel Service officers working in Selection Grade/Junior Administrative Grade having experience in running of schools have been appointed as Principals. All

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

schools/In Service Training of Indian Railways are supervised/monitored by senior Indian Railway Personnel Service officers.

(e) No, Sir.

**Delay of trains due to power failure**

†1528. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16th February, 2015 the train number 19264, Porbandar Express, was delayed for four hours on Khalilpur Station due to power failure;

(b) if so, the reasons for power failure; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Locomotive Traction Motor bearing seized, leading to locking of axle.

(c) The failure had taken place due to breakage of inner race and rollers of the bearing. Additional checks to examine the health and condition of bearing and proper assembly have been introduced during bearing overhaul.

**Restoration of 30 per cent customs duty on raw silk**

1529.DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty on raw silk was reduced from 30 per cent to 5 per cent and later raised to 15 per cent which has not only impacted on raw silk production but also affected adversely livelihood of the stakeholders in the domestic industry;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka has appealed to Government for restoration of the import duty to 30 per cent in the larger interest of the domestic raw silk industry; and

(c) whether Government has considered this request and if so, the outcome of such consideration?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The basic customs duty on import of raw silk, which was at 30% during 2001-02 was reduced to 5% during 2011-12 and then again enhanced from 5% to 15% during 2013-14.

Due to various efforts taken by the Central and State Governments on Research & Development, extension support, financial assistance etc., the raw silk production in the country has improved significantly and the imports of raw silk have gone down drastically, which can be inferred from the following table:-

Year	Raw silk Production (MT)	Raw silk Imports (MT)
2011-12	23,060	5,683
2012-13	23,679	4,959
2013-14	26,480	3,260
2014-15*	28,474	3,189*

\*Provisional upto February, 2015

(b) and (c) Yes. The Chief Minister of Karnataka in his letter dated 1.9.2014 requested the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles to at least maintain the customs duty at the level of 15% and to consider increase of customs duty to earlier level of 30%. Import Duty on raw silk is continued at 15%.

#### **Discrimination against local workers of Chhattisgarh**

†1530. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a textile factory operating in Birgaon in Chhattisgarh whose owners have suppressive attitude towards local workers who are subjected to forcible removal from their job that pushes them to the verge of starvation due to loss of salary;

(b) whether the victims are suffering mentally and financially due to denial by the company owner in response to part (a) above and lack of probe by Government and lack of action against the industrialist; and

(c) whether concrete action would be taken by Government in the matter?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Textile Commissioner has got this matter looked into after contacting Government of Chhattisgarh and intimated that they have no such report.

(c) Does not arise.

**Development of handlooms in Chhattisgarh**

†1531. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request for approval of an amount of ₹ 915.56 crore has been sent by Government of Chhattisgarh for development and other facilities for the weavers of Champa region of the State;

(b) whether approval is awaited for handloom clusters in Umreli (Korba), Kera, Sivani (Janjgeer), Bhanwarpur (Mahasamund) for development of handloom; and

(c) whether the second, third and the last instalment for handloom cluster is due for some places of Chhattisgarh and whether the said amount would be released without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has not received any proposal for approval of an amount of ₹ 915.56 crore from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for development and other facilities for the weavers of Champa region of the State.

(b) The Government of India received the proposal on 16-03-2015 from State Government of Chhattisgarh for setting up of three new handloom clusters at Sivani, Kera and Umreli at a total cost of ₹ 179.87 lakh under National Handloom Development Scheme. The proposal could not be considered in the year 2014-15 due to non availability of funds. The handloom cluster at Bhanwarpur (Mahasamund) was sanctioned to the State of Chhattisgarh in 2010-11.

(c) In respect of 6 clusters sanctioned to Chhattisgarh State during the period from 2007-08 to 2010-11, funds could not be released to the State of Chhattisgarh due to non-submission of Utilization Certificates of previous releases in time to the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Promotional incentives to handloom weavers**

1532.SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend promotional incentives to the handloom weavers of the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of co-operative societies re-opened after implementation of Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package, including Uttar Pradesh, in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The following developmental and promotional schemes and programmes are being implemented as promotional incentives for handloom weavers in all the States of the country:-

1. National Handloom Development Programme—two components
  - (i) Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme
  - (ii) Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package for handloom sector
2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

(b) “The Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) package/scheme” was implemented in the country including Uttar Pradesh, from 28.11.2011 to 28.2.2014 in two phases (28.11.11 to 31.12.12 extended upto 31.3.13 & 27.9.13 to 28.2.14). During this period, a total of 39 Apex Weavers Cooperative Societies (AWCS), 9642 Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies (PWCS), 6310 Self Help Groups (SHGs) & 54226 individual weavers have been benefited which includes 14 AWCS, 1876 PWCS, 1005 SHGs and 21964 individual weavers from the State of Uttar Pradesh.

**Development of Textile Parks**

1533.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU :

KUMARI SELJA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to develop Textile Parks in the country, if so, the details thereof;



(b) whether State textile industry federation has submitted any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for development of Textile Parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) is being implemented since 2005 to facilitate proposals from eligible entrepreneurs/industry associations for setting up quality infrastructure for textile units. The Ministry has empanelled Project Management Consultants (PMCs) for placing proposals received from Interested Entrepreneurs/ Industry association for consideration whenever invitation for proposal for new textiles park is advertised. So far 70 textile parks have been approved throughout the country. A list of the park approved till date is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Necessary action is taken in consultation with State Governments to ensure that the sanctioned parks are completed in time and the Textile Commissioner (TxC) has been directed to monitor this on regular basis, extend necessary guidance and support for completion in time.

### ***Statement***

#### *State-wise list of Textile Parks*

Sl. No.	Project Name	Location
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1.	Hindupur Vyapar Apparel Park Limited	Kagallu, Ananthpur
2.	MAS Fabric Park India Ltd.	Chinthavaram, Nellore
3.	Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited	Achutapuram, Vishakhapatnam
4.	Tarkeshwara, Andhra Pradesh	Nellore
5.	Gautum Budhha	Guntur
6.	Rangraya ITP	West Godavari
7.	Guntur ITP	Guntur
<b>Assam</b>		
1.	Prag Jyoti ITP	Darang, Assam

Sl. No.	Project Name	Location
<b>Bihar</b>		
1.	JVL ITP	Rohtas
<b>Gujarat</b>		
1.	Gujarat Eco Textile Park Limited	Pandesara GIDC, Surat
2.	Mundra SEZ Textile & Apparel Park Limited	Kutch
3.	Fairdeal Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Mahuvej, Surat
4.	Vraj Integrated Textile Park Limited	Kheda
5.	Sayana Textile Park Ltd.	Ichhapur, Surat
6.	Surat Super Yarn Limited	Hathuran, Surat
7.	RJD Integrated Textile Park	Ichhapore, Surat
8.	Kejriwal Integrated Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Palsana, Surat
9.	Shanti Integrated Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Surat
10.	Palsana ITP Park , Gujarat	Surat
11.	Amitara Green High Tech Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Kheda Gujarat
12.	Madhav ITP, Gujarat	Sundernagar
13.	Karanj Textile Park (Conditionally approved)	Surat
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>		
1.	Himachal Textiles Park	Una
<b>Haryana</b>		
1.	Alishan ITP	Panipat
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>		
1.	J&K Integrated Textiles Park	Hatli Mor, Kathua
2.	Kashmir Wool & Silk Textile Park, Ghatti	Kathua , J & K
<b>Karnataka</b>		
1.	Doddabalapur Integrated Textile Park	Doddabalapur
2.	Gulbarga Textiles Park	Gulbarga
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
1.	Metro Hi-Tech Cooperative Park Limited	Ichalkaranji
2.	Pride India Cooperative Textile Park Limited	Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur

Sl. No.	Project Name	Location
3.	Baramati Hi Tech Textile Park Limited	Baramati, Pune
4.	Purna Global Textiles Park Ltd.	Khandegaon, Hingoli
5.	Deesan Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Shirpur, Dhule
6.	Asmeeta Infratech Pvt. Ltd.	Bhiwandi, Thane
7.	Islampur Integrated Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Islampur, Sangli
8.	Latur Integrated Textile Park	Latur
9.	Khed Textile Park	Pune
10.	Sundararao Solanke Cooperative Textile Park	Beed
11.	Kallappana Awade Textiles Park	Kolhapur
12.	Asiatic Cooperative Powerloom Textile Park	Kumbhari, Solapur
13.	Satyraj ITP	Shirol, Kolhapur
14.	Dhule Textile Park , Maharashtra	Dhule
15.	Vidarbha, Hinganghat, Maharashtra	Vidarbha
16.	Sri Ganesh, Dhule, Maharashtra	Dhule
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
1.	CLC Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Pandhurna, Chhindwara
<b>Punjab</b>		
1.	Lotus Integrated Tex Park	Dhaura, Barnala
2.	Rhythm Textile & Apparel Park Ltd.	Sekhan Majra, Nawanshehar
3.	Ludhiana Integrated Textile Park Ltd.	Doraha, Ludhiana
4.	Progressive ITP , Punjab	Bhatinda
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
1.	Jaipur Texweaving Park Limited	Silora, Kishangarh
2.	Kishangarh Hi-Tech Textile Park Limited	Kishangarh, Ajmer
3.	Next Gen Textile Park Pvt. Ltd.	Sardar Samand Road, Pali
4.	Jaipur Integrated Texcraft Park Pvt. Ltd.	Bagru, Jaipur
5.	Jaipur Kaleen Park Ltd.	Bhandarej, Dausa

Sl. No.	Project Name	Location
6.	Himmada Integrated Textiles Park	Daga Hospital Road, Balotra
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
1.	The Great Indian Linen & Textile Infrastructure Company	Perundurai, Erode
2.	SIMA Textile Processing Centre	Periapattu, Cuddalore
3.	Palladam Hi-Tech Weaving Park	Palladam
4.	Komarapalayam Hi-Tech Weaving Park Ltd.	Komarapalayam, Namakkal
5.	Karur Integrated Textile Park	Karur
6.	Madurai Integrated Textile Park Ltd.	Vadipatti, Madurai
7.	Kanchipuram AACM Handloom Silk Park	Kilkairpur, Kanchipuram
8.	SLS Textile Park	Bagalur, Krishnagiri
9.	Pallavada Technical Textiles Park Ltd.	Gobi, Erode
<b>Telangana</b>		
1.	Pochampally Handloom Park Limited	Kanumukkala, Nalgonda
2.	Whitegold Integrated Spentex Park	Ranga Reddy
3.	Avantika Textile Park,	Medak Telangana
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
1.	Ecotex, Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
<b>West Bengal</b>		
1.	EIGMEF Apparel Park Ltd.	Sayed Amir Ali, Kolkata
2.	Hosiery Park	Howrah

#### Scheme for welfare of jute workers

1534. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any specific scheme for welfare of jute workers of West Bengal;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the details of any proposed scheme;
- (c) the details of any study conducted on the condition of jute workers in the country; and
- (d) the year-wise details of amount of money sanctioned and expenditure incurred on the welfare of jute workers in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Number of plans and programmes are being implemented for promotion of jute industry in general and enhancement of welfare of jute workers in particular. The National Jute Board (NJB) is implementing the following schemes for the purpose of the welfare of jute workers across the country including the workers of the West Bengal:-

**(i) Workers' Welfare Scheme — Sanitation facilities for Mill Sector**

The Scheme provides for hygienic sanitary facilities for mill workers and their families, first in the mill quarters and in the second stage in the working areas. Sanitary facilities include sanitary blocks with toilet facilities for men and women, wash basins, sewage, etc. The mill concerned first incurs expenditure and National Jute Board thereafter reimburses 90% of the costs subject to a maximum reimbursement of ₹ 40.00 lakh per mill per year. So far, 47 'Sulabh Sauchalaya' units have been set up by the jute mills located in West Bengal, under the scheme.

**(ii) Scheme to provide Incentives to successful girls students of Jute Mill workers in Secondary & Higher Secondary level through Bank A/c**

Scholarship amount of ₹ 5000/- and ₹ 10000/- is paid for support to girl children of jute workers families on qualifying Secondary Education and Higher Secondary Education examinations respectively. The scheme is applicable to all jute goods manufacturing units throughout the country paying cess. So far, support has been provided to 2963 girl students of Jute Mill workers under the scheme.

(c) The following studies on the condition of jute workers in the country have been commissioned by the National Jute Board:-

- (i) A study for 'preparation of National Index on occupational health and safety measures in jute producing units' was completed in November, 2014.
- (ii) A study on 'Occupational Health Monitoring for Jute Mill Workers' has

been conducted through the ESI Institute of Pain Management, Kolkata in 2014-15.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the aforesaid welfare schemes by the National Jute Board during last three years is as under:-

(₹ in lakhs)		
2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
198.56	428.14	531.08

#### Textile Vision Document

1535. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come up with a Textile Vision Document, if so, the highlights thereof;

(b) whether a new Textile Policy is under preparation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the new Textile Policy would address the issue of making the Indian textile more competitive in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles had set up an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Shankar, Member Secretary, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council for reviewing/revamping the Textile Policy 2000. The Expert Committee has since submitted a draft Vision, Strategy and Action Plan. The New National Textile Policy 2015 is currently under finalization.

#### Non-allocation of funds under TUFS

1536. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is an interest subsidy scheme for upgradation of technology as part of measures to boost textile and jute sectors;

(b) if so, whether the textile industry has been facing issues such as non-allocation of around ₹ 3,000 crore to meet pending cases under TUFS, if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue of pending claims under its technology upgradation scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ₹ 11,952.80 crore have been allocated for this scheme for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The allocation for 2015-16 is ₹ 1,520 crore. The Ministry has been seeking more funds to meet the committed liabilities under the Twelfth Plan.

**Census-wise details of handloom weavers**

1537. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of last three handloom censuses carried out in the country;
- (b) the details of handloom weavers, as per the above censuses in Telangana, census-wise, district-wise;
- (c) the details of beneficiaries, district-wise, under the loan-waiver scheme announced a few years ago by Government and the amount released for this in Telangana, district-wise; and
- (d) the details of other schemes being implemented for improving the living conditions of weaving community in Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Three handloom censuses so far had been carried out across the country during 1987-88, 1995-96 and 2009-10. The number of handloom weavers & allied workers during these censuses were 67,39,447; 65,50,126 and 43,31,876 respectively. State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The district-wise detail of handloom weavers & allied workers during first census (1987-88) is not available. However, the district-wise detail of number of handloom weavers & allied workers during second and third handloom censuses in Telangana is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) In pursuance of Budget speech 2011-12, Revival, Reform & Restructuring package was approved by the Government on 24.11.2011. The RRR package *inter-alia* included one time waiver of overdue loans and interest (100% Principal and 25% interest) of viable and potentially viable handloom cooperative societies and individual weavers as on 31st March, 2010 and recapitalization assistance to eligible handloom cooperative societies. The RRR package has been over on 28.02.2014. 165 Primary Weaver Cooperative Societies (PWCS) and 2963 individual weavers have been benefited under RRR package from the Telangana State. District-wise detail is given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

(d) For improving the living conditions of weaving community in India including Telangana and for overall development of handloom sector, Government of India is implementing the following schemes:-

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme
- (2) Yarn Supply Scheme
- (3) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- (4) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Programme

**Statement-I**

*Status of total handloom weavers & allied workers as per  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Handloom Census*

Sl. N.	State Name	Number of Handloom weavers & allied workers (1987-88)	Number of Handloom weavers & allied workers (1995-96)	Number of Handloom weavers & allied workers (2009-10)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	4,69,086	4,90,616	3,55,838
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47,400	53,473	33,041
3.	Assam	20,79,238	23,22,268	16,43,453
4.	Bihar	2,41,298	1,67,707	43,392
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	8,191
6.	Delhi	19,727	6,708	2,738
7.	Goa	109	25	0
8.	Gujarat	69,320	57,936	11,009
9.	Haryana	37,640	22,810	7,967
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55,387	65,099	13,458
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	53,503	51,847	33,209
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	21,160
13.	Karnataka	1,88,749	1,77,562	89,256
14.	Kerala	78,595	63,153	14,679
15.	Madhya Pradesh	79,473	56,106	14,761



1	2	3	4	5
16.	Maharashtra	1,47,478	80,901	3,418
17.	Manipur	3,36,954	4,62,087	2,18,753
18.	Meghalaya	-	-	13,612
19.	Mizoram	-	-	43,528
20.	Nagaland	1,47,617	1,26,228	66,490
21.	Odisha	2,47,071	2,46,782	1,14,106
22.	Puducherry	9,207	7,369	2,803
23.	Punjab	24,423	13,160	2,636
24.	Rajasthan	84,769	71,915	31,958
25.	Sikkim	-	-	568
26.	Tamil Nadu	7,58,722	6,07,675	3,52,321
27.	Tripura	1,38,886	2,91,761	1,37,177
28.	Uttar Pradesh	6,57,987	4,20,684	2,57,783
29.	Uttarakhand	-	-	15,468
30.	West Bengal	7,66,808	6,86,254	7,79,103
TOTAL		67,39,447	65,50,126	43,31,876

Note : The tables 1987-88 & 1995-96 exclude 3 States viz. Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and 3 new States Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand.

\* Including Telangana.

### Statement-II

*District & Census-wise handloom weavers & allied workers  
in Andhra Pradesh during 2nd & 3rd Handloom Census*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Handloom weavers & allied Workers (1995-96)	Number of Handloom weavers and allied workers (2009-10)
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	1,059	288
2.	Hyderabad	549	362
3.	Karimnagar	18,103	5,908
4.	Khammam	2,424	290

1	2	3	4
5.	Mahboobnagar	31,367	10,972
6.	Medak	19,004	2,148
7.	Nizamabad	1,232	193
8.	Nalgonda	27,148	31,807
9.	Rangareddy	1,961	543
10.	Warangal	31,474	13,518
TOTAL		1,34,321	66,029

***Statement-III***

*District-wise details of beneficiaries under the loan waiver (RRR package) in Telangana*

Sl.No.	District	No. of PWCS	Amount released (in lakhs)	No. of Individual weaver	Amount released (in lakhs)
1.	Adilabad	2	8.4	0	0
2.	Hyderabad	2	0	17	2.51
3.	Karimnagar	35	274.04	421	61.97
4.	Khammam	7	21.78	0	0
5.	Mahboobnagar	10	65.81	575	72.95
6.	Medak	12	35.99	454	61.64
7.	Nalgonda	45	160.22	865	117.89
8.	Nizamabad	2	0	0	0
9.	Rangareddy	2	0	0	0
10.	Warangal	48	526.05	631	80.78
TOTAL		165	1092.29	2963	397.74

**Protection of handloom industry from powerloom**

1538.SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether there have been plans to secure the handloom industry and the weavers from the impact of powerlooms, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : The Government of India has been implementing the provisions of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 to protect the interest of handloom weavers and rich cultural heritage of the country from the impact of powerloom industry. 11 textile items are exclusively reserved with technical specifications for production on handlooms under handlooms reservation order S.O. 2160 (E) dated 3.9.2008. The Government is also implementing several schemes to provide raw material at reasonable rates, concessional credit, technical support and marketing assistance to handloom weavers.

**Repealing of Handlooms Act, 1985**

1539.SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether there has been a decision to repeal the Handlooms Act, 1985 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : No Sir. There is no proposal to repeal the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

**Handing-over of Indu Mill land for memorial of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar**

1540.DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has handed over the land of Indu Mill to the Government of India to construct a memorial of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at the Chaitya Bhoomi at Dadar in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has charged any price for this land or given it free of cost; and

(c) if a price is charged, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and National Textile Corporation Ltd. (NTC) has been signed on 05.04.2015 for transfer of 12 acres of INDU 6 mill land, vested in NTC, for construction of a memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by Government of Maharashtra as required under Section 11A of the Sick Textile Undertaking (Nationalization) Act, 1974 (STUNA) on payment of compensation by the State Government. The Sub-committee constituted as per the MoU shall determine the exact amount of compensation (either in terms of money or allocation of any alternate land or allocation of any other tangible or intangible asset) equivalent to monetary value of the land on the date of transfer, which should meet the requirement of due compensation as mandated under Section 11A of the STUNA.

### **Proposals for Textile/Apparel Parks from Odisha**

1541.SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Central Government from State Governments, particularly from Odisha, for setting up of Textile/Apparel Parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks since the time of its launch;

(b) the number of proposals approved and rejected/lying pending along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the selection criteria laid down for approving a proposal; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage and facilitate entrepreneurs to set up above Parks in the country, particularly in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) A total of 170 proposals were received from Entrepreneurs/Industry Association as per scheme guidelines, including one from Odisha, out of which 70 have been approved and are under various stages of implementation. Remaining 100 proposals were rejected since they do not fulfill the scheme guidelines.

(c) and (d) Projects approved under the scheme are governed by the scheme guidelines and selection criteria approved by the Government from time to time. Based on the experience of certain components of the scheme during implementation, the selection criteria etc. have been amended to extend the benefit of the scheme to relatively less industrialized textile States like State of Odisha. Textiles parks to be promoted by State Industrial Development Corporations are also being covered in the recently advertised criteria. A copy of the criteria is given in the Statement (*See below*).

### ***Statement***

#### ***Selection Process for New Textile Parks***

*(Advertised in November 2014)*

To become eligible the proposals should meet following pre-qualification criteria:

#### **Pre-qualification criteria:**

#### **Net-worth of promoters**

1. Promoters in the registered SPV are as defined in the companies Act. However, where SPV is not formed promoter is defined as any entrepreneur who furnishes an affidavit expressing intent to contribute 5% in the equity of the proposed SPV for the textile park.

2. Net worth of each of the promoters/shareholders should be 1.5 times of his total investment in the proposed textiles park (including investment in SPV and common infrastructure and in the unit(s)) proposed by him. **(Certificate from C.A. along with Balance Sheet and ITR to establish the claim. In case promoter is a company, board resolution for their participation alongwith the capital investment and timelines may be given).**
3. The proposal should have minimum 8 promoters of which minimum 1/3 should be having experience in textile manufacturing.
4. All promoters should hold unit(s) in the park.

**Land**

5. Minimum 25 Acres of land either registered in the name of one of the promoters of the SPV, or “Agreement to sale in favour of SPV” or letter of intent for allotment in favour of SPV in case land is provided by the State is must with the application. However, minimum requirement of land area in case of North Eastern States and other special category States will be 10 acres. . **(If the land papers are in the regional language, an attested copy of English translation should also be submitted along with the proposal).**
6. Within three months of in- principle approval of the project , land with necessary permission for industrial use should be in possession of the SPV, failing which the approval will be automatically cancelled without any further communication.

**Units**

7. Minimum 10 units as per norms prescribed for a unit of each segment with atleast two activities in the value chain should be proposed **(Name of the unit holder and activity proposed).**
8. No proposal from a member from an existing ITP will be considered unless his unit is fully operational in that park.

**Disqualification for non-compliance of pre-eligibility criteria**

9. The proposals which will not in compliance with the above pre-qualification criteria will be rejected out rightly.

**Undertaking**

Beside the requisite support document members shall also furnish a self-certified

undertaking regarding the sanctity of the information submitted by them, which would hold them liable for penalty in view of incorrect information besides cancellation of their parks.

#### Evaluation Criteria for proposals under SITP

Criteria	Weightage
1. <b>Average net-worth of promoters against average equity in the Park.</b>	35
1.5 times of average equity proposed in textile park (including investment in P&M)	10
3 times of average equity proposed in textile park (including investment in P&M)	25
More than three times of average equity proposed in the textile park ( including investment in P&M)	35
2. <b>Proposals of JVs of State Corporations</b>	10
3. <b>Location of the project</b>	15
4. <b>Experience of the members in Textile Manufacturing</b>	40
30% of promoters having experience in Textile Manufacturing	10
50% promoter having experience in Textile Manufacturing	20
100% promoter having experience in Textile Manufacturing	40
TOTAL	100

#### Technical Proposal :

- (i) No separate weightage is assigned for technical evaluation. However, PMCs will require to do their due diligence on technical aspects of the proposal *i.e.* land position, location of the park, number of units (as per norms prescribed by Textile Commissioner, Mumbai for a unit in the textile park) in the value chain, investment and employment, market linkages, reasonableness of cost for the common infrastructure and factory building, revenue model of SPV, background of the promoters etc and bring only sound and credible proposals before the PSC for further evaluation.
- (ii) Although the Scheme is conceptualize to create integrated infrastructure which would address entire value chain in textile industry, however, given the role of garmenting sector in employment generation. The proposal for garment park with one more activity in vertical or horizontal supply chain will be permitted under the scheme.

- (iii) PMCs will have to establish credibility of the proposals in the technical presentation before the Project Scrutiny Committee (PSC). In case PMC is not able to establish technical proposal before PSC, the proposal will be rejected summarily.
- (iv) With every proposal the PMC will give an affidavit that they have verified each and every fact in the proposal personally and the proposal is technically sound and viable.

In case the Park fails to come up as per projections, the PMC will be held accountable and penalty as determined by the competent authority will be imposed on them

#### **Import of Chinese silk yarn**

1542.SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of imposition of Anti-Dumping duties on raw silk and silk fabric imported from China, there is substantial increase in the import of Chinese silk yarn in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to impose more restrictions in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Imports of raw silk, silk yarn and silk fabrics have been declining in recent years, as evident from the details given below. This appears due to several reasons like increase in production within the country as well as partly due to imposition of customs duty and anti-dumping duty. Imposition of restriction is decided by the competent authority based on relevant facts. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade & Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a Gazette Notification on 9th December, 2014 for investigation of Anti-Dumping Duty on raw silk. The anti-dumping duty on silk fabrics is currently in force till December 2016.

Year	Quantity of Raw silk/Silk yarn & silk fabrics imported (in MTs)		
	Raw silk imports	Silk yarn imports	Silk fabric imports
2011-12	5,683	697	2,211
2012-13	4,959	541	1,435
2013-14	3,260	551	1,048
2014-15	3,189	467	1,015

Provisional (upto Feb-2015)

**Non-operating textile units of Haryana**

1543. KUMARI SELJA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-operating textile units in Haryana which are reeling under serious financial constraints and are on the verge of closure along with the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for the increase of non-operating textile units;

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to make them viable and operational; and

(d) the number of workers affected and the rehabilitation steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) As per information available, 40 Cotton / Man-made fibre Textile mills (Non-SSI) in Haryana are lying closed and non-operative (as on 28.02.2015). Major reasons for closure of textile units include high cost of finance, lack of institutional credit etc. The details of closed and non-operative textile units are given in the Statement (*See below*). Information regarding textile units on the verge of closure is not maintained.

Government has set up Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act with a view to arranging timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies including closed mills. The status of the cases registered with BIFR are decided on the basis of its findings and accordingly BIFR decides the reliefs/ concession etc. to be given to units / companies as revival packages.

Further, Government has been providing assistance under schemes like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for the development of the Powerloom Sector, Scheme for Technical textiles, Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) for the promotion of textile sector. These initiatives aim at supporting the industry for functioning in the prevailing competitive environment.

(d) As per information available there were 4231 workers on the rolls of 40 Cotton / Man-made fibre Textile mills (Non-SSI) of Haryana lying closed as on 28.02.2015. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).



For rehabilitation of Textile workers rendered un-employed due to permanent closure of a particular portion or entire textile mills, in the private non-SSI Sector, in the country, the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) has been introduced by Government of India with effect from 15-9-1986. Interim relief is provided under the scheme to workers rendered jobless, subject to eligibility.

**Statement**

*Details of number of cotton /man-made fibre Textile mills (non-SSI)  
non-operating (closed) in Haryana as on 28.02.2015*

Sl. No	Name of the Mills	No. of workers affected
1.	B R D Textiles Limited	64
2.	Jai Laxmi Spinning Mills	96
3.	K. K. Spinners Pvt. Ltd.	26
4.	Matta Yarn	62
5.	S.K.Cotex Pvt. Ltd.	67
6.	B.R. Spintex (P) Ltd.	93
7.	Sheetal Spinning Mills (P) Limited	30
8.	Moudgil Fibres Ltd.	70
9.	Aggarsain Spinners Ltd.	77
10.	Jai Mata Industries Ltd.	21
11.	Radhika Spinning Mills Ltd.	120
12.	Jind Textiles Ltd.	53
13.	Veer Vardhman Textile Mills Limited	36
14.	Mittal Cot-Fab (P) Ltd.	42
15.	A.V.Cottex Limited	58
16.	Setia Spinning Mills	9
17.	Flora Spinners P Ltd.	40
18.	K.C Spinners Ltd.	23
19.	Sunheri Cotton Spinners (P) Ltd.	42
20.	Padam Cotton Yarns Limited	94
21.	Popular Spinners (P) Ltd.	33

Sl. No	Name of the Mills	No. of workers affected
22.	Shri Ganesh Spinners	42
23.	Sahil Industries (P) Ltd.	38
24.	S.R.Cottex (P) Limited	10
25.	Celeste International Unit No.2	84
26.	Goel Spg. & Wvg. Mills	64
27.	Mahalakshmi Cotspin Limited	29
28.	Radhika Fibres India Ltd.	130
29.	K.C. Fibres Ltd.	121
30.	Laxmi Fibre (P) Ltd.	39
31.	Shree Jagdamba Cotex Ltd.	15
32.	K.C. Textiles Limited	4
33.	Rama Fibres Ltd.	0
34.	East India Syntex Limited	2215
35.	Gee Kay Textiles Limited	51
36.	Varsha Spinning Mills Limited	47
37.	Mahalakshmi Spinners Ltd.	51
38.	Raj Fibres (P) Ltd.	35
39.	Shree Shyam Cotspin Ltd.	34
40.	Celeste International Ltd.	66
TOTAL		4231

**Slash in budget allocation for textiles**

1544. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ₹ 1500 crore of the Demand for Grants, as per Budget Estimates 2014-15, were unspent according to the revised figures of 2014-15;

(b) if so, the details of where and why the expenditure as planned earlier was cut;

(c) if not, the details of any unspent allocated funds in 2014-15;

(d) the details of any amount that was reduced due to diversion of funds to other Ministries; and

(e) whether it is a fact that ₹ 1400 crore has been slashed in the Demands for Grants of the Ministry and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The budgetary provision of ₹ 4831 crores under plan for Ministry of Textiles for the year 2014-15 was revised to ₹ 3500 crores at Revised Estimate (RE) stage. Against this, Rs 3317.75 crores was spent. Details of the amounts which remained unspent *viz-a-viz* the Revised Estimates are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Department-wise provision at RE stage is decided by the Ministry of Finance.

#### **Statement**

*Details of the amounts which remained unspent viz-a-viz the Revised Estimates*

#### **PLAN SCHEMES**

Sl. No.	Schemes	BE 2014-15	RE 2014-15	Actual 2014-15	Unspent amounts wrt RE
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Research and Development	51.00	12.00	1.42	10.58
2.	Technical Textiles including Jute	43.00	32.00	30.18	1.82
3.	HS Code for Technical Textiles	0.01	0.01	-	0.01
4.	Scheme for usage of Geo Textiles in North East	85.00	8.00	-	8.00
5.	Scheme for promoting Agro Textiles in North East	10.00	9.00	9.00	0.00
6.	Housing Scheme for Jute	0.01	0.01	-	0.01
7.	NCUTE	0.01	0.01	-	0.01
8.	TUFS	2300.00	1864.02	1883.12	-19.10
9.	Jute Technology Mission	0.02	0.02		0.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Powerloom	84.52	58.00	51.52	6.48
11.	Mega Cluster	17.00	7.00	-	7.00
12.	Setting up of Mega Cluster	25.00	5.40	-	5.40
13.	Sericulture/ CDP (Inclusive of State-wise releases)*	298.50	298.50	297.58	0.92
14.	Wool	20.01	20.01	20.00	0.01
15.	Common Compliance Code	4.00	1.00	-	1.00
16.	Pashmina Wool Development Programme	30.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
17.	Sardar Vallabhai Patel Institute	0.01	0.01	-	0.01
18.	NIFT	103.00	75.00	75.00	0.00
19.	Setting up of Mega Cluster	30.00	6.40	-	6.40
20.	SITP	240.00	105.00	78.26	26.74
21.	Workers Hostel	14.00	2.00	1.50	0.50
22.	HRD (ISDS)	268.00	181.00	170.28	10.72
23.	Flatted Factory cum Incubators	10.00	4.00	8.00	-4.00
24.	Integrated Processing Development Scheme	50.00	16.00	-	16.00
25.	NER Textile Promotion Scheme	157.00	126.00	116.25	9.75
26.	Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	85.00	57.50	42.25	15.25
27.	Yarn Supply Scheme	130.00	130.00	127.81	2.19
28.	National Handloom Development Programme (Inclusive of State-wise releases)**	362.00	292.00	227.39	64.61
29.	Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum	0.00	0.00	6.80	-6.80
30.	CHCDS - Handloom Mega Cluster	20.00	18.00	14.45	3.55
31.	Setting up of Mega Cluster	60.00	12.90	8.82	4.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Yojana	7.00	2.00	0.55	1.45
33.	Design and Technical Upgradation	26.00	17.00	16.17	0.83
34.	Market Support and Services	39.00	35.00	38.05	-3.05
35.	Research and Development	7.00	4.00	3.58	0.42
36.	Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	37.00	5.00	0.32	4.68
37.	Human Resource Development	27.00	15.00	15.36	-0.36
38.	CHCDS – Handicraft Mega Cluster	26.00	24.00	20.22	3.78
39.	Infrastructure and Technology Development	28.00	19.00	24.97	-5.97
40.	Development of Other Craft in J&K	20.00	7.00	3.13	3.87
41.	Setting up Hast Kala Academy in Delhi	30.00	10.00	0.05	9.95
42.	Setting up of Mega Cluster	85.00	18.30	18.30	0.00
43.	Export Promotion Studies	1.91	1.91	0.42	1.49
44.	Mega Cluster				0.00
GRAND TOTAL		4831.00	3500.00	3311.75	188.25

*The House then adjourned at thirty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock.*

*The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

**DEMAND TO RAISE A DISCUSSION ON CAG REPORT -Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the discussion of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Shri Baishnab Parida to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... मॉर्निंग में डिसाइड हुआ था।....*(व्यवधान)*... We will now take up the discussion on Working of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. ...*(Interruptions)*... In the morning we decided it.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, we raised this issue in the morning.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you, please sit down. All of you, please keep quiet.

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा** : यह गंभीर बात है। इस देश के अंदर जब सरकार यह दावा भी करती है और करना भी चाहिए कि हमारी सरकार में ईमानदारी है, पारदर्शिता है, जवाबदेही है...(व्यवधान) ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You had raised it in the morning. It is over.

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा** : देखिए सर, इस सदन की परम्परा रही है। इस सदन में पहले हुआ था और जब सत्ताधारी दल विपक्ष में था तो सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट उनके लिए रामायण और गीता थी। आज जब इन पर बात आती है तो प्रधान मंत्री जी आकर जवाब दें, जब इनके मंत्री के खिलाफ बात आती है...(व्यवधान)... बिल्कुल होगा, जवाब लिया जाएगा, इस्तीफा लिया जाएगा। इनको करना पड़ेगा। हम इसको नजरअंदाज नहीं होने देंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (ASSAM): Sir, we have to discuss the CAG Report, No. 12 of 2015.

**श्री शरद यादव** (बिहार): सर, आनन्द शर्मा जी ने जो मामला उठाया, वह मामला बहुत गंभीर है। इसमें जो पार्लियामेंट है, उस सदन से लेकर के यहां तक सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट पर एक बड़ा संग्राम हो चुका है। सी.ए.जी. की जो रिपोर्ट है, मैं उसके मेरिट और डि-मेरिट में नहीं जाना चाहता। मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि सदन का जो बिजनेस होता है वह हम कभी रोकते नहीं हैं। लेकिन कभी-कभी ऐसी परिस्थिति आती है कि कितनी ही कोशिश करते हैं कि बिजनेस को चलाएं लेकिन परिस्थिति ऐसी है कि बगैर इस मुद्दे को उठाए बाहर जाना ठीक नहीं होगा। यानी सी.ए.जी. ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है, वह अलार्मिंग है। यह ऐसी गंभीर रिपोर्ट है कि अगर इसको छोड़ कर सदन आगे जाएगा तो इस देश में जो एक बड़ी बीमारी भ्रष्टाचार है, यह ऐसी बीमारी है जो खून में नहीं है, हड्डियों में चली गई है। जब हड्डियों में चली गई है तो इसका कोई दूसरा इलाज नहीं है। यह देश का सर्वोच्च सदन है। इस सर्वोच्च सदन में भी इस सवाल को हम लोग, यानी किसी तरह से इस बहस को टालकर आगे निकलेंगे तो देश में बड़ी समस्या पैदा हो जाएगी, जिसके चलते गरीब के हाथ में दो पैसा नहीं आता। कोई काम, कोई चीज नहीं है लोग सड़क खाते, बिजली खाते, ईंट खाते, पत्थर खाते, यानी ऐसी स्थिति है कि गरीब के पास आजादी के 68 वर्ष बाद भी कोई चीज जो यहां से दी जाती है, वह पहुंचती नहीं है। हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री स्वर्गीय राजीव गांधी जी ने कहा था कि सिर्फ 15 पैसा गरीब के पास पहुंचता है। यानी यह जो बीमारी है वह यहीं से शुरू होती है, दिल्ली से शुरू होती है और दिल्ली से जब शुरू होती है और हम दिल्ली में ही इसका इलाज नहीं करेंगे तो इसको कहां से करेंगे। मेरी आपसे विनती है कि हर चीज को छोड़ करके इस सवाल पर सबको बोलने का मौका देना चाहिए और सरकार की तरफ से इस मामले में ठीक-ठीक और वाजिब बात आनी चाहिए।

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी** : ऑनरेबल लीडर ऑफ दि अपोजीशन, ऑनरेबल डिप्टी लीडर ऑफ दि कांग्रेस, अभी प्रो. राम गोपाल जी और शरद यादव जी ने जो बात कही है, महोदय हम सुबह भी कह चुके हैं कि करप्शन के मुद्दे पर हमारा "जीरो टॉलरेंस" है ...(व्यवधान)... दूसरी चीज हम पूरी तरह से ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him say.

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना** (पंजाब): सुन तो लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी** : जब सुना रहे हैं, तो अब सुन भी लीजिए, इसलिए माननीय नेता विरोधी दल, सदन के अन्य माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं, तो हम करप्शन पर चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप उसके लिए नोटिस दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... पहली बात सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट पर पी.ए.सी. चर्चा करेगी। आप जानते हैं कि हम सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा नहीं कर सकते। दूसरी बात, भ्रष्टाचार के मुद्दे पर हम पूरी तरह से तैयार हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... चाहे आपका भ्रष्टाचार रहा हो या कोई भी भ्रष्टाचार का इश्यू हो, हमने उसे न स्वीकार किया है और न हम उसके साथ हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, listen to him.

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी** : इसलिए आप चर्चा कीजिए, आपको हम जवाब भी देंगे जिससे दूध-का-दूध और पानी-का-पानी भी होगा ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन आप चर्चा के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। आप चर्चा से भाग क्यों रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप समझते हैं कि अगर चर्चा होगी तो सारे-के-सारे इतिहास और भूगोल खुल जाएंगे? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप चर्चा कीजिए। आप चर्चा से क्यों भाग रहे हैं? आप चर्चा कीजिए, हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... भाई चर्चा कीजिए, इस तरह चिल्लाने से काम नहीं चलेगा। आप चर्चा कीजिए, आप सदन का समय क्यों बरबाद कर रहे हैं? महोदय, सोशल जस्टिस मिनिस्ट्री के कार्यकरण पर चर्चा होनी है और भी महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर चर्चा होनी है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा** : आपने की थी चर्चा या सदन नहीं चलने दिया था? आपने एक दिन भी सदन नहीं चलने दिया था, पूरा सत्र बरबाद किया था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, listen to me...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, the Chair is not opposed to any discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Chair is not against any discussion. Whatever the House wants, the Chair is to agree and if you want a discussion on corruption or this or that...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Let me complete. I said, 'on any subject.' The Chair is ready on any subject. But, with regard to issue raised by Shri Anand Sharma, supported by Shri Sharad Yadavji, I am only saying this. With regard to the CAG Report, there is a procedure. The procedure is: The CAG Report should be presented to Parliament. Then, Parliament will refer it to the PAC. First of all, you must understand. I am sorry to use the word 'understand.' You are aware that CAG Report is not the final; it is not a verdict...*(Interruptions)*... Please, listen. Why are you not allowing me to say? It is not a verdict. After CAG made those observations, it has to be submitted to Parliament. Then, it has to go to the PAC and the PAC has every right to question or decide to call the CAG and question him and finally come to a conclusion. Only then you can accept it as a final thing. Simply because the CAG has made a reference about any Minister or any Member in his Report, I cannot allow any discussion on that subject. Otherwise, you proceed on the basis of the rules of the House. Then, I consider. Okay? ...*(Interruptions)*... I said that I cannot allow.

**श्री शरद यादव :** सर, आपने जो कहा है, वह रूल्स और रेगुलेशंस के दायरे में कहा है, मैं उस से पूरी तरह सहमत हूँ, लेकिन 2G Scam, Commonwealth Scam, Coal Scam - ये सारे मुद्दे रिपोर्ट लीक करने पर ही उठाए गए थे। और उस सदन को कितने दिन तक नहीं चलने दिया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जे.पी.सी. नहीं बन रही थी, जे.पी.सी. को बनाने के लिए हमने कई दिन तक सदन को ऐसे रखा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मेरी आपसे विनती है कि यह मामला गंभीर है। भ्रष्टाचार एक ऐसी बीमारी है, जिसके चलते देश के विकास को, देश की हर चीज को घुन लग गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सभी मुद्दे सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट लीक करने पर उठ चुके हैं। जे.पी.सी. बनाने तक के लिए सदन में इतने दिन तक कार्यवाही रुकती रही। इसकी कोई नई कहानी नहीं है, वह यहां लिखी हुई है, इतिहास बना हुआ है। इसलिए सीएजी की रिपोर्ट आ जाने की बात नहीं है, क्योंकि उस सदन में सीएजी की रिपोर्ट लीक हो जाने के बाद कई सारे मुद्दे उठ चुके हैं। आपके पास तो आज आए हैं। ... **(व्यवधान)**... इस मामले को उस सदन में पूरी तरह से उठाया गया, यहां तो मैं नहीं था, लेकिन मेरी आपसे विनती है कि इस मामले को आप नोटिस के साथ मत जोड़िए। उस सदन में ऑलरेडी तीन-तीन, चार-चार स्कैम के मामले उठने से आज यह सरकार यहां बैठी है और ये लोग हार कर के इधर बैठे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार):** लेकिन दोनों हालत में आप यहीं खड़े हो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री शरद यादव:** हां, ठीक है। हमारी स्थिति यह है कि हम टस से मस नहीं हुए, जहां के तहां खड़े हुए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी:** आपने वहां अंगद के पैर की तरह पैर जमा लिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री शरद यादव:** आपने ठीक कहा। हम यहीं डटे रहेंगे और आपसे विनती करते रहेंगे। हमारी आपसे विनती है कि इस मामले पर सभी पार्टी के लोगों के विचार ले लीजिए, उसके बाद आगे चलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under what rule I can allow?

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव:** सर, यह जो आपने पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी की बात कही है, तो क्या पी.ए.सी. हाउस से ऊपर है? पी.ए.सी. में हाउस के ही लोग जाते हैं। जब हाउस चाहता है, तो आप पी.ए.सी. का बहाना क्यों ले रहे हैं कि सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट को पहले पी.ए.सी. स्कूटनिंग करे और उसके बाद इसे यहां लाया जाए? It is immaterial.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is procedure.

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव:** हाउस की कमेटी हाउस से ऊपर कैसे हो सकती है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... हाउस से ऊपर हाउस की कमेटी कैसे हो सकती है? यह तो कॉमन सेंस की बात है। यह हो ही नहीं सकता है। इसलिए आप यह दलील मत दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप ऐसा करने से क्यों डरते हैं?...**(व्यवधान)**... आपने इन दोनों सदनों को न जाने कितने दिनों तक रोका। अब चक्कर में फंस गए, तो झेलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वह तो करप्शन पर कह रहे हैं। सी.ए.जी. की इस रिपोर्ट पर, जिसमें एक पार्टिकुलर मंत्री के ऊपर आरोप है, आप इस पर चर्चा कराइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...



**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी :** राम गोपाल जी, हम तो कह रहे हैं कि हम करप्शन के मुद्दे पर चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। यह पहली बार है कि सरकार बिना समय गंवाए हुए करप्शन पर चर्चा के लिए तैयार है। वे तो तैयार ही नहीं होते थे।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद:** सर, जब एनडीए की गवर्नमेंट थी, तब सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट लीक होने पर ही दोनों सदनों को चलने नहीं दिया गया था। एक दिन नहीं, पूरे महीने भर नहीं चलने दिया और तब तक सदन नहीं चला, जब तक उस मंत्री ने इस्तीफा नहीं दे दिया। इसलिए अलग-अलग मापदंड नहीं हो सकते हैं कि जब एनडीए वाले, बीजेपी वाले उधर जाएं, तो अब दूसरा मापदंड होगा।...(व्यवधान).... वही मापदंड होगा, जो 2010 में था। वही मापदंड आज भी होगा। मेरे ख्याल में आज सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्ट को डिस्कस करने की, उस पर चर्चा करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है, इस पर पहले इस्तीफा हो जाए। उसके बाद फिर चर्चा होगी।...(व्यवधान)...

\*فلسفہ اختلافاً (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): سر، جب این ڈی اے کی گورنمنٹ تھی، تب سی اے جی کی رپورٹ لیک ہونے پر ہی دونوں سبوں کو چلنے نہیں دیا گیا تھا۔ ایک دن نہیں، پورے مہینے بھر نہیں چلنے دیا اور تب تک سب نہیں چلا، جب تک اس مंत्री نے استعفیٰ نہیں دینا۔ اس لئے الگ الگ ماپ دند نہیں ہوسکتے ہیں کہ جب این ڈی اے والے، بی جے پی والے اندر جائیں، تو اب دوسرا ماپ دند ہوگا۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔۔ وہی ماپ دند ہوگا، جو 2010 میں تھا۔ وہی ماپ دند آج بھی ہوگا۔ میرے خیال میں آج سی اے جی کی رپورٹ کو ٹسکس کرنے کی، اس پر چرچہ کرنے کی کوئی ضرورت نہیں ہے، اس پر پہلے استعفیٰ ہوجائے۔ اس کے بعد پھر چرچہ ہوگی۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔۔

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी:** उपसभापति जी, इतने सीनियर लीडर, लीडर ऑफ द अपोजीशन और माननीय शरद जी जो बात कह रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति:** आप लोग सुनिए, प्लीज।

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी:** आप चर्चा के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।...(व्यवधान).... करप्शन पर चर्चा के लिए आप तैयार नहीं हैं।

**श्री उपसभापति:** सुनिए, प्लीज।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी:** आप कह रहे हैं कि पी.ए.सी. इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा करेगी नहीं, बात नहीं करेगी और हम जो कह रहे हैं, वह कर लो।...(व्यवधान).... आपने कहा कि पहले इस्तीफा दे दो, तो इस्तीफा देने से नहीं होता।...(व्यवधान).... हम चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार थे और उस समय आप चर्चा नहीं करना चाहते थे, इसलिए सदन नहीं चला था।...(व्यवधान).... हम चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, तब भी आप सदन को चलने नहीं देना चाहते। यह फर्क है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, have you got a solution?

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI D. RAJA: I am always a part of the solution but not a part of the problem. Sir, it is not just a procedural or technical question. The content of CAG is in public domain. Corruption and reference to a sitting Member in the Council of Ministers is a serious political, moral question. Government will have to respond and nothing can prevent the House from discussing such a matter, and no Committee can be above the Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for that matter. So, we have every right to discuss and Government has the duty-bound responsibility to respond, and the Government cannot wish away the discussion on such a serious issue. That is what we have been demanding and I fully endorse what Shri Ram Gopal Yadav ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want a discussion, you give proper notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... That will be examined.

SHRI D. RAJA: It is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Earlier we had several discussions on the very same issue of corruption. I am happy to hear that the Minister says that his Government has zero tolerance to corruption. I am happy; but if that is so, let us have a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: We are ready for discussion. This is the first time that Government is ready for a discussion and Opposition doesn't want a discussion on a serious corruption issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, you have asked us a very pertinent question. Under what rule or procedure we can take up a discussion like this. Although the LOP has said that we don't need discussion but resignation...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am saying, I have no notice for discussion. So I don't know under what rule we can take it up.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, Let me put before you this. There are two words used in the rule book. One says the mood, mood is not a procedure. Mood is, when you know the mood, it is not preconceived. When a mood comes up, it attracts a rule. Then, along with it is an enabling rule of the residuary powers given to you. So the mood goes along with the residuary powers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not invoking the residuary powers.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I am showing their mood. Now, if you don't respect the mood, we will be faltering. The House is supreme. Then, automatically a learned man like you, I am sure, will go by the mood. When you say, I can't go, then you know there is a power vested in you, that you will not use. We know you will not use it immediately. But once you see the mood, then you will use it because we know your wisdom.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Good advocate. Dr. K. Keshava Rao is a good advocate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, prevention is better than cure; that is the saying. Sir, this Government has just started and these kinds of cases are coming against them. If they are allowing and if they are ready for a discussion, they can prevent future corruption. That is the issue. So this is to be discussed. Other legal provisions I am not looking at, but it is for better future of the Government. If they are responsible to the people of the country, let us have a discussion on this issue. So we are requesting for a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Therefore, I am taking up further discussion on the working of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: We are ready for a discussion, if you are ready for a discussion. If Chair allows...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Rajasthan): Sir, one minute...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know under which rule it can be taken up. So I am starting the discussion on Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, Rule 266. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the residuary powers, this is the notice ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, all of us, LOP, the leaders of other political parties have said so. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am given no rules.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: That is the notice and that is the sense of the House. Let us be very clear about it. If this House, has in the past, not on one occasion but on many occasions, allowed a situation that those who are sitting there as a Government, disrupted and derailed entire sessions, insisting on first the resignation and then discussion in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister will have to come to the House. We are not going to accept anything else. He goes all over the world abusing and vilifying all his predecessors. What accountability has this Government got? We will ensure accountability, that is the duty of the House. We will not allow them. Sir, we have to do our duty.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He goes as the Prime Minister. Why do you...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers. Sir, I am sorry, they cannot say this. This House has it in the past also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He goes as the Prime Minister.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: He goes as the Prime Minister, carries the tricolour and the visits are paid for by the Consolidated Fund of India, by the State Exchequer, and then he becomes the party leader, *pracharak*, abuses all the others. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sharma, please... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: No, that has to be abated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : आनन्द भाई, यह जनता का जनादेश है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप उधर बैठ गए, हम इधर आ गए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... जनता ने आपको उधर बैठाया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अगर आप उधर बैठ गए तो ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप हमारे ऊपर गुस्सा क्यों उतार रहे हैं? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप करप्शन पर चर्चा करिए, हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं, हम जवाब देंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 3.30 p.m.

*The House then adjourned at fifty-one minutes past two of the clock.*

*The House met at thirty minutes past three of the clock,*

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*.)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this morning, a matter was raised by Shri Shantaram Naik. And, that matter was also taken up by the LOP, by me and by the leaders of other political parties. ...*(Interruptions)*... We do respect the rules. We do respect our parliamentary democracy, which the present Government does not respect, as they have repeatedly demonstrated by bypassing ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: यह बात मत करिए...*(व्यवधान)*...यह अच्छी बात नहीं है ...*(व्यवधान)*...यह ठीक नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: सुन लीजिए। मुझे अपनी बात बोलने दीजिए, बीच में मत बोलिए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री वी.हनुमंत राव (तेलंगाना) : यूपीए सरकार ने क्या किया...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: हम लोग जानते हैं कैसे डेमोक्रेसी की रिस्पेक्ट करनी है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Since I have been reminded, let me very respectfully tell

you one thing that in 2012, on a leaked CAG Report, they destroyed the Winter Session for 23 days. The business was not transacted even for one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am just telling their track record. What I am telling you is that the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers are accountable to the House. We have, very recently, established a precedence that based on a leaked report of the CAG, the insistence has been...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But this is Private Members' time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: All our Members are here who had given their notices. They are all withdrawing because this is more important than any other thing. We are actually helping the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He says that there is zero tolerance to corruption. We accept that he is not tolerant to corruption. Therefore, take his resignation and inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Where is the zero tolerance? ...*(Interruptions)*... We want that zero tolerance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anand Sharmaji, this is time for Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा** : इसमें फर्क नहीं हो सकता। यह दोहरा मापदंड नहीं हो सकता है। एक पैमाना हमारे लिए और एक पैमाना उनके लिए, यह कैसे मंजूर होगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी** : उपसभापति महोदय, डिप्टी लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस ने जो बात सुबह कही, फिर दोपहर में बात कही और उसके बाद उन्होंने कहा कि जो प्राइवेट मेंबर्स बिल है, उसे हम अलाऊ करेंगे। इन्होंने सोशल जस्टिस के डिस्कशन पर injustice किया। ..*(व्यवधान)*.. सोशल जस्टिस के साथ injustice हुआ, उसके बाद प्राइवेट मेंबर्स बिल के साथ injustice हुआ। हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। हम कह रहे हैं कि करप्शन पर चर्चा कर लीजिए। प्रॉब्लम यह आ गयी है कि कांग्रेस को करप्शन से इतना प्यार हो गया है कि हर दिन उसे करप्शन के बारे में बोलना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसलिए वे कोई न कोई गलत करप्शन के मामले...*(व्यवधान)*... करप्शन है नहीं, सीएजी की रिपोर्ट हमारे पास है।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप अगर हाउस के अंदर गलतबयानी करेंगे, किसी रिपोर्ट को आप कहेंगे कि यह करप्शन है, कहां करप्शन है? उसके बावजूद हम कह रहे हैं कि आप करप्शन पर चर्चा करिए। यह पहला मौका है कि हम कह रहे हैं कि करप्शन पर चर्चा करो और आप भाग रहे हैं। आप करप्शन पर चर्चा करने से तब भी भाग रहे थे, जब आप सत्ता में थे और अभी भी भाग रहे हैं, जब आप विपक्ष में आ गए हैं।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप चर्चा करिए।...*(व्यवधान)*... आप चर्चा करिए, हम उसका पूरा इतिहास, पूरा भूगोल, पूरी ज्योग्राफी, पूरी हिस्ट्री बताने के लिए तैयार हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम बताएंगे कि क्या है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा : पहले इस्तीफा दो फिर चर्चा होगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी : हम तैयार हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप टाइम खराब कर रहे हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...सदन का भी टाइम खराब कर रहे हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Bear with me, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... My only simple request is, I am not making any observation on what Shri Anand Sharma has said. That is a different matter. Now, this time – from 3.30 to 6.00 p.m. – is not Government's time. It is the Members' time – Private Members' time. So, what you said all applies to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, my request is, allow Private Members' Business. That is my request. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We have Special Mentions. I think, those who are ready can lay it on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am doing that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Those who are ready can lay it on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ali Anwar, no; ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. T.N. Seema, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Shantaram Naik; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Thota Seetharama Lakshmi; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap.

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

#### **Demand for taking steps to ensure implementation of 27 per cent reservation for OBCS throughout the country**

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर ने संविधान में अनुच्छेद 340 का प्रावधान करते हुए देश की सरकारों को यह अधिकार दिए थे कि देश में सामाजिक, शैक्षिक और आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्गों की पहचान करने के लिए आयोग गठित करें और आरक्षण के आधार पर पिछड़े वर्गों को आगे बढ़ने का अवसर दें जिसके आलोक में 1953 में काका कालेलकर आयोग बना, जिसने 1955 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंपी तथा 1978 में वी. पी. मंडल आयोग बना जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट 1980 में सौंपी। वी.पी. मंडल कमीशन ने भारत में पिछड़े वर्गों की संख्या का आकलन 52 प्रतिशत किया तथा इसी अनुपात में आरक्षण देने की संस्तुति दी, लेकिन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 1993 में अपने फैसले में पिछड़े वर्गों को 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण प्रदान किया। इस फैसले के अनुपालन में देश व देश के सभी प्रांतों में पिछड़े वर्गों को 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण का लाभ मिलना चाहिए था।

महोदय, बहुत खेद का विषय है कि 22 वर्ष गुजर जाने के बाद भी भारत के 6 राज्यों- मेघालय, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मिजोरम, त्रिपुरा, लक्षद्वीप और नागालैंड में अभी तक पिछड़े वर्गों को सूचीबद्ध ही नहीं किया गया है तथा 13 प्रान्तों- जम्मू-कश्मीर, दादरा नगर हवेली, पंजाब, महाराष्ट्र, गोवा, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड तथा झारखंड आदि में आरक्षण का प्रतिशत 27 से कम है और केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में डाई प्रतिशत, आई.आई.टी. में 1.84 प्रतिशत तथा रोजगार प्रतिनिधित्व में केवल 6.9 ही आरक्षण मिला है। यहां तक कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के किसी भी विभाग में सचिव/अतिरिक्त सचिव अथवा संयुक्त सचिव के पद पर पिछड़े वर्गों के अधिकारियों को नहीं रखा गया है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि विशेष अभियान चलाकर केन्द्रीय विभागों एवं प्रान्तीय सरकारों के सभी विभागों में तथा पंचायत चुनावी व्यवस्था में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के फैसले के अनुसार समय-सीमा निश्चित करके 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण प्रदान करना सुनिश्चित करें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Husain Dalwai; not doing. ...*(Interruptions)*...  
Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand to give justice to the family of one youth of Uttarakhand killed in a road accident in Sarojini Nagar, Delhi on 30.11.2014**

**श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा** (उत्तराखंड) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन में उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली के अंदर कोई सड़क दुर्घटना होती है, तो दिल्ली पुलिस उसके अपराधियों को पकड़ने के बजाय उस केस की फाइल को बंद करने की कोशिश करती है। ऐसा लगता है कि पुलिस की संवेदनाएं आम जनता के लिए समाप्त हो चुकी हैं। ऐसी सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में अराजक तत्वों को सजा न होने से अपराधों की पुनरावृत्ति को ही बढ़ावा मिलता है।

ऐसा ही एक वाकया 30.11.2014 को हुआ जिसमें दिल्ली के सरोजिनी नगर के एम-ब्लॉक में एक मोटरसाइकिल पर तीन लड़के बिना हेलमेट पहने तेजी से आते हैं और एक ललित सिंह रावत, जो रेड लाइट से पैदल-पथ से सड़क पार कर रहा है, उसे टक्कर मार कर चले जाते हैं। उस लड़के के मस्तिष्क में चोट लग जाने से मृत्यु हो जाती है। उसकी बूढ़ी मां पुलिस में रिपोर्ट कराने जाती है, तो पुलिस पहले आनाकानी करती है, तत्पश्चात गुनहगारों को बचाने के लिए पुलिस कहती है कि हमने लीला होटल के ऊपर सीसीटीवी कैमरे को छान लिया है, उसमें दुर्घटना की कोई फुटेज नहीं है।

उस मां को जिसने अपना बेटा खोया है, उसे न्याय मिले। उस मां पर क्या गुजर रही है, वह एक मां ही जानती है, लेकिन अपराधियों को पकड़ने में पुलिस की भूमिका नगण्य है। मैं मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि वे इसे फाइल में बंद न होने दें और उचित कार्यवाही करें, जिससे दोषियों को पकड़ा जा सके और भविष्य में किसी अन्य के साथ ऐसी घटना न हो सके।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Thangavelu. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand for taking necessary steps to introduce and pass Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill**

SHRI S. THANGAVELU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as per the Census 2011, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 25.2 per cent of the total population of the country. But, their representation in public employment is not satisfactory. Their representation in higher administrative grade is almost nil. Though there is specific provision of Clause 4A, 4B of Article 16 of the Constitution, hitherto, the reservation is governed by only administrative instruction of the Government issued from time to time. No statutory provisions have been made in this regard so far. Dravidian movement, which reached pinnacle under the able leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, always, strived for the emancipation of masses. It is under the able leadership of our leader Dr. Kalaignar that quantum of reservation for Scheduled Castes was increased from 16 per cent to 18 per cent. Separate provision of one per cent reservation for Scheduled Tribes was also made by him. In spite of all these efforts, still a legislative vacuum exists in the matters of reservation. Though some initiatives were taken up by the Government in the past, nothing materialized. In 2008, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2008 was introduced. But it could not become an Act. In order to fill the legislative gap and also to give status of statute to reservation, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to introduce and pass the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri K.R. Arjunan, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Sanjay Raut; no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ahamed Hassan, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Motilal Vora.

**Demand to take immediate steps to ensure deposit of deducted funds of workers employed in Bhilai steel Plant into their Provident Fund  
Accounts in Chhattisgarh**

श्री मोती लाल वोरा (छत्तीसगढ़) : उपसभापति महोदय, भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र में पंजीकृत लगभग 350 ठेकेदार हैं, जिनके पास लगभग 22 से 25 हजार ठेका श्रमिक काम करते हैं, जिनमें से अधिकांश छत्तीसगढ़ के मूल निवासी हैं। ठेकेदारों द्वारा प्रति माह श्रमिकों के वेतन से भविष्य निधि का पैसा काट लिया जाता है, किन्तु इसे रायपुर स्थित भविष्य निधि कार्यालय में जमा नहीं कराया जाता है जिससे सरकार को प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों का नुकसान हो रहा है।

श्रमिकों का निवेदन है कि मस्टर रोल की कॉपी में प्रति माह श्रमिकों को दिए जाने वाले वेतन, भविष्य निधि एवं ईएसआई के लिए काटी गयी राशि का उल्लेख रहता है। यदि ठेकेदार इसे समय पर जमा नहीं कराता है तो बीएसपी अधिकारियों को सीधे यह राशि भविष्य निधि कार्यालय में जमा करा देनी चाहिए।



मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए तत्काल आवश्यक कदम उठाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sanjay Sinh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand for taking effective measures to encourage organic farming in the country**

**डा. संजय सिंह** (असम): महोदय, ज्यादा से ज्यादा उत्पादन प्राप्त करने के प्रयास में कृषकों द्वारा लागत प्रधान कृषि पर जोर दिया जा रहा है, जिससे अधिकाधिक मात्रा में कृषि रसायनों तथा ऐसे बीजों का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है, जिसके फलस्वरूप मिट्टी में जीवाश्म तथा सूक्ष्म पोषक तत्वों की कमी हो गयी है तथा मिट्टी, भू-जल एवं कृषि उत्पाद विषाक्त हो रहे हैं। गरीबी से त्रस्त कृषक, कृषि रसायनों से संक्रमित होकर गंभीर बीमारियों से पीड़ित हो रहा है और इन कृषि रसायनों के कारोबार में संलग्न कम्पनियां लाभ कमा रही हैं।

स्थायी कृषि/प्राकृतिक कृषि/जैविक कृषि पर विगत 10 वर्षों से प्रयास करने पर भी, क्षेत्र मात्र 40 लाख हेक्टेयर तक ही सीमित है, जो हमारी कुल जोत का एक प्रतिशत भी नहीं है। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के तीव्र क्षरण के नाजुक दौर में भारतीय कृषक को सुरक्षित करने तथा कृषि में स्थायित्व प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रभावकारी उपाय जैविक कृषि है, जिसका तीव्रता से विस्तार तथा जनचेतना का विकास अति आवश्यक है।

जैविक खेती को सफल बनाने के लिए हमें ध्यान देना होगा कि जन सामान्य को जैविक खेती का लाभ समझ में आए और वह यह जाने कि रासायनिक कृषि उत्पादों से उसका स्वास्थ्य कितनी बुरी तरह प्रभावित हो रहा है। इसके लिए सरकार द्वारा जैविक खेती को प्रोत्साहित किए जाने हेतु व्यापक प्रचार-प्रसार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

जैविक कृषि तकनीकों का प्रसार, उपादानों की उपलब्धता तथा रजिस्ट्रेशन की जटिलता को कम करते हुए एक जवाबदेह तंत्र को प्रारम्भ करने की आवश्यकता है अन्यथा प्राकृतिक एवं मानवीय संसाधनों की भारी क्षति निश्चित है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Need for providing adequate railway rakes to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to power plants in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN** (Tamil Nadu): In Tamil Nadu at Vallur and North Chennai three coal-based power plants are there. Coal is supplied from Mahanadi Coalfields, Odisha. Coal is transported by rail.

The Ministry of Railways is not able to provide enough number of empty railway rakes. As a result, one of the units at Vallur is always shutdown. More supply of coal to Vallur plant would greatly help the State's power demand during summer.

For uninterrupted supply of coal, I request hon. Railway Minister to allocate more number of empty railway rakes at Mahanadi Coalfields.

Please save Tamil Nadu from power cut.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tarun Vijay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand for giving respect to soldiers and martyrs in country**

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Sir, I begin quoting a letter of a daughter of an army officer: “On 5th December, 2014, well-trained and heavily equipped militants opened unprovoked fire in the pre-dawn hours at an Army camp in Uri, Baramullah in Kashmir. Eight Army men and three policemen were killed in the skirmish. Behind the eleven casualties lie eleven families destroyed. Eleven men snatched in the prime of youth, eleven women doomed to live their lives as widows, ageing parents praying for deliverance and young children who will never know the love of a father.” Aditi.

In such circumstances it is our duty to provide help and respect to our soldiers. I demand the Government to give due respect and honour to the brave soldiers and martyrs by:

1. Making it possible to give a piece of land or a well built apartment on a 99-year lease in any city/area of their choice in Kashmir valley to soldiers who have served a minimum of three years in the valley or to the families of those soldiers who have laid their lives fighting the enemies in the valley.
2. Give rail reservation as a right, to soldiers who are returning home on vacation from their duty stations.
3. Make it mandatory for every district officer to stand up in honour of an armed forces’ man and his family, the way they follow protocol for an MP and an MLA, when they approach him for resolution of any civil matter and give priority to solve their problem, officially.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 11th of May, 2015.

*The House then adjourned at thirty-eight minutes past  
three of the clock till eleven of the clock on  
Monday, the 11th May, 2015.*